

Bishopton Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 21st September at 7.00pm in Bishopton Village Hall.

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

Apologies for Absence None

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 20th July 2011 meeting.

4. Matters arising from previous minutes

- 4.1 Traffic control equipment from Andrew Casey of DBC
The Clerk had further emailed Andrew Casey but had not received a reply. He was asked to write to Mr. D. Winstanley, Assistant Director of Highways DBC, requesting a response.
- 4.2 Parking outside Bishopton School
Cllr. Jones had spoken with Nick Barker of DBC on the matter who had stated that the situation was reliant on action by the school. It was agreed that there was still a daily short term problem and that the situation should be monitored pending action by the Head Teacher.
- 4.3 Bus Shelters
It was agreed, for the time being, to take no action regarding the bases of the two recently removed shelters. Cllr MacMahon stated she would chase up outstanding refurbishment works to the remaining shelter.
- 4.4 Quotation for works outside No. 10 High Street
Cllr. Fieldhouse reported that the resident was not happy with the kerbing installed as she could not gain access when there is a car parked adjacently. It had been explained that the Village Green could not be altered. No mention had been made of the proposed tarmac works. It was agreed to leave the matter pending receipt of a letter from the resident.
- 4.5 Manor Farm Entrance
A reminder to Mr. Tutty had not produced a response. Cllr. Fieldhouse volunteered to apply selective weedkiller and Cllr. MacMahon volunteered to spread grass seed to the area.
- 4.6 Filing Cabinet for BPC Records.
The clerk circulated details of three alternative cabinets. It was agreed to purchase a 'Bisley 1631' from Curtis Office Supplies at a cost of £237.80. The Clerk was asked to arrange this.
- 4.7 Cleveland Association of Councils Membership
It was agreed to apply for membership at an annual cost of £92.86 [pro-rata for the remainder of the current financial year £46.43]. The Clerk was asked to arrange this.

- 4.8 Litter Picking Equipment
It was agreed that no action was required regarding purchase of this equipment.
- 4.9 Code of Conduct
Cllr. Jones explained that Darlington BC were waiting for the outcome of the 'Localism Bill' but it was certain that they would continue to have a Standards Committee. It was not known whether this would continue to cover Parish Councils but considered advisable that each such council should have its own Code, or set of Guidelines, for Councillors. It was decided to await the outcome of the above Bill.
- 4.10 Employment of Parish Clerk – HMRC Ruling
The Clerk had been in communication with Peter Wood and HMRC and arrangements for the annual payment of Income Tax were in hand.
- 4.11 Community Group Meeting 28th September
Arrangements had been confirmed for this and the room booked at the Village Hall. It was suggested that as many Parish Councillors as possible should attend. The Chairperson would be appointed on the night and the Clerk agreed to attend to take minutes.
- 4.12 Water Main to Manor Farm – Correspondence
This matter had been resolved during the month with the contractor having supplied all necessary details in writing and permission having been granted in return.

5. Planning applications

- 5.1 The Isles Wind Farm
Three local Public Consultation meetings had been held. A questionnaire had been received from E-on. Cllr. MacMahon agreed to complete this on behalf of the Council. One question asked for three alternative layouts to be ranked. It was agreed that it should be indicated that the development was not wanted at all. Copies of the local MP's petition against the wind farm were distributed for completion.
- 5.2 Darlington BC adoption of 'Design of New Development Supplementary Planning' Document
This was duly noted.

6. Matters raised by Councillors

- 6.1 The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Beacons – 4th June 2012
Documentation had been received inviting the PC to register to set up one of 2012 beacons. It was agreed to include this on the agenda for the Community Group Meeting
- 6.2 Booking of Village Hall for PC & PACT Meetings
It was noted that the PC had no formal system for doing this and agreed that the Clerk should submit a letter giving dates of future meetings up to the end of March 2012. Cllr. Baines agreed to provide the Clerk with an email address for this purpose.
It was noted that there was a PACT meeting on 23rd November and that they should arrange this via the Village Hall Association's Booking Clerk. A key would be provided for them which must be returned. Cllr. Baines agreed to check if the PACT were being invoiced for their meetings.
- 6.3 Refuse left on The Green
It had been reported that household refuse was being left behind trees on a Tuesday morning. Cllr. Jones stated that rubbish and recycling should be put out by 7am on the day of collection, any other day and a fine can be issued This problem had been covered by a 'flyer' in the past.

