

Bishopton Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 16th November 2011 at 7.00pm in Bishopton Village Hall.

Present: Cllrs: L. MacMahon (Chair), M. Moses, J. Robson, J Robins, I Robins.
Cllr. B. Jones (Darlington Borough Council). D. Thorman – Parish Clerk.

Apologies for Absence Cllr. G. Baines.

Resignation of Councillor

Cllr. MacMahon read out a letter of resignation from Cllr. R. Fieldhouse. A Vote of Thanks was agreed upon to record the fact that he had been the longest serving member of the Council having started in 2005 and had contributed a tremendous amount of work when Bishopton won the Calor Gas Village of the Year competition in the same year. He also compiled the village new resident welcome pack and the Village Green policy document and was regularly involved in work parties often donating plants and bulbs for their activities. The Clerk was asked to write to him expressing the Council's thanks for his contribution over the years and also to activate arrangements for as replacement.

Letter from Darlington BC regarding cessation of Parish Grants from 2013/14

Although not on the original agenda it was considered that this matter was of such import that it should be discussed. A letter had been received from DBC outlining a proposal to cease paying Parish Grants from 2013/14 and suggesting that this shortfall could be made up by agreeing an increase in precept with the residents. Cllr. MacMahon noted that the current grant of £1011 was donated to the Village Hall Association on an annual basis. Cllr. Jones reported that he would be attending a Cabinet Meeting on 22nd November. It was agreed that he should propose a reduction in line with the anticipated cuts facing DBC as a whole to a maximum of 25%.

1. Visitors

None

2. Declarations of interest in items on the agenda

None

3. Previous Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. They were duly signed by the Chairperson as a true record of the 19th October 2011 meeting.

4. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

4.1 Traffic Control Equipment

The Clerk had submitted an email to Andrew Casey of DBC for his briefing discussions with Cllr. Lyonette. This covered the background to the issue and the PC's support of the proposed solution. No feedback had been received and The Clerk was asked to make further contact to ascertain the latest position.

4.2 Parking o/s Bishopton School

Cllr. Jones reported that Sally Hunter of DBC had been unable to secure sufficient volunteers to establish a 'walking train'. She now proposed a trial 'car free day' at the school with a 'themed' walking train. Feedback was awaited from the Headteacher.

4.3 Manor Farm Entrance

Since the last meeting reservations had been expressed regarding the value of further correspondence bearing in mind that the area would recover if top dressed in the spring. It was agreed that was still something that should be funded by the developers and the Clerk was asked to write to them accordingly.

- 4.4 Filing Cabinet for BPC Records.
This had been delivered and the Clerk had commenced sorting out the files. He was given permission to purchase some hardback files for this purpose.
- 4.5 Queens Jubilee – use of School Playing Field
The Clerk had written to the Headteacher and a reply was awaited. He had also written to DBC regarding a temporary increase in PL insurance and in consequence DBC had written to Zurich enquiring for this facility to cover all councils included under the policy. It was reported that the Rev. Robert Cooper wished to be involved in future meetings and that Darlington Rotary had offered assistance. Cllr. J. Robins noted that there was a village resident who worked for Stockton Events and offered to contact him to see if he could help. Cllr. MacMahon offered to contact all interested parties to arrange a meeting in Jan/Feb 2012
- 4.6 Condition of Area in front of the Talbot PH.
A reply had been received from Punch Taverns stating that work of the nature indicated would normally be the responsibility of the Lessee but expressing willingness to contribute once anticipated cost details were provided. The Clerk was asked to write to the lessee enclosing copies of the above correspondence and pointing out the serious nature of the potholes and that the PC needed to exercise its responsibility and carry out emergency repairs the cost of which would be notified to him in due course.
- 4.7 Condition Survey of Trees on Village Green
The Clerk had sent a reminder via email but it transpired that Phil Haynes of DBC was on leave not returning until 21st November.
- 4.9 Arboricultural Work to Lime Tree o/s No 9 The Green
The Clerk had been requested to supply details of the extent of works required. After some discussion the Clerk was asked to contact a qualified Arborist to obtain an inspection and written report for submission.
- 4.10 Overhanging Shrubs on Village Green
No response had been received for the residents. After some discussion it was agreed to defer the matter until the spring and, if the work was then still outstanding, write further asking if they would prefer that the PC carry out the work.
- 4.11 Planning Application for Field Access & Parking Area – Mill Lane, Bishopton
An objection to this proposal had been submitted by the Clerk.
- 4.12 Parliamentary Boundary Changes
The Clerk had placed the agreed objections on the Boundary Commission website.
- 4.13 Hedge Obstruction
The Clerk had been contacted by Carl Reay of DBC and a site meeting was to be arranged.
- 4.14 Replacement Tree at Cenotaph
A response was awaited from Phil Haynes of DBC [ref. 4.9 above].
- 4.15 Complaint re Potholes o/s 37 The Green
See also 4.6 above. Cllr G. Baines and the Clerk had conducted a thorough survey of the macadam surfaced areas of The Green. This had identified 18 areas in need of repair with 8 of them considered dangerous to pedestrians. It was agreed that the Clerk should arrange purchase sufficient bags of Repair Macadam and organise a work party to carry out emergency remedial works.
- 4.16 Parish Council Standing Orders - Progress
Preparation was ongoing. The Clerk noted that he had found a document prepared in 2003. This was circulated after the meeting.

