

**Bishopton Parish Council**

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup> October 2019 at  
7:00pm in Bishopton Village Hall**

**Present:** Cllrs: N Melaney (Chair), M.Moses, J. Robins, D Latham, S.Harker and L Foggett [Parish Clerk].

**In Attendanc:** P.C.S.O. Andy Cusick of Durham Constabulary.

**Apologies for Absence:** Cllrs L MacMahon, G Preston; Cllr. Brian Jones of DBC

**50 Public Participation .**

The Chairman introduced PCSO Andy Cusick to the Parish Council and invited him to share with the Council his role and activity in the rural areas of Darlington Borough.

It was decided to bring forward the items on traffic monitoring and community speedwatch.as part of these discussions.

Traffic Monitoring Equipment - progress.

The Clerk circulated results from September

The Mill Lane monitor recorded a total number of vehicles as 5562 (this figure is reduced because Mill Lane was closed for some time and the traffic was noticeably less) and 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed of 27mph although there were a number of vehicles exceeding the 30mph limit and the fastest speed recorded was 50mph.

The High Street monitor recorded 36098 vehicles incoming and 46014 vehicles outgoing and 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed of 33mph although there were a number of vehicles exceeding the 30mph limit and the fastest speed recorded was 71mph.

The Green monitor recorded 37866 vehicles incoming and 33992 vehicles outgoing and 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed of 31mph although there were a number of vehicles exceeding the 30mph limit and the fastest speed recorded was 58mph.

It was agreed that we shall continue to assess the readings on the monitors, but that there was some fine tuning to be carried out particularly regarding the range at which the monitors record and display speeds. We will concentrate on speeding vehicles and send a summary of these to the police.

The PCSO has asked that future readings can be shared with him on a monthly basis.

Community Speedwatch.- Now that the PCSO is back from annual leave he will try and facilitate the equipment and training.

The PCSO was asked about the recent complaints from some residents about dangerous driving and /or speeding through the village. The PCSO said that there was nothing anyone could do unless the incident/s were reported. This must be done through the proper channels – by calling 101 and having an incident created which can then be followed through and investigated.

The PCSO recommended the use of the 'What Three Words' app for smart phones for identifying precise location of incidents.

The PSO was happy for his contact details to be circulated-

*Nil*

### **51. Declarations of Interest in Items on the Agenda:**

- 51.1 Cllr Harker declared an interest in the Playground as she is Secretary of the Playground Association.

### **52. Previous Minutes:**

- 52.1 The minutes of the previous meeting were read and then approved and were duly signed by the Chairperson as a true record of the 18<sup>th</sup> September 2019 meeting.

### **53. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes:**

- 53.1 Traffic Monitoring Equipment - progress.  
See item 50 above

- 53.2 Funds held for Young Persons of the Parish - playground - progress report.

Cllr Harker reported on the good attendance at the last meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup> October.

The Playground committee are hoping to hold a fund raising event on 29<sup>th</sup> November probably along the lines of a pie & pea supper with a quiz.

The playground treasurer – Mr Peter Slater is hoping to get banking facilities organized with the Co-operative bank.

A flyer has been circulated around the village advertising the event. It is also on the Village Website.

It is hoped that there will be a competition amongst children attending the event to name the playground and to design a picture for the background of a new Playground sign.

Mr Wallace has very kindly cut the hedges in the playground after the Clerk had received permission from the landowner for them to be cut. Mr Wallace has also cut the grass in the playground ready for the opening event.

The clerk reported that the monies set aside in the Parish Reserve account have now be transferred to the new PC Playground Account.

We have contacted 'The Grumpy Old Men's Breakfast Club' to express our thanks for their donation of £400.00. towards the playground .

We shall continue to circulate the minutes of the playground association. This will be done through the clerk, when other papers are distributed.

The Parish Council wished to re-iterate the fact that it is ultimately responsible for the playground and expenditure and insurance and expect that the playground committee will report all action to the Parish Council.

The Parish Council is deeply indebted to Messrs. Ray and Adam Wallace of Bishopton Equestrian Centre for their assistance with playground. They have cut the hedges and the grass and have helped to erect the picnic benches and are storing them indoors for the winter.



53.3 Bishopton Airfield - Progress Report

We are still waiting for the stone plinth to become available. Cllr. Melaney will contact the quarry again to find out progress. If we are unsuccessful then we will have to look for a plinth elsewhere.

**54 Planning Applications:**

- 54.1 The Council considered 19/00918/LBC and 19/00917/FUL for the demolition of a conservatory at the rear of No 26 High St and erection of a large extension including a 'garden room' extension. The council resolved to object to these proposals along the same lines as our original objection to the previous planning applications for this property. We would also point out that the previous planning permission granted for this property has not been acted upon.

At this point the clerk pointed out to councillors that the DALC have arranged to have a meeting with Mr Dave Coates the chief planning officer of DBC. This meeting will be held on 31<sup>st</sup> October at 6:30 pm in the Town Hall in Darlington.

**55 Matters Raised by Councillors & the Clerk:**

55.1 Village Website update

The clerk reported that the website is about to go live and should be fully working, including email provision in the next week.

