

Bishopton Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 21st September 2016 at 7:00pm in Bishopton Village Hall

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

1. Apologies for Absence: Cllrs. D. Jones & B. Jones of Darlington Borough Council

Visitors: Shelly Batham; Mr. Potter

1.1 Shelly Batham, volunteer with Darlington Police, explained the 'Speedwatch' system, introduced in January 2016 whereby volunteers can be trained in the use of speed monitoring units, of which there were 4 available. Sessions can be arranged by contacting PC Foley or PCSO Gemma Smith and police officers set up and remove the equipment appropriately. Availability is approx. 1 hour per month per volunteer. Volunteers will be required to take down details of offender's vehicles who will then receive a letter of warning. Repeat offenders may be fined. Ms. Batham indicated that she would be happy to arrange a demonstration and would provide a flyer for the Clerk to print off and arrange distribution.

Shelly Batham left the meeting at 7:12pm

1.2 Mr. Potter raised concerns regarding regular fouling of the Village Green and access roads by a neighbour's dog. He was advised to contact DBC's dog warden but that the Clerk would do likewise to strengthen the complaint.

1.3 Mr. Potter raised concerns regarding incessant barking of some 5 dogs owned by a neighbour. He was advised to contact DBC with his concerns.

Mr. Potter stayed to observe the remainder of the meeting.

2. Declarations of Interest in Items on the Agenda: None.

3. Previous Minutes:

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and, with one minor alteration, approved on a majority vote and were duly signed by the Chairperson as a true record of the 20th July 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 for July. 85 percentile speed = 34.7mph; Max. 60mph; Av = 27.8mph; percentage of speeders = 32-46%; Av speeder = up to 34.8 mph. For the west end during August the 85percentile speed was 33.3mph; Max. 60mph; Av = 25.9mph; percentage of speeders = 26-32%; Av speeder = up to 34.3 mph.

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

A meeting had been held with very helpful representatives of Stockton BC. They had advised a playground budget of £20-£25k designed & built to EN1176 [equipment] & EN1177 [surfacing]. 'Timber' equipment had been advised and details provided of 3 'good' suppliers who would provide Inspection Certificate and Risk Assessment documents. Surfacing could be 'wet pour', grass matting or bark chippings [the latter being the cheaper option but needs more maintenance]. The play area would require weekly or fortnightly inspection which could possibly be provided by DBC but, otherwise, there is a ROSPA course available to volunteers at around £300. The Clerk had tried to contact DBC but without response. An independent annual inspection was also required at around £300-£350. The setting of an annual budget for ongoing maintenance of equipment had been advised. Advance preparation of land – requires 'cross drilling'. Grants are available – Community Land Fill company? Tesco, Sport England. It was advised to get the school involved in design and naming. 'No Dogs', 'No Smoking' signs were recommended. The representatives confirmed that vandalism of play equipment was not considered a problem in other nearby communities. The Clerk had attended a subsequent site meeting with one of the representatives who thought the proposed area very good and advised a lockable access gate at school end with the gate stepped back into the field and a length of safety barrier provided to deter children running out onto track. 'Children Playing' signage in advance was advised. The Clerk had commenced meetings with representatives from the 3 equipment companies with a view to obtaining quotations and during one of these meetings he had been approached again regarding the existing gate at the north end of the proposed area on the basis that it had only existed in the short term. A check on Google Earth had confirmed this and the matter had once again been referred to YoungsRPS but no response had been received. However it was noted that there was another existing gate in the hedgerow which had been overgrown and the Clerk agreed to investigate this.

Public Consultation Survey results had been received from TVRCC. These indicated a very good [48%] response rate and positive [80%] support with 69% having no issues with area proposed. However there were some 31% of detractors regarding the area and it was agreed that it would be necessary to analyse and address these concerns at the next meeting. An invoice for £100, as previously agreed by the PC, had been received from TVRCC. Payment of this sum was proposed by Cllr. Headlam, seconded by Cllr. Melaney, and agreed by the meeting. Play equipment representatives had queried why a partnership arrangement could not be agreed with the school in order to develop a community facility in the grounds. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to the headmaster to request a meeting to discuss this.

