

## **Bishopton Parish Council**

### **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> January 2020 at 7:00pm in Bishopton Village Hall**

**Present:** Cllrs: N Melaney (Chair), M.Moses, J. Robins, D Latham, S.Harker, L MacMahon, G Preston  
Cllr. Brian Jones of DBC, Cllr. Deborah Laing of DBC and L Foggett [Parish Clerk].

**Apologies for Absence:** There were none

#### **83. Public Participation**

83.1 There was no public participation.

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

84.1 Cllr Harker declared an interest in the Playground as she is Secretary of the Playground Association. Cllr Preston declared an interest any items on Mill Lane.

#### **85. Previous Minutes:**

85.1 The minutes were approved and were duly signed by the Chairperson as a true record of the 18<sup>th</sup> December 2019 meeting.

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

86.1 Traffic Monitoring and Community Speedwatch

The clerk reported that the Traffic monitor on the High St had been checked and readings have been taken for all three monitors for December/ January on 10<sup>th</sup> January, these were analysed and it was obvious that traffic was accelerating 'behind' the Traffic monitors where drivers were not aware that they were being monitored.

Cllr Melaney reported that there has been no progress on the community speedwatch. Cllr Jones will see if Durham Constabulary has any news. We are still waiting to hear when equipment will be available.

Cllr Robins asked about progress on the establishment of 'buffer zones' on all three roads in and out of the village. An alternative would be 'gates' on either side of the main roads to create an optical barrier for speed restriction.

Cllr Jones will again make enquiries of the highways dept at DBC.

The clerk reported that the Acting Police and Crime Commissioner for Durham and the Chief Fire Officer are to address the meeting of the Darlington Association of Local Councils on 29<sup>th</sup> January in Hurworth

Cllr Jones mentioned that the PACT meeting for Middleton St George and Neasham is held on the last Wednesday of every month in MSG (Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> January) and it may be useful for someone to attend. The PACT meeting in March will be addressed by the Chief Constable of Durham.

86.2 - Playground - progress report.

Cllr Melaney reported on the Playground Committee meeting that was held last week

The playground treasurer – Mr Peter Slater is still trying to get banking facilities organized. In the meantime the Parish Council will hold any funds in the Playground account. The Clerk will liaise with Mr Wood about banking. 9 fd

Cllr Melaney has now met with a number of playground equipment suppliers and he is liaising with suppliers to try and firm up estimates. The play equipment provided will form a 'base' for further development of the playground in the future.

The Clerk has looked into the lease restrictions and there are no restrictions about putting advertising on 'our' fence. There remains the restriction of one major event per annum, so we can go forward and discuss the Village Fete ( item 88.3 below).

The council agreed to further discuss the Village Fete at the next meeting.

It was also suggested that the three existing organisations in the village – the Parish Council, the Playground Association and the Village Hall committee should all meet to liaise on the future direction of the village and that should be discussed in the new year.

**86.3 The Calendar/Diary for 2020**

The Clerk is working on the Parish Calendar/Diary and will present this at the next meeting in February.

**87 Planning Applications:**

- 87.1 The Clerk reported no decisions on 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.
- 87.2 The Clerk reported no decisions on 19/00902/FUL a retrospective request from 'Dogwood' for permission for the open building and attached shed erected at Dogwood West.
- 87.3 The Clerk reported no decisions on 19/01102/FUL– this being a retrospective application for a Hay/Straw storage facility at the west end of the village. The Council did express grave reservations about the planning application
- 87.4 The Clerk reported no decisions on 19/01133/FUL– a ground and first floor extension to Plum Tree Cottage, Downland Farm. Councillors reviewed this and returned a verdict of no comments.

## **88 Matters Raised by Councillors & the Clerk:**

### **88.1 Signage on the Village Green**

We will review the signage when we next inspect the Village Green in April.  
Cllr. Robins raised the question of road warning signs for horses in the village. This will be raised again with the Borough Council highways dept.

