

Bishopton Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 26th October 2016 at 7:00pm in Bishopton Village Hall

Present: Cllrs: N. Melaney [Vice-Chair], M. Moses, J. Robins, C. Headlam & G. Preston;
D. Thorman [Parish Clerk]

1. Apologies for Absence: Cllr. L. MacMahon; Cllrs. D. Jones, B. Jones & S. York of Darlington Borough Council

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 on a majority vote and were duly signed by the Chairperson as a true record of the 21st September 2016 Meeting.

4. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes:

4.1 Traffic Control Equipment – progress report & statistics

The Clerk had reported results from the east end of the village in September. 85 percentile speed = 34.4mph; Max. 70mph; Average = 27.1mph; percentage over limit = 24-43%; Average speeder = up to 34.7 mph. He had emailed Shelly Batham [Darlington Police volunteer] re Speedwatch flyers and a demonstration but there had been no response. Cllr. Preston indicated that he would see what information he had for the Clerk to act upon.

4.2 Funds held for Young Persons of the Parish – play area - progress report

The Clerk had finalised meetings with representatives from the 3 recommended equipment companies and their designs and quotations were awaited. He had confirmed that there was another existing gate hidden in the hedgerow along Cobby Castle Lane which seemed to confirm the landowner's assertion regarding long standing access.

A further attempt had been made to contact an officer at DBC regarding playground inspections and advice but without response and the Clerk indicated he would make further enquiries.

The school headmaster had been contacted and had agreed to attend a joint meeting, along with colleagues, to discuss a possible partnership arrangement aimed at the possibility of developing a community facility in the school grounds. The Clerk was in the process of arranging such a meeting.

4.3 Village Green Annual Inspection 2016 – progress report

Minor repair works outstanding – yet to be organised by Clerk.

4.4 Parish Neighbourhood Plan – progress report

The Clerk had been unable to progress this and Cllr. Melaney offered his services to assist. The Clerk agreed to send him appropriate documentation.

4.5 Casual Vacancy – progress report

No volunteers had come forward.

4.6 Update re dedicated bench for the late Sam Tunney

It had transpired that the existing bench is 2.4m long rather than 1.56m for the one agreed at the previous meeting. This would have left an unacceptably wide gap to each side. The Clerk had approached 'Marmax' who had agreed to construct a 'one-off' special to the same design as selected at a cost of £489 plus VAT. The family had indicated this was acceptable. The Clerk was asked to order the bench and Cllr. Robins agreed to source a suitable plaque.

- 4.7 Notification of Planning Applications – NALC LTN59 – progress report
The Clerk reported that he had sent a letter to DBC but without response. He stated he would take the matter up directly with the Planning Department
- 4.8 Leaning tree – progress report
It was agreed that Cllr. Melaney and the Clerk would install a new stake and secure the tree.
- 4.9 Trees obscuring 30mph signs at east end of Village
The Clerk had reported this to DBC and action had been promised but none had transpired. He agreed to chase the matter up.
- 4.10 Repairs to bus shelter – progress report
The Clerk had reported this to DBC and action had been promised but none had transpired. He agreed to chase the matter up.

5. Planning Applications:

- 5.1 No. 26 High Street
DBC had been asked to remind the developer that the access over the VG cannot be widened.
- 5.2 Woogra Farm
No comment had been made.

6. Matters Raised by Councillors & the Clerk:

- 6.1 PACT Meeting
Cllr. Preston informed the meeting that it was intended to cut the number of PACTs in the Darlington area to 4 – all based on urban centres. It was considered that this would be of no benefit to rural areas where concerns were generally of a different nature. In effect such areas would be marginalised. He had arranged an informal meeting to discuss alternative approaches and it was suggested that time could be set aside in, say, alternate PC meetings which police representatives could attend. This could be achieved by deferring non urgent matters to a later PC meeting or extending the length of the meeting in question. Cllr. Preston agreed to take this suggestion forward.
- 6.2 Remembrance Sunday
Cllr. Moses agreed to purchase the usual wreath with a budget of £50 proposed by Cllr. Headlam and seconded by Cllr. Robins.

7. Village Green:

- 7.1 Status of longitudinal footpath on VG [o/s no's 27 to 45 The Green]
The Clerk reported that DBC had finally confirmed that this is their responsibility and that they will inspect it and take any appropriate remedial action required.
- 7.2 Works to footpath 11-17, and garage access to 11, High Street
An estimate had been obtained from AWG at £3040 plus VAT excluding tarmac works to the access for which a further estimate was awaited. Due to the scale of works envisaged 2 further estimates would be required. Thereafter the Clerk would submit details to Banks for possible grant aid [see 8.1 below] and arrange to discuss the various aspects with the residents concerned.

- 7.3 Autumn leaf collection
The Clerk agreed to contact DBC to query their intentions in this regard. It was noted that the High Street footpath fronting the churchyard was currently in a dangerous condition due to leaves and the Clerk agreed to ask DBC if something could be done in the short term.
- 7.4 Litter pick and VG tidy up 2017
It was agreed that the Clerk should submit details to DBC based on the work taking place on Sunday 23rd April 2017.

