

Bishopton Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 19th January 2022 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: L. MacMahon, J. Robins, D Latham, G. Preston, M.Moses , N Melaney (Chairman), S Harker, L Foggett [Parish Clerk].

327 Apologies for Absence:

328 Public Participation

329 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.

Cllr Robins reported that she would not be taking part in the jubilee celebrations.

330 Previous Minutes:

330.1 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 19th December 2021 meeting.

331. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes:

331.1 Traffic Monitoring

The clerk reported that the speed monitors had not been read since the end of November and that that situation would be rectified next week. The clerk will send records of traffic volumes to highways at DBC. The speedwatch team have not been active throughout December and will not be active in January, this mainly due to the weather and dark mornings and afternoons. The police are looking at further alternative areas for the speedwatch.

331.2 Playground progress.

Cllr Melaney has reiterated that the prices have risen considerably as have labour costs in line with current inflation and shortage of materials. He will pursue these, we are hoping to receive further prices in January.

332 Financial

332.1 2021/22 budget monitoring & current financial position

The council referred to the new spreadsheet for 2021-22 and the income and expenditure. The clerk asked Cllrs. to note wayleave payments which now total £640 for the year. Cllr MacMahon asked that the payments for bench plinths be separated between the Village Green and the playground expenditure (at present they are all shown in the Village Green).

332.2 The increase in the rent for the playground. Under the lease agreement, the rent for the playground will be reviewed (index linked) every 5 years. This is the first review and the rent has been increased by £21.08 for the next five years. – a total of £271.08 per annum. This payment was agreed by the council.

The council have asked the clerk to contact YoungsRPS regarding the future of the playground.

332.3 The payment to the Blue Bell for the Christmas refreshments and the Brass Band was received £170. This was covered as part of the grant we received for the Christmas celebrations.

332.4 Petty Cash Payments

There are no payments outstanding there was some postage costs £6.23. and Cllr Melaney's printing costs of £74.00. These were agreed.

333 Planning Applications:

323.1 Planning Application 21/01086/FUL - Change of use of land for the siting of 24 no. holiday lodges together with new access track and other associated infrastructure works on land NE of Bishopton Lake.

The council raised a strong objection to the application. The Council will consider making a representation to the planning committee when the application is considered.

323.2 Planning Application 21/01376/FUL Changes at Woogra Farm – The council returned no comment.

334 Matters Raised by Councillors & the Clerk:

334.1 Change of dates of meetings next year.

The Chairman reported that the Village Hall has a booking for an activity every 3rd Wednesday of the month starting in February and have asked if we can move our Parish council meetings. We will consider moving our meetings from our February meeting and consider making a permanent change from the Parish Council AGM in May. The consensus amongst councillors was that Tuesday evenings was perhaps the best option.

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

We still cannot go ahead with repair/refurbishment unless the ownership of the Bus Shelter is transferred from DBC to the Parish Council. Cllr Jones will pursue this on behalf of the Parish.

334.3 Matters that require follow up

We have had a meeting with DBC highways and Ward Councillor Jones in the village this being for Darlington Borough Council to address issues about road signs or other outstanding matters, including pillars on the pavement outside the Village Hall to stop vehicles mounting the pavement and creating a hazard to pedestrians leaving the Village Hall. We are also expecting 40mph buffer zones on the roads approaching the village, more signage warning motorists of horses in the village, and we are hoping to have 'gates' installed at the 30mph signs on the approach to The Green at one end of the village and High St at the other end.

We have had quotations for signs regarding Speedwatch, these warning signs will be at each end of the village and one half way through the village, probably near the church, and we will pursue this in February.

334.4 Fireworks

There was considerable discussion about the nuisance of fireworks in the village and the distress this was causing to horses and other animals. The clerk reported on the government investigation into this in 2018 and the subsequent lack of any legislation. There is no means for local authorities to take action against anyone setting off fireworks unless there is criminal intent.

334.5 The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

After some discussion the council agreed to try and join with other bodies and organize events in the centre of the village similar to the events at the diamond jubilee celebrations.

335 Village Green

335.1 Village Green trees survey update

The clerk has again received no further communication from the DBC Arborist. The Chair has contacted Cllr Jones regarding this.

335.2 Planting of Tubs and bulbs on the Village green

The planting is now all complete thanks to Cllrs Latham, Robins and MacMahon. It was agreed that we buy bulbs wholesale next year. Cllrs Latham, Robins and MacMahon will look at planting for this next year.

335.3 Damage to the Village Green

There was some debate about the path next to the post box. DBC have insisted that they have not adopted it, yet it is clearly referenced in the Village Green policy (map VG57) as being the responsibility of DBC. We will contact Cllr Jones and see if this can be resolved. The estimated works and costs which we have discussed will have to be revised in light of works in conjunction with residents. We shall attempt to contact other contractors to get prices for work on the village green.

The Parish Council further went through the estimates and decided how they should be apportioned.

The clerk will attempt to contact other groundwork contractors.


The Chairman will arrange a meeting with AWG early in the new year.

Cllr Robins asked about protection for the Village Green adjacent to 3B the Green. Cllr MacMahon will show Cllr Robins a possible solution.

336 Date of Next Meeting:

Next Meeting 7:00pm on Tuesday 15th February 2022 in the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9:00 pm.

Signed: Chairperson: 

Date 15th FEBRUARY 2022