

Bishopton Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 21st April 2021

At 7:00pm by remote access.

This meeting was held remotely, under the provisions of The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020.

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

Cllr Melaney had issues connecting remotely therefore Cllr Preston took the chair of the meeting.

Apologies for Absence: None

250 Public Participation

250.1 With Covid 19 and the 'lockdown' there was no public participation

251 Declarations of Interest in Items on the Agenda:

Cllr Preston expressed an interest in Mill Lane

Cllr Robins & Cllr Harker expressed an interest as members of the Playground Association committee.

252 Previous Minutes:

252.1 The minutes were approved and were duly signed by the Chairperson as a true record of the PC meeting of 17th March 2021. Proposed by Cllr MacMahon and seconded by Cllr Robins.

252.2 The minutes were approved and were duly signed by the Chairperson as a true record of the Extraordinary PC meeting of 24th March 2021. Proposed by Cllr Preston and seconded by Cllr Latham.

253 Matters Arising from Previous Minutes:

253.1 Traffic Monitoring

The clerk reported that he had read the speed monitors, there was a fault on the display of the monitor on the Green which was corrected.

The traffic was less than normal but there were instances of traffic speeding on both the High Street and on the Green in excess of 50mph outgoing mainly in the middle of the night/early morning. Mill Lane between 30 and 40 mph, only 1 vehicle registered more than 40mph.

253.2 Playground – progress report.

The three planters have been installed in the playground and the chair of the Playground Association has purchased plants to fill one of them.

As councillors are aware we are agreed to provide the hire of the Heras fencing for the work by Sovereign play systems which is to commence we hope on 17th May. This fencing will be delivered in time for the Sovereign operatives to erect it.(see below in finance section.

It was reported that, following a discussion with Cllr MacMahon and a meeting that the clerk attended with DBC Parks and Outdoor Spaces dept., Darlington Borough Council will take over the grass cutting in the playground from now as the playground is designated a protected space as are other playgrounds in the borough.

Cllr MacMahon noted that playground meeting minutes had not been distributed and were missing from the website, the clerk apologized for this and will look into the matter.

254 Planning Applications:

- a. Ref. No: 21/00250/TFC Felling of 12 no. Leylandii trees, pruning of stems and low branches removed and reduce height by up to 5m at The Old Vicarage High Street. The Council returned no comment. This was granted by DBC.
- b. West End The Green
Ref. No: 21/00327/TFC | Received: Mon 22 Mar 2021 | Validated: Mon 22 Mar 2021 Felling of lime tree. This was granted by DBC.
- c. Ref. No: 21/00103/FUL Sauf Haul Farm Agricultural building
This was granted by DBC.

It was mentioned that Cllr Melaney has been contacted by a resident complaining about our objection to the roofing on the Barn, we will reply to this resident in due course.

255 Matters Raised by Councillors & Clerk:

255.1 May – Annual Parish meeting and Parish AGM

The annual Parish Council meeting will be conducted in May (as part of our next meeting) we will review the position about the Parish meeting location and social distancing is more clear.

255.2 The Bus Shelter

The council recorded the fact that Radio Tees has aired a piece on the Bus shelter in Bishopton.

The council decided to contact other suppliers to quote for the work. Cllr Melaney will contact other suppliers.

Cllr Melaney will contact DBC again about ownership of the Bus shelter before we commission any work, and request a written reply authorizing us to carry out the repairs.

Cllr Robins reported that Mr Kerry, a resident, has offered to paint the bus shelter when the repairs are complete.

255.3 Public Rights of Way – Cllr. Robins

Update on the Mill Lane to Redmarshall footpath. The stiles have been repaired and that this footpath is now navigable has clear sight markers.

The yard gate at West House Farm is not repaired but it is left open to allow access to the bridleway. The field that had been ploughed, is now tilled but the footpath route is not clear.

255.4 Matters we need to follow up .

The clerk will follow up on road signs that need to be repaired (Mill Lane) and the signs warning about horses in the village. The 30mph signs on Mill Lane and the litter bin at the west end of the village. The clerk will produce a list and Cllr Robins asked if this list could be available to councillors privately on the website, the clerk will look at this.

255.5 Resident survey – suggestions of a consultation exercise

Cllr Melaney reported that the Village hall intend to carry out a resident survey about use of the hall. It was suggested that we liaise with the village hall and produce a joint survey to residents of the village about facilities. Cllr Melaney reported that a survey is required as the demographic of the village has changed over recent years and the recent pandemic lockdowns have changed the movement of many residents. Once the Village hall is nearer being re-opened this can be looked at again.



255.6 Website/Picture memory box/Time Capsule

We will advertise that we are creating a Time Capsule which we will hope to inter under the gazebo when it is installed in the playground. This will be delayed until nearer the time of the equipment installation

There was some discussion about historical information that have happened in the village and how they can be displayed on the Website/ Picture memory box. The clerk and Cllr. Robins will liaise about how this can be done. It is possible to create a different website for the village separate from the Parish council website, the clerk will look into this.

255.7 Parking Issues

We need to address the complaints about parking issues in the village especially off the highway on areas of the Village Green. The Parish council will put out a flyer about parking on the Village Green. We will discuss this in the next few days.

256 Village Green

256.1 Village Green Trees survey update

We will continue to try and get in touch with the arborist at DBC.

256.2 Village Green Planting

Cllr Latham complimented the residents who helped to site the new planters on the Village green, she was thanked for organizing this. Village Green Inspection – to report on the Village Green.

The village green inspection could not take place on Saturday 10th April so will be re convened on Tuesday 27th April.

256.3 Planters and new planters and benches on the Village Green.

The planters are all installed – see above

With regard to the benches, Cllr Melaney will talk to the family of the bench donated as a commemoration of service and suggest that the PC will continue to have the bench on the village green and add it to the asset register and therefore it will be covered by the indemnity insurance, subject to its inspection along with other assets on the Village Green during annual inspections. and insurance.

The old benches need to be removed but there is a problem in that the mountings are rusted in and need substantial grinding machinery to free them. Cllr Melaney will look into this further.

We have approached the Village Hall about siting one of the new benches at the end of the Village Hall parking area.

257 Financial

257.1 2020-2021 budget monitoring & current financial position

The clerk commented on the current financial position verbally as the accounts are at present with the auditor for the end of the financial year. The precept of £9206.00 has been received from DBC, the first installment has been paid to Sovereign for the next .items of playground equipment, there have been no other payments made. The clerk will continue with the bank reconciliation and liaise with the auditor and present accounts at the next meeting.

257.3 Hire of Heras fencing for the playground works.

Cllr Melaney has sourced the hire of Heras fencing for £180 + VAT from a local supply thus saving approximately £400 on the quote from Sovereign. It was agreed to go ahead with this proposed by Cllr MacMahon and seconded by Cllr Latham.



257.4 Clerk Salary

Further to the Council discussing the clerk's salary at the extraordinary meeting on 24th March, the clerk was offered a new salary scale of SCP 17. This was accepted by the clerk.

257.5 Organisation of payments from Petty cash

There were no petty cash payments.

The clerk reported that the 'Trombone' /disabled latch for the gate on the playground has been ordered and an invoice received for £104.40 inc VAT it was agreed that this would be paid, proposed by Cllr MacMahon and seconded by Cllr Robins. Cllr Latham presented a receipt for £13.00 for sand to set plinths for the planters on the Village Green.

258. Date of Next Meeting:

The meeting closed at 9:35 pm.

Next Meeting 7:00 pm on Wednesday 19th May 2021 . This will be the AGM followed by a normal Parish Council meeting.

Signed: Chairperson:



Date

19/05/2021