

Bishopton Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 19th October 2011 at 7.00pm in Bishopton Village Hall.

Present: Cllrs: L. MacMahon (Chair), M. Moses, J. Robson, J Robins, I Robins, G. Baines, D. Thorman – Parish Clerk.

Apologies for Absence Cllrs: R. Fieldhouse, B Jones [Darlington Borough Council]

1. Visitors Mrs. S Pilkington.

Mrs. Pilkington attended to discuss issues related to the funds belonging to the former Bishopton Youth Club held in the deposit account of the BPC. Enquiries to find an organiser to re-start the Youth Club had been unsuccessful and it was doubtful that there were sufficient children residing in BPC Boundaries to make a Youth Club viable. Her main current concern was that the Club owned a large quantity of electronic and other equipment and she tabled for information a long list of all the items concerned. After discussion it was suggested that she sort through the equipment and then attend the next Village Hall Association meeting with a view to offering items to them for the benefit of all users on condition that none was disposed of without her permission, such assurances to be confirmed in writing.

Mrs. Pilkington was thanked for attending and left the meeting at 7:30pm

2. Declarations of interest in items on the agenda

Cllr. J. Robins expressed a personal, but not prejudicial, interest in item 5.1.

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 21st September 2011 meeting.

4. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

4.1 Parish Council Meeting Procedures

Cllr. MacMahon reminded the meeting that it was not appropriate to discuss any item that was not on the meeting agenda. It was agreed that any urgent matters arising after the publication of the agenda could be briefly discussed but no decisions could be made until the following meeting. In cases of emergency an Extraordinary Meeting could be convened. Cllr. Moses agreed to progress preparation of proposals for Standing Orders for the PC.

4.2 Traffic Control Equipment from Andrew Casey of DBC

A response had been received from Andrew Casey earlier in the day. This set out conditions that would apply to any installation work and indicated that the matter would be put to Cllr. Lyonette, the Cabinet Member for Transport at a monthly briefing on 26.10.11. Police consultation could not commence without the councillor's approval of the scheme. It was agreed that the Clerk should reply to Mr. Casey indicating that the PC was satisfied it could meet all of the requirements and that they were strongly supportive of the scheme having undertaken a traffic survey and a residents opinion survey which had come out overwhelmingly in favour of measures such as those proposed and which were observed to be tremendously successful in neighbouring locations.

4.3 Parking o/s Bishopton School

Mr. Parker the school headmaster had sent out a newsletter regarding the establishment of a 'walking train' from outside the Blue Bell PH. However recent observations indicated no

improvement. It was agreed to monitor the situation.

- 4.4 Bus Shelters
Refurbishment to the remaining bus shelter had been completed. The contact for all future matters related to bus stops was to be Brenda Bowles of DBC.
- 4.5 Manor Farm Entrance
It had been established that sub-soil had been used to prepare the disturbed areas of Village Green. Cllr, MacMahon had contacted Cllr. Jones who in turn had asked if the Borough Solicitor could intervene. However she could not as the Planning Dept. considered that all conditions had been met. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to the Planning Department disputing this and asking for a site meeting to review the situation.
- 4.6 Filing Cabinet for BPC Records.
Delivery was expected during w/c 24th October 2011.
- 4.7 Cleveland Association of Councils Membership
Membership had commenced with a great deal of ensuing correspondence.
- 4.8 Community Group Meeting 28th September – Feedback [Queens Jubilee]
Proposals had been agreed to hold an event on the School Playing Field. The Clerk was asked to write to DBC asking for the additional cost of temporarily increasing PL insurance to £10m. A letter had been sent from the CG to the school Headmaster proposing the event and he had replied with a list of conditions. The Clerk was asked to reply expressing thanks and stating that the Council sees no problem in meeting the conditions. He was also to ask if there would be a charge and if the school would like to participate as the event was to be held for the benefit of the whole parish on a not for profit basis.
- 4.9 Booking of Village Hall for PC Meetings
The Clerk had submitted a full list of proposed meetings up to the end of the financial year and this has been welcomed by the Village Hall Association Booking Clerk.
- 4.10 Website Update
The Clerk had experienced some computer software issues but these had been resolved and updating was to be progressed. He was asked to include meeting agendas on the site also.
- 4.11 Condition of Area in front of the Talbot PH.
The Clerk had written to Punch Taverns but there had been no response. The Clerk was asked to send a reminder if no response was received within two weeks.
- 4.12 Condition Survey of Trees on Village Green
The Clerk had written to Phillip Haynes of DBC but there had been no response. The Clerk was asked to send a reminder if no response was received within two weeks.
- 4.13 Arboricultural Work to Lime Tree o/s No 9 The Green
The Clerk had submitted an online Planning Application and this had been acknowledged. Nearby residents had been informed by DBC.
- 4.14 Autumn Planting of Tubs
A working party had been set up for 16th October and the task completed. Cllr. Fieldhouse was thanked for kindly donating some flowers.

- 4.15 Overhanging Shrubs on Village Green
The Clerk had written to the residents but there had been no response as yet

5. Planning Applications

- 5.1 Field Access & Parking Area – Mill Lane, Bishopton
It was noted that a previous similar application made two years ago had been refused by DBC. After some discussion the Clerk was asked to reply to DBC objecting to the proposal on the basis that it would constitute a visually imposing and incongruous feature in an open countryside location which would be out of character and detrimental to the locality. The project would also involve the removal of a significant length of mature hedgerow and concerns remained regarding traffic safety in terms of visibility too and from the North.