- 6.4 **Standards Committee Decision Following Complaint**
The Darlington BC Standards Committee had found that ex Cllr. Mrs. Bence had been in breach of the Code of Conduct and a sanction of 'censure' had been applied. The matter had been reported in local papers and was subject to possible appeal. The report from Darlington BC had concluded with the statement that 'the Sub-Committee recommended that BPC review its mode of operation to ensure consistency of conduct and procedures'. After some discussion the meeting concluded that such consistency had already been achieved.
- 6.5 **Web Site**
The Clerk reported that the website had been updated and that he had met with Daniel Wells to receive instruction on future editing. It was decided to limit the inclusion of PC Minutes to a rolling calendar year and to include annual audited accounts. The Clerk was asked to arrange this.
- 6.6 **Surface Dressing and Road Closures**
This work had been completed prior to the meeting. General concern was expressed regarding the standard of traffic management and the behavior of wagon drivers.
- 6.7 **Inconsiderate Parking adjacent the old Post Office**
A verbal complaint had been received on this matter, the area being part of the Village Green with no individual parking rights. It was agreed that the concerned resident should put the matter in writing to the PC.
- 6.8 **Condition of Area in front of Talbot PH**
This area was severely potholed and a danger to pedestrians. The Clerk was asked to write to the owners stating that the PC could arrange repairs and asking that they cover the costs in light of the fact that the damage had been caused by, and represented a danger to, their customers.

Cllr. Jones left the meeting at 8:08pm

7. Village Green

- 7.1 **Trees on Village Green – incl. 5, 7, & 9 The Green, Maintenance Plan and Inspection Quotes**
Four inspection quotations had been received [Arborcut £425, Treeleaf £615, Andrew Jackson £150 and Phil Haynes (DBC) £150]. Any work required would be subject to Planning Permission although the removal of deadwood would be permissible subject to informing DBC. It was agreed to book an inspection by Phil Haynes in May 2012. The Clerk was asked to arrange this and ask for written confirmation.
Cllr. Baines had produced a comprehensive set of maps of all trees on the Village Green and was thanked for this work. Darlington BC had provided details of all TPO's in the village although it was noted that 2 of the trees were no longer in existence.
It was reported that the Broad Leafed Lime outside nos. 5, 7, & 9 The Green was in need of a crown lift and crown reduction and was causing visibility problems for vehicles egressing from the drive to No. 9. The Clerk agreed to submit a Planning Application for this work. General concern was expressed regarding the health of many of the trees on the Village Green. It was noted that tree 29 on Cllr Baines' maps, a spruce, required the removal of ivy. This had been planted by Mrs. C. Banks in memory of her son. Cllr MacMahon volunteered to discuss the work with her prior to Cllr J Robins removing the ivy.
- 7.2 **Autumn Planting of Tubs**
The members agreed to help with the replanting of the tubs and Cllr. Fieldhouse agreed to

obtain the necessary plants [36 pansies, 36 polyanthus and 36 bellis daisies or equivalent].

7.3 Overhanging Shrubs on Village Green

Concern had been expressed regarding difficulties in maintaining and cutting the Village Green outside the old Vicarage due to overhanging shrubs. The Clerk was asked to write to the residents asking that the shrubs be cut back.

8. Wind Farm Proposals

8.1 Questionnaire from Newcastle University Student

Cllr. MacMahon had completed this questionnaire which was directed at an individual affected by the proposals at Moor House.

8.2 Planning Appeal Moor House

The meeting was advised that the Appeal Hearing for the application for 10 turbines would be in January 2012 and that Durham TV Airport had raised strong objections regarding the new application for 6 turbines due to be heard in October and the SPAG would be objecting also.

8.3 Newbiggin

Geoffrey Sinclair, the consultant working for SPAG on the preparation of objections, was expected in the area on the following Saturday morning.

8.4 Durham Association of Local Councils Wind Farm Working Party

It was noted that this group had met on 18th August.

