

Bishopton Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 15th March 2022 at 7:00pm.

Present: Cllrs: D Latham, G. Preston, N Melaney (Chairman), S Harker (joined via Zoom),
L Foggett [Parish Clerk]. Ward Councillor B Jones .

347 Apologies for Absence:

348 Public Participation

348.1 The clerk introduced Mr Brian Cockerline who wished to return to speak about flying model aeroplanes near to the village. They have had discussions with a farmer on the Stillington Rd about using his land, there would be no flying over the centre of the village and there would be no impact on livestock in the fields. Mr Cockerline provided further details of the exact location and numbers of vehicles. etc. The council agreed to the proposal in principle and asked for confirmation from the landowner.

349 Vacancies for Parish Councillors

The Council recorded their sadness at the passing away of Councillor Maureen Moses who had been a councillor for some 17 years. Her contribution was thanked. The funeral is on 30th March at 10:45 at the Holy Family Church in Cockerton.

The resignations of Councillors Lindley MacMahon and Jayne Robins were recorded and again the council wished to thank them for their long service on the council and contribution to the life of the village.

The Democratic Services dept of DBC have been notified of the vacancies for Parish Councillors and advertisements for replacements will be published

350 Declarations of Interest in Items on the Agenda:

Cllr Harker expressed an interest in the Playground Association

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

351 Previous Minutes:

351.1 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 February 2022 meeting. Proposed by Cllr Preston and seconded by Cllr Latham.

352. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes:

352.1 Traffic Monitoring, Community Speedwatch and parking issues.

The clerk reported that the speed monitors had been reset and were showing no faults. The readings were still on the monitors.

The clerk reported that the instances of speeding in the evenings was much less than in previous months and that this was perhaps due to the great number of parked cars in the village, especially around the Talbot inn.

The speedwatch team have not been active throughout February, this mainly due to the weather and dark mornings and afternoons. The police are looking at further alternative areas for the speedwatch.

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 ask for the revised quotations and pursue this in April.

Parking in the village. There are still issues of vehicles parking haphazardly on the village green especially around the Talbot inn. The clerk again pointed out that anyone concerned should use the Time Stamp Camera app available for smart phones and to send these pictures to enforcement at DBC and/or the police.

352.2 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, installation costs have doubled. He will pursue these, we are hoping to receive further prices in April and submit a grant application.

At this point the agenda items from 7 onwards were brought forward while Ward Cllr Brian Jones was present.

353 Planning Applications:

353.1 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.

353.2 Planning Application 21/01292/FUL Change of use from open space (paddock) to domestic use and the erection of 3 no. outbuildings. Construction of balcony to rear of main dwelling and erection of 1.8m high fence and gate to side of garden 33 High Street BISHOPTON

The council agreed to object to this on the grounds that it is outside the development limits of Darlington Borough Council.

354 Matters Raised by Councillors & the Clerk:

354.1 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 again get the Borough Council to write to the Parish Council.

354.2 WFI in the Village Hall for use by the Parish Council

The clerk demonstrated the use of the wifi – temporarily installed for this meeting and outlined costs using BT and /or a mobile network. This will be pursued and brought to the next meeting.

354.3 Metal detecting in the village.

Councillors have already had a document about metal detecting circulated to them. This document was for general information and has been circulated to all parishes within the Borough. Any requests for specific use of metal detecting in the village must be submitted to the Parish Council.

354.4 Matters that require follow up

We are still waiting for news on the 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. The signs warning about horses will be installed next month.

354.5 The Queen's Platinum Jubilee 2nd-5th June 2022

The Chair will contact interested parties from the village and arrange a meeting to form a working party to arrange an event for the jubilee. There is a meeting on Monday 21st March to discuss arrangements.

354.6 Bridleways

The Council will need to contact Bethany Hacker -the rights of way officer at DBC about gates across the bridleway at West House off Mill Lane. These gates are almost impossible to open especially from horseback.

354.6 Litter Pick – Spring Clean

This will be organized in April.

355 Village Green

355.1 Village Green trees survey update

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

355.2 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. Cllr Jones will see if this can be resolved.

The estimated works and costs which we have discussed have been 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 Chairman will arrange a meeting with AWG in the next month and the jobs on the village green will have to split all the work as the residents have yet to reply to the Parish Council.

356 Financial

356.1 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 the council to note the return of the VAT from this last year.

356.2 Clerks Salary

The council agreed to the salary for the Parish Clerk and further to reimburse the clerk in line with the National Salary award 2021 and that this is back dated to April 2021. The council agreed that the clerks salary will raise to SCP18 from April 2022. These proposed by Cllr. Harker and seconded by Cllr Latham and agreed by the council.

356.3 Petty Cash Payments

The Clerk has a travel claim for £91.80 for travel to Bishopton in January, February and March this was agreed proposed by Cllr Latham and seconded by Cllr Harker.

The clerk's email is becoming overloaded and we need to purchase some software to enable a comprehensive archiving system. The cost of £75.41 was agreed proposed by Cllr Latham and seconded by Cllr Preston.

Cllr Melaney asked for £16.00 to be reimbursed for cutting keys.

The Council agreed to re-imburse the petty cash by £300.

357 Date of Next Meeting:

Next Meeting 7:00pm on Tuesday 19th April 2022 in the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9:00 pm.

Signed: Chairperson: Melaney

Date 19th April 2022