6. Matters Raised by Councillors

- 6.1 Remembrance Sunday – including Wreath
Cllr. MacMahon had received a letter from DBC inviting a representative and guest to a service to be held at Holy Trinity Church.
It was agreed that the PC would purchase a wreath for the cenotaph. Cllr. Moses agreed to arrange this and present it at the parish church service.
- 6.2 Manor Farm Bridge.
Work to reinforce the bridge deck had been completed but parapets had been created using second hand scaffold tubing which was unsightly and dangerous. It was noted that DBC Planning Department were dealing with this with the developer.
- 6.3 Report from DAPC Meeting on 27th September 2011
It was reported that five members had joined CALC. The Queens Diamond Jubilee and remembrance Sunday had been discussed as had Sadberge Renewable Energy Scheme in terms of Solar Panel installation.
- 6.4 Parliamentary Boundary Changes
It was noted that these proposals placed Bishopton and Middleton St George with Yarm and Hurworth and Heighington with Darlington. It was considered that Bishopton should be part of Darlington especially as it was part of the Borough Council area. The Clerk was asked to write expressing these views.
- 6.5 Hedge Obstruction
General concern was expressed at the lack of visibility due to untidy hedgerows at the road junction at the foot of Folly Bank. The Clerk was asked to write to DBC expressing this concern.

7. Village Green

- 7.1 Replacement Tree at Cenotaph.
Cllr. MacMahon reminded the meeting that when permission had been given to fell a sycamore during November 2010 a condition had been applied regarding the planting of a Ginkgo Biloba as a replacement during the following season. It was considered that this was not necessary as the area was now opened up to increased light thus promoting the development of other trees and grass. If DBC still required a replacement it was thought that a smaller, less expensive, native species would be more in keeping. The Clerk was asked to write to Phillip Haynes of DBC expressing these concerns.
- 7.2 Repair and Prevention of Damage
It was agreed to undertake a survey of the Green during April 2012 followed by a working party to tidy up and possibly remove some of the large stones and half bury others.

- 7.3 Complaint re Potholes o/s 37 The Green
A letter had been received that day expressing concern that these potholes were dangerous to pedestrians. The matter had not been included on the agenda therefore no decision could be made. However, out of concern for public safety, it was agreed that an inspection should take place and, if necessary, an Extraordinary Meeting convened, to deal with the matter but the matter would in any event be placed on the next agenda.

8. Wind Farm Proposals

- 8.1 Cllr MacMahon reported that the 6 turbine array at Moor House had obtained planning approval earlier that day. The appeal for the 10 turbine project will be withdrawn when the new planning application is finalised. The Newbiggin hearing was scheduled for January 2012.

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 I. Robins and seconded by Cllr J. Robson].
- 10.2 Invoice from Bishopton Village Hall Association re Hire of Meeting Room
An invoice for £15 for hire of the room for July and September had been received. It was agreed to pay this [proposed by Cllr J. Robins and seconded by Cllr J. Robson].

11. Correspondence

INCOMING

1. Letter from Stockton BC re Planning Permission for Wind Farm West of Stillington - 19.09.11
2. Letter from CLCA re Membership Application – 19.09.11
3. Letter from the Boundary Commission re Review of Parliamentary Constituencies – 21.09.11
4. Letter fro HMRC re Employee's NI No. – 22.09.11
5. Letter & Booklet from NALC re Response to Planning Applications – 23.09.11
6. Letter from HMRC re PAYE Warning!!! – 23.09.11
7. LINK Newsletter for September 2011
8. Letter from HMRC re Possible Financial Savings – 29.09.11
9. Invoice from F. Wall re Strimming of Village Green – 29.09.11
10. Letter & Brochure from Bruno Peake, Pageantmaster, re Queen's Diamond Jubilee Beacons – 30.09.11
11. Documentation from HMRC re PAYE Payments – undated
12. Email from CLCA re NALC E Bulletin – 03.10.11
13. Email from CLCA re NALC Briefing on Data Transparency – 03.10.11
14. Email from CLCA re Internet Forum for Council Allotment Officers – 04.10.11
15. Letter from DBC Planning Application for Field Access, Mill Lane , Bishopton – 05.10.11
16. Letter from HMRC re Annual Payment of PAYE – 07.10.11
17. Letter & Policy Docs from DBC re Group Insurance for PC's 10.10.11
18. Email from CLCA confirming Membership – 10.10.11
19. Letter from DBC acknowledging Planning Application for Pruning of Lime Tree o/s No. 9 The Green – 11.10.11
20. Email from CLCA re NALC Policy and Parliamentary Affairs Briefings, Consultations and Consultation Responses – 11.10.11

21. Email from CLCA re NALC information on Local Government Resource Review (Business Rates) – 11.10.11
22. Email from CLCA re NALC Consultation Responses – 14.10.11

OUTGOING

1. Electronic Planning Application to DBC re pruning of Lime Tree o/s No 9 The Green – 02.10.11.11
2. Email to Claire Robson of VHA confirming Village Hall Meeting Room Bookings – 02.10.11
3. Letter to CLCA confirming Membership Application – 04.10.11
4. Letter to John Wade thanking him for Provision of Skip – 04.10.11
5. Letter to Mary Wood re Payment of Village Hall Invoice – 04.10.11
6. Letter to Phillip Haynes of DBC re Survey of Village Green Trees – 04.10.11
7. letter to David Winstanley of DBC re Traffic Control Equipment – 04.10.11
8. Letter to Mr & Mrs Bence re Shrubbery Overhanging Village Green – 04.10.11
9. Letter to Punch Taverns re Condition of Tarmac Ares o/s The Talbot – 04.10.11
10. Letter to HMRC Re PAYE Employer Payment details – 04.10.11
11. Letter to Zurich Insurance re Employer Reference Number – 17.10.11

12. Matters dealt with during the month

None

13. Date of next meeting

13.1 16th November 2011 at 7:00pm in the Village Hall.

Meeting closed 9:10pm

Signed: Chair _____ Date _____