5. Planning Applications

None

6. Matters Raised by Councillors

- 6.1 Christmas Celebrations including Tree, Lights & Carol Singing
The Council agreed to obtain a 15ft 'ordinary' tree. Peter Wood and Bob Fieldhouse had agreed to erect lights during the first week of December. Carol singing with the Salvation Army had been arranged for 6:30pm on Thursday 22nd December [NB subsequent to the meeting this was changed to 7:00pm].
- 6.2 Village SOS Event on 30th November
Cllr. Moses agreed to attend this on a fact finding basis.
- 6.3 Report from PACT Meeting on 26th October 2011
Nothing particularly pertinent to the village had been discussed. The next meeting was arranged for 6:30pm on Wednesday 23rd November at Bishopton.
- 6.4 Street Lighting & Pedestrian Safety
Cllr. J. Robins expressed concern regarding the poor condition and dim nature of columns in the village. It was explained that DBC would have a maintenance regime covering all aspects. It was considered that the footpath to the rear of the Talbot PH [designated Village Green] was very dark at night. The Clerk agreed to inspect this to see if an economic solution could be identified.
- 6.5 Policing Priorities Consultation
Various meetings were arranged on this but there were no volunteers to attend.

7. Village Green

No new business.

8. Wind Farm Proposals

- 8.1 Moor House
Cllr MacMahon had received a letter from Banks Renewables outlining the Banks Community Fund which a number of local Councils would benefit from. Cllr. Jones reported that he was to chair a committee set up to deal with problems during construction and, afterwards, with issues stemming from the fund.
- 8.2 The Isles
An IPC [Infrastructure Planning Commission] meeting had been held to explain who and what they are.
- Cllr. B. Jones left the meeting at 8:25pm

9. New Residents

None.

10. Financial

- 10.1 Invoice from F. Wall for Strimming of the Village Green
An invoice for £50 had been received. It was agreed to pay this [proposed by Cllr J. Robins and seconded by Cllr MacMahon].
- 10.2 Invoice from Curtis Office Supplies re supply of Filing Cupboard
An invoice for £350.16 had been received. It was agreed to pay this [proposed by Cllr I. Robins and seconded by Cllr. Moses].
- 10.3 Payment for Remembrance Day Poppy Wreath
Cllr. Moses presented an invoice for £50 for this which she had paid. It was agreed to recompense her [proposed by Cllr J. Robson and seconded by Cllr. MacMahon].

- 10.4 Cheque received from Bishopton Children's Group
A cheque for £0.72 had been received covering the balance of funds held by the group. It was agreed to deposit this in the PC's deposit account along with the Youth Club funds.

11 Correspondence

- 11.1 Letter from Mr & Mrs Knight re Traffic Calming in Village
A letter had been received expressing concern regarding traffic speeding in the village and the effects on safety for children and other residents. The letter concluded by asking for the installation of speed reducing measures but not flashing reduce speed signs. The Clerk was asked to reply outlining the PC's actions on this issue and ongoing discussions with DBC.

INCOMING

1. Letter from TVRCC re various events – October 2011
2. Email from CLAC re New Policy and Parliamentary Affairs Consultations – 24.10.11
3. Email from CLAC re The Future of Standards of Conduct of Members of Local Authorities in England – 02.11.11
4. Email from CLAC re Various Updates – 03.11.11
5. Email from CLAC re Local Government Resource Review – 08.11.11
6. Letter from Mr & Mrs Knight re Traffic Calming in Village - undated
7. Letter from Punch Taverns re Condition of Tarmac Area in front of The Talbot PH - 10.11.11
8. Email from Cllr B. Jones re Policing Priorities Consultation – 10.11.11
9. Email from CLAC containing NALC E-Bulletin – 14.11.11
10. Letter from DBC re Increase in PL Insurance for Queens Jubilee Celebrations – 15.11.11
11. Letter from DBC re Parish Grants – 15.11.11
12. Email from CLAC re 'Save Saltburn Beach' – 16.11.11
13. Email from CLAC re AGM and next Meeting on 30.11.11 – 16.11.11
14. Email fro Cllr B. Jones re cabinet Meeting on Parish Grants – 16.11.11

OUTGOING

1. Letter to Mrs M. wood re payment of Invoice for Hire of Meeting Room -25.10.11
2. Email to E-on confirming objections to The Isles Wind Farm Proposals – 24.10.11
3. Letter to Mr Potter re Repairs to Tarmac Area o/s No 37 The Green – 25.10.11
4. Letter to D. Winstanley of DBC re Visibility at Junction of C34a and C46 – 25.10.11
5. Letter to Mr. P Haynes of DBC re Planting of Replacement Tree Adjacent to the Cenotaph – 25.10.11
6. Letter to The Salvation Army re Christmas Carols in the Village – 02.11.11
7. Letter to Punch Taverns re Condition of Tarmac Area in front of The Talbot PH - 04.11.11
8. Email to P. Haynes of DBC re Survey of Trees on Village Green – 04.11.11
9. Letter to Mr. Parker re use of School Field for Queens Jubilee Celebrations - 11.11.11
10. Letter to J. Stephenson of DBC re increase in PL Insurance for Queens Jubilee Celebrations - 11.11.11

12. Matters dealt with during the month

None

13. Date of next meeting

- 13.1 21st December 2011 at 7:00pm in the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8:40 pm

Signed: Chairperson: _____ Date _____