- 4.3 Village Green Annual Inspection 2016 – progress report
Minor repair works outstanding – yet to be organised by Clerk
- 4.4 Request from ex-resident re memorial tree – further correspondence
Further email correspondence had taken place which had been copied to the members.
- 4.5 Parish Neighbourhood Plan – progress report
The Clerk had downloaded 2 large documents from NALC and had commenced reading. He had noted that financial assistance was available. It was intended that a full report would be available for the next meeting.
- 4.6 Provision of skip for August Bank Holiday - Review
The skip had been extensively overloaded including some prohibited material. This had necessitated the hiring of a 2nd skip which volunteers from the PC transferred waste to. DBC had been contacted to remove the prohibited material. In the circumstances of such overloading being a regular occurrence it was decided to suspend provision of skips and to advise residents of the reasons in a future flyer.
- 4.7 Casual Vacancy – progress report
No volunteers had come forward.
- 4.8 Provision of Flagpole – progress report
The Clerk had obtained 2 quotations the cheapest being for £636.96 plus VAT. It was agreed not to proceed for the time being. It was also noted that planning approval would probably be required.
- 4.9 Update re dedicated bench for the late Sam Tunney
The family had proposed the purchase of a recycled plastic timber effect seat produced by a local company at around £300. Photographs had been provided and it was agreed that a 'traditional' model in black [to match the Cenotaph area fencing] would be preferable. Cllr. Robins agreed to inform the family and to advise that the Clerk could provide advice on procedures for purchase and installation.

5. Planning Applications:

- 5.1 Notification of Planning Applications
The Clerk noted that advice from NALC was that, contrary to DBC's practice, the PC had the legal right to insist on the provision of paper copies of planning applications. The Clerk was asked to write to DBC and insist on such provision henceforth.

6. Matters Raised by Councillors & the Clerk:

- 6.1 PACT Meeting
Cllr. Preston reported that Bishopton PACT meeting was on 22nd September. However he had attended a recent Middleton St. George meeting which Ron Hogg had attended and had indicated a willingness to attend at Bishopton. A public consultation document had been handed out and copies were given to the members. The Clerk agreed to distribute copies via his residents email list.
The installation of restriction signage on Mill Lane had finally been completed but there were still problems with large vehicles attempting to use the route.
- 6.2 Village Hall 'Official Custodian' update
The Clerk had been informed that due to difficulties associated with the Land Registry it had been decided that the services of the PC would not be advisable. The Village Hall Committee had thanked the PC for their willingness to help on the matter.
- 6.3 Leaning tree
Concern had been expressed regarding the condition of a small tree outside no 37 The Green and Cllr. MacMahon had arranged the provision of a new stake and rope in an attempt to straighten it. However it was considered that a larger timber stake was required and Cllr. Melaney offered to provide this.
- 6.4 Trees obscuring 30mph signs at west end of village
The Clerk had raised this with Phil Haynes of DBC who had agreed to remedy the situation but, despite reminders, had not done so. It was agreed that the Clerk should contact DBC Highways on the matter.

- 6.5 Repairs to bus shelter
The Clerk was asked to contact DBC Streetscene to ask that they undertake repairs.
- 6.6 School Transport
Cllr. Moses briefed the meeting on the problems faced by a child who lives one mile from the village and is expected to walk on a very busy road into the village to utilise school transport. The parents are very concerned that DBC has reneged on a promise, made officially in writing, to transport the child from the home address to school each day. The issue is ongoing.
- 6.7 Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting
Cllr. Moses queried procedure on the publication of these minutes. The Clerk explained that they were distributed to Councillors in order that any concerns could be addressed but otherwise were published on the Village website.

7. Village Green:

- 7.1 Autumn planting of tubs
Cllr. MacMahon had purchase plants at a cost of £22.00. Payment of this sum was agreed by the meeting.

8. Wind Farm Proposals:

- 8.1 Lambs Hill Liaison Committee
Cllr. Melaney reported that Banks required the PC to submit ideas for projects requiring grant aid together Banks had been advised of Cllr. Melaney being its representative on the grants liaison group and of the 2 agreed projects. Funding rules were to be distributed shortly and it was noted that the maximum per project would be £3k. It was noted that they would require further details of the projects and suggested that the proposed play area could be considered as a 3 year project with a grant each year.
Cllr. Melaney noted that turbine blades and towers for the project were scheduled for delivery within 10 days with a December start scheduled.

9. New Residents: None.

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 £8105.05 allowing for the payments below and above.
- 10.2 Annual Audit – approval and acceptance
The Clerk went through the external auditors report and the Annual Return and BDO's Certificate was then approved and accepted by the meeting.
- 10.3 Payment to E & M Leighton for VG strimming
2 Payments of £54.00 were proposed by Cllr. Headlam, seconded by Cllr. Robins and agreed by the meeting.
- 10.5 Payment of John Wade Haulage for skip hire
Payment of £192.00 was proposed by Cllr. Melaney, seconded by Cllr. Headlam, and agreed by the meeting.