9. New Residents

None.

10. Financial

10.1 Invoice from Bishopton Village Hall Association re Hire of Meeting Room

The Clerk had queried the dates applicable to the invoice but had received no reply. He was asked to arrange payment on the basis that the invoice covered the period April to June.

10.2 Audit Fee – Cheque to BDO

BDO had sent a reminder and, on investigation, it was claimed that the original cheque had not been delivered. The Clerk had stopped the cheque and a replacement had been issued.

10.3 Movement of Money from Deposit Account

A transfer had been made as agreed at the last meeting leaving £6206.67 in the Current Account and £5639.38, belonging to the Youth Club, in the Deposit Account. A query was raised as to what would happen to the latter sum if the Youth Club failed to be reinstated. It was thought that the Club's Constitution documents should cover this and Cllr. Moses agreed to contact Mrs. S. Pilkington on the matter.

10.4 Payments for Kerbing and Strimming

A cash payment of £100 had been made to F. Wall to cover this.

11. Correspondence

11.1 Incoming

1. Letter from Durham Police Authority re Stakeholder Workshop on 30.08.11
2. Letter from the Infrastructure Planning Commission re The Isles Wind Farm – 29.07.11
3. Letter from Land Registry re Land at Town Farm Close – 21.07.11
4. Letter from NHS re Hyperacute Stroke Services Formal Public Consultation – 01.08.11

5. Agenda & Minutes for Durham Association of Local Councils Meeting of 18.08.11
6. Letter and Leaflet from Cleveland Local Councils Association re Membership – 03.08.11
7. Letter from The Village Hall Association re VAT Recovery – 05.08.11
8. Reminder Invoice for Village Hall Room Hire [undated]
9. Letter from NEDL [to L. MacMahon] re Wayleave for Electricity Supplies [undated]
10. Repeat Invoice from BDO for Annual Audit Fees -12.08.11
11. Letter from Darlington BC re Planning Appeal for Moor House Wind Farm – 17.08.11
12. Correspondence from Darlington BC [to L. MacMahon] covering Tree Preservation Orders
13. Letter from Darlington BC Standards Committee re meeting on 12.08.11 – 25.08.11
14. Newsletter from SMP Playgrounds
15. Letter from E-on re the Isles Wind Farm Public Consultation – 31.08.11
16. Letter and encl. from HMRC re New Employee Registration – 05.09.11
17. Darlington BC Standards Committee Newsletter – 09.09.11
18. Tees Valley Rural Community Council – details of Autumn Events
19. Letter from County Durham Association of Local Councils re Membership - 13.08.11
20. Correspondence from Arriva re Bus Services
21. Letter and Leaflet from Cleveland Local Councils Association re Membership – 12.09.11
22. Letter from Stockton BC re Wind Farm West of Stillington – 12.09.11
23. Letter from Tees Valley Local Authorities re Joint Minerals & Waste Development Plan – 16.09.11

11.2 Outgoing

1. Letter to Darlington BC Borough Solicitor re New Members – 04.08.11
2. Letter to Mary Wood re Invoice for Village Hall Room Hire – 05.08.11
3. Letter to John Wade re Skip Provision – 19.08.11
4. Letter to Mr. H. Bence re Complaint – 23.08.11
5. Letter to Keith Hodgson of DBC re Notification of Planning Appeals – 26.08.11
6. Letter to J. McGarrell re Water Supply to Manor Farm – 14.09.11

11.3 Cllr. MacMahon had received details of the Mayor's Charity Ball on 15th October and which required applications to be submitted by 8th October.

11.4 Cllr MacMahon had received details of 'Awards for All' grants. The Clerk was asked to file this for future reference.

12. Matters dealt with during the month

12.1 Village Hall Roof

The Village Hall Association had applied to the Council for financial assistance to cover the VAT element of roof repairs but this had been found to be not possible.

12.2 Provision of Skip

A skip had been provided FOC by John Wade. The Clerk was asked to write a letter of thanks.

13. Date of next meeting

13.1 19th October 2011 at 7:00pm in the Village Hall.

Meeting closed 9:10pm

Signed: Chair _____ Date _____