### **88.2 Defibrillator**

The cost of the defibrillator unit and cabinet are approximately £2500 ex VAT and there would need to be a contingency for power connections and training and maintenance. The clerk has drawn up figures with a view to forwarding a grant request for the funding. The location of the unit will be discussed further in the future.

### **88.3 The Village Fete 2020 and beyond.**

It was agreed that the clerk will produce a flyer to gain interest in organizing the Village Fete. A group of interested parties will be set up to discuss and organize the fete and report progress to the Parish Council.

## **89 Village Green**

### **89.1 Environmental Services**

There was some considerable discussion about the state of the leaves and the filthy roads and blocked gutters in the village. Councillor Jones will take the matter back to Street Scene at DBC and see what can be done. Councillor Jones will also send a direct contact for Street Scene to the Parish Clerk.

### **89.1 Village Green Trees update**

The tree survey has been carried out by BDC on 31<sup>st</sup> October. The clerk has again asked for the report on the survey, Cllr Jones will again investigate what has happened about this.

### **89.2 Village green leaf collection**

DBC will be contacted again about the leaf clearance and a road sweeper will be asked for to clear the verges of the roads in the village. The council had already instructed M Leighton to collect the leaves into piles for collection see item 90.3 below.

### **89.3 Tubs and Planting on the Village Green**

We have now ascertained the cost of replacement tubs for the Village Green. The Clerk will prepare a grant application for the tubs before the first of February.

## 90 Financial

### 90.1 Alternative banking arrangements

The clerk is to investigate alternative banking arrangements and will report back to council at the next meeting.

### 90.2 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.

### 90.3 Payment for leaf collection.

The payment of £250+VAT to M Leighton for leaf collection around the village green was approved. Proposed by Cllr. MacMahon and seconded by Cllr. Harker.

### 90.4 Payment for the last cut on the playground

The council agreed to pay this cost of £78.00 proposed by Cllr. Latham and seconded by Cllr. Robins.

The Council will consider putting the maintenance of the playground – grass and hedge cutting out to tender for future years.

### 90.5 Payment for Fishburn Brass Band for the Carols around the tree.

The clerk will ask the Talbot for an invoice to us for the cost of the brass band

### 90.6 Payment for Parish News advert for 2020

The cost of £70.00 for our monthly notice in the Parish News was approved proposed by Cllr. MacMahon and seconded by Cllr. Preston

### 90.7 Organisation of payments from Petty Cash

There were none.

## 91 Correspondence

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

### INCOMING

Tree Survey report Case Ref 1527372  
Playground Competition winner  
Parish Precept  
Planning application 19/01133/FUL Plum Tree Cottage Downlands  
Pali Payment for Quiz night  
Planning application 19/01102/FUL Hay Shed west end of village  
Bishopton Conservation area  
Christmas tree disposal  
Amberol quotations and photographs of tubs in Fishburn  
Speed monitor fault  
NALC newsletter

**OUTGOING**

Tree Survey report Case Ref 1527372  
Parish Precept  
Planning application 19/01133/FUL Plum Tree Cottage Downlands  
Planning application 19/01102/FUL Hay Shed west end of village  
Tree survey on Village Green to DBC  
Bishopton Conservation area  
Christmas tree disposal

**92.Matters Dealt with since last meeting**

- 92.1 The council requested that the clerk write to the Mr Peter Robson and thank him for his help in erecting the Christmas tree and Christmas Lights and for the work on dismantling the same in January
- 92.1 The Council have received notice of the Litter Pick for 2020. This will be discussed at a future meeting.
- 92.3 We have had notice of the next meeting of the Darlington Association of Local Councils at Hurworth on 29<sup>th</sup> January. Cllr Moses and the clerk will endeavor to attend.

**93.Date of Next Meeting:**

The meeting closed at 8.56 pm.

Next Meeting 7:00 pm on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2020 in the Village Hall.

Signed: Chairperson:



Date 18/2/20