11. Correspondence:

INCOMING

1. Email from Tees Valley Combined Authority re consultation questionnaire
2. Email from Consult Objective re Current County Council Public Consultations – 29.07.16
3. Email from Paul Dalton of DBC re councillor vacancy – 08.08.16
4. Email from Stephen Ragg of CD&CTP re regional event – 08.08.16
5. Letter from John Wade Group re skip hire costs – 08.08.16
6. Email from Stephen Ragg of CD&CTP re future courses – 16.08.16
7. Email from Jeff Stephenson of DBC re insurance documents – 16.08.16
8. Letter from BDO re audit results – 16.08.16
9. Letter from Staples re business account – 17.08.16
10. Email from DBC re Draft Local Plan – 19.08.16
11. 2 emails from Helen Crute of DAPC re meeting minutes – 25.08.16
12. Email from Cllr. J. Robins re memorial seat – 30.08.16
13. Email from TVRCC re NAVCA health and social care news - August 2016 – 31.08.16
14. Letter from NatWest re interest rates – 08.16

OUTGOING

1. Email to Sandra Innes of DBC re dog bin – 21.07.16
2. Email to resident re replacement memorial tree in VG – 24.07.16
3. Email to Sandra Innes of DBC re bin bags in verges – 20.08.16
4. Email to DBC re playground inspections – 26.08.16
5. Email to Phil Haynes of DBC re trees obscuring 30mph signs – 26.08.16
6. Email from Chair to Sandra Innes of DBC re fly tipping – 31.08.16
7. Email to Joanne Barker of YoungsRPS re children's play area – 08.09.16

EMAIL CHAINS

1. 6 emails to / from ex-resident re memorial tree – 24.07.16 to 29.07.16
2. 2 emails to / from John Wade Haulage re skip – 24.07.16 to 12.08.16
3. 17 emails from / to CLCA re various matters – 25.07.16 to 20.09.16
4. 10 emails to / from Sue Naylor of TVRCC re play area consultation survey – 25.07.16 to 19.09.16
5. 7 emails from / to Felicity Machnicki of DBC re bus service – 27.07.16 & 02.08.16
6. 2 emails from / to G. Baines of Village Hall Association re rubbish bin – 08.08.16 & 06.09.16
7. 2 emails to / from Sandra Innes re rubbish bin at Village Hall – 08.08.16 to 06.09.16
8. 2 emails to / from Gwynn Dunn re notice in Parish News – 08.08.16 & 16.08.16
9. 11 emails to / from Tony Raine of Stockton BC re children's play area – 15.08.16 to 15.09.16
10. 2 emails to / from Lewis Stokes of Banks Group re Community Benefits Fund Committee – 26.08.16 & 01.09.16
11. 4 emails from / to resident re missing play area survey documents – 30.08.16 to 08.09.16
12. 3 emails to / from Sue Naylor of TVRCC re missing play area survey documents – 30.08.16 & 15.09.16
13. 2 emails from / to Cllr. B. Jones of DBC re mayor's Blog – 03.09.16 to 04.09.16
14. 2 emails to / from Sandra Innes of DBC re fly tipping – 03.09.16 & 05.09.16
15. 2 emails from / to Richard Bland re play area – 07.09.16 & 08.09.16
16. 8 emails to / from play equipment suppliers re play area – 12.09.16 to 19.09.16
17. 4 emails from / to resident re memorial tree in VG – 19.09.16 & 20.09.16

- 11.1 NALC Community Led Housing Survey
The Clerk went through the survey questions for him to submit by 30th September.
- 11.2 The proposed powers of a Mayoral Combined Authority
No response had been submitted to this survey.
- 11.3 Email from DBC re draft Local Plan – comments? After some discussion it was decided not to submit any comments.
- 11.4 CD&CTP Regional Event and Future Courses
Members to inform the Clerk if they wished to attend.

12. Matters Dealt with During the Month:

- 12.1 Broken Street Light – reported to DBC
Repaired.
- 12.2 Bin bags on road verges – reported to DBC
DBC had carried out a litter picking exercise and had left bags for subsequent collection. However it seemed that fly tippers had taken the opportunity of adding more bags and these had been reported and removed.
- 12.3 Waste bin at Village Hall – reported to DBC
This had not been emptied but Streetscene were now including it on their rota.
- 12.4 Repair to VG outside no 17 High Street
Cllr. MacMahon had completed this work and reseeded the area.

13. Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 19th October 2016, at 7:00pm, in the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9:10pm

Signed: Chairperson: _____ Date _____