55.2 Clerk Expenses / phone bills.

The Clerk reported that he has found a very good price on an Apple iphone 6 plus of £120 and a telephone contract of £5 per month for calls and data. This would enable the parish Council to effectively have its own telephone number and the smart phone can also be used for portable email communication. The council agreed to go ahead with these costs proposed by Cllr. Harker and seconded by Cllr Robins.

55.3 Remembrance Sunday

Cllr Moses again offered to get the wreath for the Parish Council, the cost will be £50 this was agreed proposed by Cllr. Latham and seconded by Cllr. Harker.

55.4 Banks Press Release

The Council discussed the Banks Press release which has been sent to the Clerk regarding the grants for the purchase of the Traffic Monitors. Overall the discussion was favourable as long as the reference to large agricultural vehicles was removed. As a rural community we are reliant on the farming community and are supportive of them



## 56 Village Green

### 56.1 Village Green Trees update

The clerk will has met with Mark Leighton about pruning the bottom of the trees, and conveyed the prices to councilors of £40 per tree to prune and remove the dead wood. This was agreed.

We need confirmation from Mr Wright regarding the replacement tree on the Village Green., as we have agreed to the placement of an Acer on the site of the old tree.

The DBC arborist has agreed to the inspection and survey of trees on the village green. The Environmental Services at DBC will contact the Clerk and payment details for the survey will be obtained. The cost is £300 +VAT The council had already agreed to proceed with the survey at the last meeting in September proposed by Cllr MacMahon and seconded by Cllr Latham. The clerk has asked DBC to let us know when the survey will take place.

### 56.2 Strimming has been carried out on the Village Green.

### 56.3 Christmas Tree Order

The Clerk will contact Croft Christmas Trees and get a price for supply and delivery of a tree for this Christmas. We are going to look into getting some funding towards the Christmas Tree and some new lights.

### 56.4 Tubs and Planting on the Village Green

Cllr Latham obtained winter plants for the tubs on the village green she has also purchased more bulbs for the Village Green. The cost was £43.92 it was agreed to pay this proposed by Cllr. Robins and seconded by Cllr. Moses

## 57 Financial

### 57.1 2019/20 budget monitoring & current financial position

The Clerk presented the breakdown of the Playground finances and the current financial position and forecast for the rest of the year.

### 57.2 Payment of rent for the Playground.

We have received an invoice from YoungsRPS for the rent for 2019-20 – a sum of £250. This will be paid proposed by Cllr. Robins and seconded by Cllr.Moses.

### 57.3 Traffic Monitor payment.

We have received the payment of £3000 from the Banks grant for the traffic monitors, we can now process the invoice from Elan City. It was agreed to pay Elan City the sum of £4397.00 (inc VAT) for the two traffic monitors on the main road. This proposed by Cllr. Harker and seconded by Cllr. Robins

### 57.4 Invoice for Strimming the Village Green

We have received an invoice for grass cutting of the Playground from Mark for £56.00. It was agreed to pay this proposed by Cllr. Harker and seconded by Cllr.Robins.

## 57.5 Organisation of payments from Petty Cash

The Clerk presented bills for £14.93 for printer inks to be paid from Petty Cash. This approved, proposed by Cllr.Harker and seconded by Cllr Robins.

Cllr Harker will attend a training course for new councillors run by MSG Parish Council, This will be delivered by Lesley Swinbank of Hawthorn Parish council. The cost is £5 this to be paid proposed by Cllr. Latham and seconded by Cllr. Robins.

## 58 Correspondence

It was decided to add only a brief summary of correspondence as detailed lists of email etc. are available if required.

### INCOMING

Borough Council – details for PSPO  
M Leighton re trees on Village Green  
Tree Survey payment from DBC  
Invitation to DALC meeting at DBC  
NALC newsletter  
Planning Application for no 26 High St  
Change of Tag for website  
Cleveland Local Councils Association  
Change of Domain notification for website  
Change of email to new domain

### OUTGOING

Email to Mr Wright – re tree on Village Green  
Letter to Mrs Fabi  
Playground dog access  
Tree survey on Village Green  
Planning application for no 26 High St.  
Email to DBC re dogs in the Playground  
Letter of thanks to Grumpy Old Men

## 59.Matters Dealt with last meeting

- 59.1 The damaged sign on the Village Green regarding parking for residents only. Cllr Melaney will look into getting this repaired
- 59.2 The Clerk has lodged the playground with DBC for inclusion in the new Public Space Protection Order which will replace the now obsolete Dog Control Order of 2010. The PSPO documents will go out for consultation in November.
- 59.3 The clerk has contacted the Borough Council Highways dept of the damage to the pavement near the churchyard. Also the poor state of repair of the village sign at the west end of the village which DBC promised to replace last year.  
A request will also be made to DBC for some warning signs re horses through the village.

## 60.Date of Next Meeting:

The meeting closed at 9:20 pm.

Next Meeting 7:00 pm on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2019 in the Village Hall.

Signed: Chairperson: 

Date 20/11/19