8. Wind Farm Proposals:

- 8.1 Lambs Hill Liaison Committee
Cllr. Melaney reported that Banks were in the process of producing a revised grant application form with submissions required in late January / early February. Banks would review all applications and pass them on to the committee. The total annual fund would be £10000.
- 8.2 Moor House Liaison Committee
A recent newspaper article had identified representation on this committee but did not include Bishopton. The Clerk had queried with Lewis Stokes of Banks but without response. He agreed to chase the matter up.

9. New Residents: The Clerk was asked to deliver welcome letters to 2 properties.

10. Financial:

- 10.1 2016/17 Budget Monitoring & Current Financial Position
A budget report was circulated for information and comment demonstrating a current account balance of £7214.69 allowing for the payments below and an instalment of loan repayment to the PWLB.
- 10.2 Request to pay RD&HM Place for repairs to church clock - £250.00
A letter had been received from the Church Committee expecting the PC to pay for works to the church clock following reroofing works. The same sum had been paid in 2015 on the basis of a prior long standing agreement to cover such costs which, it had been considered, had lapsed on the understanding that the installation of an automatic winding system removed the necessity for annual payments. The Clerk had written to the Church Warden after making the last payment asking what the long term implications were but had received no reply. In addition there had been some strong opposition, voiced at the Annual Parish Meeting, to the PC supporting the church financially. It was decided to defer the matter until the following meeting whilst the Clerk sought a response to his letter of October 2015 and also informed the company concerned that payment could not be made at this stage.
- 10.3 Insurance rebate
Following a submission by the Clerk a rebate of £52.85 had been received
- 10.4 Payment to E&M Leighton for VG strimming
Payment of £54.00 were proposed by Cllr. Headlam, seconded by Cllr. Moses and agreed by the meeting.

11. Correspondence:

INCOMING

1. Email from Cllr. Lee of DBC re big spring clean – 29.09.16
2. Email from Cllr. G. Preston re PACT notes – 29.09.16

3. Letter from Jeff Stephenson of DBC re insurance – 04.10.16
4. Email from PWLB re repayment notice – 06.10.16
5. Email from Helen Crute of DAPC re meeting – 13.10.16
6. Remittance Advice from DBC re insurance rebate 16.10.16
7. 2 Letter from Tony Lonsdale of AWG re quotations – 15.10.16
8. Email from TVRCC - ebulletin re Livestock/Criminal Damage Appeal – 24.10.16
9. Letter from HMRC re PAYE – dated 13.10.16, rec'd 26.10.16!

OUTGOING

1. Email to Robert George of DBC re play area inspection – 04.10.16
2. Email to Shelly Batham of Durham Police re Speedwatch – 05.10.16
3. Letter [via email] to Mr. N Parker re Children's play area – 05.10.16
4. Email to N. Briscoe re children's play area – 05.10.16
5. Email to DBC re planning application response – 08.10.16
6. Email to Lewis Stokes of Banks Group re Moor House Liaison Committee – 22.10.16
7. Email to Peter Wood re HMRC & PAYE – 26.10.16
8. Email to DBC re planning application response – 26.10.16

EMAIL CHAINS

1. 7 emails from / to CLCA re various matters – 23.09.16 to 26.10.16
2. 3 emails to / from Mark Leighton re VG strimming – 24.09.16 to 30.09.16
3. 2 emails to / from Andy Wood of DBC re dog fouling – 28.09.16 & 29.09.16
4. 4 emails to / from Sandra Innes of DBC re repairs to bus shelter – 29.09.16 & 30.09.16
5. 3 emails to / from Steve Brannan of DBC re obscured 30mph sign – 29.09.16 & 30.09.16
6. 3 emails from / to Steve Brannan of DBC re adopted footpath – 30.09.16
7. 2 emails to / from Sandra Innes of DBC re fly tipping – 04.10.16
8. 5 emails to / from resident re memorial seat – 04.10.16 to 11.10.16
9. 3 emails from / to Mr. N Parker re children's play area – 05.10.16 to 18.10.16
10. 8 emails to / from Tony Lonsdale of AWG Construction re footpath works – 05.10.16 to 26.10.16
11. 5 emails from / to Marmax Products re memorial seat – 05.10.16 to 12.10.16

- 11.1 Email from CALC re DCLG Consultation on extending referenda/capping
The Clerk drew attention to central government proposals which could result in small parish councils being required to adopt the above principles in setting their precept. The email from CALC had enclosed a copy letter to Alex Cunningham MP expressing their concerns in this regard. It was agreed that such proposals would be expensive, bureaucratic and unwieldy for a small PC and stifle the ability to deal with short term fluctuations in expenditure. The Clerk agreed to prepare a submission to express this concern.

12. Matters Dealt with During the Month:

- 12.1 Fly tipping – Mill Lane
This had been reported to DBC and dealt with.
- 12.2 Fly tipping – C37
This had been reported to DBC and dealt with.

13. Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 16th November 2016, at 7:00pm, in the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9:05pm

Signed: Chairperson: _____ Date _____