

Bishopton Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 18th. May 2011 at 7.15pm in Bishopton Village Hall.

Present: Cllrs MacMahon (Chair), Moses, Robins, Baines, Fieldhouse
R M Smith - Parish Clerk

Apologies for Absence received from:- Cllr B Jones of Darlington Borough Council.

1. Visitors None

Members extended a welcome to Cllr J Robins attending her first meeting.

2. Declarations of interest in items on the agenda

Cllr G Baines declared a prejudicial interest in item 13 Town Farm Close

3. Previous Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and signed by the Chairperson as a true record of the 20th April 2011 meeting.

4. Matters arising from previous minutes

4.1 Traffic control equipment from Andrew Casey of DBC

Nothing heard from Andrew, and Cllr B Jones absent and unable to report any progress. Clerk instructed to write to Andrew Casey. Cllr L McMahon reported that she had been looking at suitable traffic speed warning signs which could be purchased for £2650 plus VAT, or £3000 if solar powered. There are also other models less expensive. This was just for a guide.

4.2 Parking outside Bishopton School

Awaiting response from school via Cllr B Jones.

4.3 Redundant Bus Shelters

Nothing to report, awaiting action by DBC and Urban Blitz.

4.4 Land at Town Farm Close

Deferred to end of meeting (see item 2 above).

4.5 Skip Hire

John Wade has once again agreed to provide a skip over the Late Spring Bank Holiday period free of charge.

4.6 Appointment of New Clerk

A letter of acceptance of the post has been received from David Thorman, who will take up his duties on 1st. June 2011 after his return from holiday. DBC and other organisations to be informed of change. Clerk to look into any necessary paperwork to be completed.

4.7 Website

Future maintenance of the website is to be planned/organised with Daniel Wells and David Thorman, and proposed action to be submitted to the council for ratification.

4.8 Village Youth Club

Cllr G Baines reported that it was becoming urgent to reform the Youth Club, as equipment needs to be re-allocated by the end of June 2011.

5. Planning applications

5.1 A planning application for a new conservatory at 4 St Peters Wynd was received.

6. Matters raised by Councillors

6.1 Co-opted Councillors and New Councillor training.

A training session for clerks and new councillors was offered by DBC in the Town Hall on 19th May 2011 for all who wished to attend. Councillor J Robins was provided with the "Code of Conduct" booklet for reference. The clerk was instructed to prepare a notice regarding the parish council's requirement for 2 further councillors, to be co-opted to the council. The notice will be displayed in the noticeboard, the village hall and the bus shelter,

and also the Blue Bell and Talbot if permitted.

- 6.2 Letter of thanks to retiring councillors
Official letters will be sent to thank Peter Wood and Ian Ridley for their many years of work on behalf of Bishopton village.

- 6.3 Tree Quote and Inspection by Phil Haynes of DBC
Nothing has been heard from Phil Haynes regarding the work required on the large tree outside Manor Farm, nor on the promised inspection of all village trees. The clerk was instructed to write a letter to Phil Haynes requesting a quote for the work required plus details of that work and for the inspections.

7. Village Green

- 7.1 Manor Farm entrance.
A letter was sent to Thoroughbred Homes and Mr Craig Robinson regarding the substandard topsoil. No reply has yet been received.
- 7.2 Parking on Village Green.
An email reply was sent to the resident who raised concerns about inconsiderate parking outside her home, and flyers pointing out the need to park with consideration for other residents were produced and delivered to all properties in the village.
- 7.3 Repairs to village green
A quote from F Wall for £50 to repair/replace the damaged kerbstones with cobbles (BPC has a supply to hand) was debated and accepted by BPC. The clerk was instructed to write to AWG for a quote to repair the tarmac outside 10 The High Street, with the required BPC specifications, in order to consult with the resident regarding cost.
- 7.4 Planting of tubs for summer.
Cllr R Fieldhouse has kindly provided geraniums for the tubs, and Cllr L McMahon has obtained plants from a nursery. Cllrs Fieldhouse, Baines and MacMahon volunteered to plant the tubs at 10.00am on Thursday 9th. June, 2011.
- 7.5 Clutter and Signs.
BPC discussed the need to keep an eye on the amount of clutter/signs on the Village Green to avoid unnecessary accidents.

8. Wind Farm proposals

- 8.1 Moorhouse
The new application will probably not now go to the planning committee until July or August 2011.
- 8.2 Newbiggin
A response will need to be co-ordinated with SPAG in time for the June meeting. Meanwhile, it was reported that Durham/Tees Valley Airport will be objecting.

9. New Residents

None.

10. Financial

- 10.1 Bank signatories.
BPC agreed that Cllr G Baines and the new clerk David Thorman should be added to the existing authorised signatories (Cllr L McMahon and P Wood).
- 10.2 A cheque was proposed by Cllr R Fieldhouse and seconded by Cllr J Robins for the payment of £100 to Cllr L McMahon to reimburse her for monies paid regarding two invoices for £50 each from F Wall in payment for strimming and tidying the Village Green.
- 10.3 A cheque for £1111 was proposed by Cllr J Robins and seconded by Cllr R Fieldhouse for the ex-precept payment to the Village Hall.

11. Correspondence

- 11.1 Incoming
Letter from D Thorman formally accepting position of Clerk to BPC

Letter of thanks from Durham Police Authority for participation in consultation on Policing Priorities for 2011-2012.

11.2 Outgoing

Letter to Thoroughbred Homes re Village Green adjacent to Entrance for Manor Farm

Letter to D Thorman confirming offer of appointment as Clerk to BPC

Reply to Mr h Bence re complaints received.

Letter to John Wade (Haulage)Ltd re skip hire for late spring bank holiday.

12. Date of Next meeting

Village Hall at 7.00pm on 15th June, 2011.

Cllr G Baines left the meeting at 8.42pm.

G Baines attended the meeting as a resident for item 13.

13. Town Farm Close

13.1 Land at TFC

A letter was sent to the Land Registry pointing out that the land at TFC was not village green. A new application (Person in Adverse Possession) has been submitted by residents of TFC representing the majority of households in TFC. A letter from BPC to the Land Registry will be drafted by Cllr L McMahon raising no objection from BPC but expressing concerns raised by village residents that they not be excluded from TFC.

Meeting closed 9.15pm.

Signed: Chair _____ Date _____