

Bishopton Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 13th October 2021 at 7:00pm in Bishopton Village Hall

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

297 Apologies for Absence: There were none

298 Public Participation

Mr Coulson had asked to speak but did not attend.

299 Declarations of Interest in Items on the Agenda:

Cllr Robins expressed an interest in the Playground Association

Cllr Harker expressed an interest in the Playground Association

Cllr Preston expressed an interest in anything to do with Mill Lane.

300 Previous Minutes:

300.1 The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved and were duly signed by the Chairperson as a true record of the meeting of 15th September 2021 meeting.

The minutes proposed by Cllr Preston and seconded by Cllr Moses.

301. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes:

301.1 Traffic Monitoring

The clerk reported a marked decrease in vehicles speeding in the evening and after midnight on the Green and High St this may be due to the large number of parked cars in the evenings around the Talbot on both sides of the road.

There was some debate about vehicles speeding on Mill Lane at the top of the bank down to Bishopton Mill but the any speed monitoring in that location would have to be set at 60mph.

The speedwatch team are carrying out speedwatch sessions and are concerned about some of the reactions of motorists. There is some delay in carrying out speedwatch over the next two weeks

We have had more volunteers come forward to join the team. There was some discussion about signage in the village about speedwatch.

301.2 Playground progress.

Further to the report last month that Banks are now amenable to us applying for further grant funding, there is to be a 'press' event tomorrow with Banks where they will take photographs and will interview members of the Parish Council and the Playground Association about the progress through grant funding.

Cllr Melaney is still pursuing funding from the National Lottery.



302 Planning Applications:

302.1 Planning Application 21/00952/TFC – trimming of sycamore trees behind no 3 High St
The council did not object to this application. This was granted by Darlington Borough Council.

302.2 Planning Application 21/00603/FUL – new driveway/entrance at Sundial Farm

The Parish Council has lodged an objection to this new entrance on safety ground do to the speed of traffic on the road outside the gateway/entrance we also objected to the removal of mature hedging. There has been no decision on this application yet.

302.3 Request for a screening opinion pursuant a proposed solar farm together with associated equipment and infrastructure. Moor House Wind Farm Bishopton Lane Great Burdon
The Parish Council noted this and will await the consultation period

303 Matters Raised by Councillors & the Clerk:

303.1 The Bus Shelter – further reports on quotes for work.

The clerk will contact the Transport Manager at Darlington to ask about ownership of the Bus Shelter and has not received any reply.

We have quotes for the work and these were tabled by Cllr. Melaney, he asks that Cllrs will consider the quotations and report back. We feel that we cannot go ahead with repair/refurbishment unless the ownership of the Bus Shelter is transferred from DBC to the Parish Council.

303.2 Matters that require follow up

Further to reports from the last meeting "The clerk has still to receive any acknowledgements form Darlington Borough Council about road signs or other outstanding matters

303.3 Parking Issues

The clerk has written to the households where there were parking problems and has contacted the company whose commercial vehicle has been parked illegally in the village.

303.4 Remembrance Sunday

The church service starts at 10.30am in the church and we process to the war memorial during the course of the service but usually this does not coincide with the 2 minutes silence at 11am. The service is suspended inside church for the 2 minutes silence at 11am (when the guns stopped in 1918) and the minutes silence at the War memorial after all have processed out followed by the Kohima Prayer etc for the fallen and the laying of wreaths etc.

303.5 Christmas Planning

Further to our previous minutes The Blue Bell have agreed to provide Mulled wine and mince pies.

Cllr Melaney reported that he has had discussions with Banks to see if they will provide funding for Christmas, as they did in 2019. The Christmas tree has been ordered.

There was some discussion as to whether we can set up a 'Light up Bishopton' event across the whole village. The general consensus was that although a really good idea the co-ordination of such an event would be extremely difficult.



303.6 The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

The Parish Council have been contacted by the Pageant master about details for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee on 2nd June 2022. More details will follow and we shall discuss this at the November meeting. It is the general feeling that the PC and the Playground Association and the Village Hall Association and the WI are all invited to meet in the Village hall to discuss plans for the Jubilee festivities. Cllr MacMahon suggested a flyer goes out to all bodies and residents to be finalised at our meeting in November. We may combine this with the Christmas Flyer.

304 Village Green

304.1 Village Green trees survey update

The clerk has again received no further communication from the DBC Arborist . The clerk has contacted the executive of the council and the head of the environment department about the lack of response from the Council arborist. We will have to look at the complaints procedure for Darlington Borough Council.

304.2 Benches on the Village Green. – progress report

The other new benches have been sited, now that concrete plinths for two of the benches on the Village Green have been installed.

304.3 Planting of Tubs and bulbs on the Village green

Cllr McMahon referenced her report on the tubs on the village green. We had experimented with perennial plants but the general feeling was that different plants could be selected. It was agreed that the tubs will be re-planted and that a budget of up to £200 be set aside for bulb planting and some other plants for tubs.

304.4 Update on damage to the Village Green

We will contact the residents of The Green about ongoing work and reinstatement of the Village Green (some of the work on which has been on-going since July 2020).

The other residents will be written to about the changes that they have made on the Village Green. This is not to be classed as 'damage' but changes that have been made without permission from the Parish Council.

305 Financial

305.1 2021/22 budget monitoring & current financial position

The clerk referred to the new spreadsheet for 2021-22 and the income and expenditure.

305.2 It was agreed to pay an invoice from AWG civils for the concrete plinths for the benches on the Village Green and in the Playground. £2018.40 This proposed by Cllr McMahon and seconded by Cllr Latham

305.3 The clerk has purchased replacement pads (2 sets) for the defibrillator as one set had been used the cost was £86.40. This proposed by Cllr Robins and seconded by Cllr Preston. The clerk pointed out that the defibrillator is now registered with a national scheme called 'The Circuit.uk' and we no longer have to send our reports to NE Ambulance but note on the Circuit that we have checked the defibrillator.



305.4 Petty Cash Payments

There was one petty cash payments outstanding. £24.00 for new padlocks for the playground proposed by Cllr Latham and seconded by Cllr Robins.

306 Date of Next Meeting:

The meeting closed at 8.21 pm.

Next Meeting 7:00pm on Wednesday 17th November 2021 in the Village Hall.

Signed: Chairperson:  _____

Date 17/11/ _____