

Bishopton Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 18th September 2019 at 7:00pm in Bishopton Village Hall

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

Apologies for Absence: There were none

39 Public Participation discussion on dogs in the Playground.

The public participation planned was cancelled as the interested resident sent apologies.

The Council discussed the situation with regard to the barring of dogs from the Playground and the registration through Darlington Borough Council of the Playground under the Public Space Protection Order which is to be reviewed and instigated across the Borough in November. The council has taken legal advice regarding the exclusion of dogs from the Playground and have been assured that the field is owned by the council under the lease agreement which came into force in November of 2018.

There was some concern about the gaps in the hedge now that it has been cut. We will have to look at having the gaps sealed off, possibly with netting on the inside of the hedge.

40.Declarations of Interest in Items on the Agenda:

- 40.1 Cllr Harker declared an interest in the Playground as she is Secretary of the Playground Association.

41.Previous Minutes:

- 41.1 The minutes of the previous meeting were read and then approved and were duly signed by the Chairperson as a true record of the 10th July 2019 meeting.
The minutes of the special meeting were read and then approved and were duly signed by the Chairperson as a true record of the 31st July 2019 meeting.

42.Matters Arising from Previous Minutes:

- 42.1 Traffic Monitoring Equipment - progress.
All the speed monitors are now installed and working. The Clerk circulated results from the first month (August) of operation.
The Mill Lane monitor recorded a total number of vehicles as 17566 and 85th percentile speed of 27mph although there were a number of vehicles exceeding the 30mph limit and the fastest speed recorded was 45mph.
The High Street monitor recorded 15256 vehicles incoming and 18994 vehicles outgoing and 85th percentile speed of 33mph although there were a number of vehicles exceeding the 30mph limit and the fastest speed recorded was 70mph.
The Green monitor recorded 24094 vehicles incoming and 21694 vehicles outgoing and 85th percentile speed of 29mph although there were a number of vehicles exceeding the 30mph limit and the fastest speed recorded was 68mph.

It was agreed that we shall continue to assess the readings on the monitors, but that there was some fine tuning to be carried out particularly regarding the range at which the monitors record and display speeds.



Once the monitors are calibrated further we shall be forwarding readings to Durham Constabulary.

Community Speedwatch.- Following Cllr Melaney's meeting with the new Police PCSO Andy Culick we are waiting to hear further from Durham Constabulary about the equipment and further training from the PCSOs .

There was some discussion about extra signage regarding speeding through the village.

42.2. Funds held for Young Persons of the Parish - playground - progress report.

The clerk reported that the signs for the playground had now been erected along with the larger 'no dogs' sign to the main gate to the playground. Thanks to Cllr Melaney and Mr Peter Slater for their efforts in achieving this.

The Playground Association Committee has been formed. The officers are – Chair- Sam Pilkington Treasurer- Peter Slater and Secretary- Sarah Harker.

They have had a number of meetings and there will be an opening 'event' in the playground on Sunday 22nd September from 12:00 noon.

A flyer has been circulated around the village advertising the event. It is hoped that there will be a competition amongst children attending the event to name the playground and to design a picture for the background of a new Playground sign.

Cllr Preston has acquired the loan of a 'Tug of War' rope and the clerk has secured the loan of a 5-a-side football goal for the day.

The Parish Council have purchased three recycled plastic picnic benches on behalf of the Playground Association and these were delivered on Wednesday 11th September to the Equestrian Centre and will be stored there courtesy of Mr Wallace until Cllr Melaney and Mr Slater can assemble them ready for the playground opening on Sunday 22nd September.

Mr Wallace has very kindly cut the hedges in the playground after the Clerk had received permission from the landowner for them to be cut. Mr Wallace has also cut the grass in the playground ready for the opening event.

The clerk reported that the monies set aside in the Parish Reserve account have now be transferred to the new PC Playground Account.

Cllr MacMahon reported that 'Dogwood' on Redmarshall Rd has held an open event and have donated some of the proceeds £312.00 towards the Playground. The Clerk will write and thank them for their donation.

Cllr Melaney announced the 'The Grumpy Old Men's Breakfast Club' also wish to make a donation towards the playground and they have very kindly donated £400.00. We will contact them and express our thanks.



Cllrs asked about availability of the minutes of the playground association minutes, Cllr Melaney said that he would see that the minutes were circulated to the Council. This can be done through the clerk, when other papers are distributed.

Cllr Melaney announced that there is to be a meeting tomorrow (19th September) at the Playground with a representative from a playground equipment company to survey the playground. The outcome of this meeting will be reported at the next meeting.

42.3 Bishopton Airfield - Progress Report

We are still waiting for the stone plinth to become available. Cllr. Melaney will contact the quarry again to find out progress.

42.4. The Castle sign

Cllr. Melaney has mounted the new sign to be mounted on a plinth and this is now sited in the field to replace the old sign. Thanks to Cllr Melaney and Mr Peter Slater for their efforts and the assistance of Seaton's garage in helping to remove the remnants of the old plinth.

43 Planning Applications:

43.1 None

44 Matters Raised by Councillors & the Clerk:

44.1 PC Branding and the Village Website update

The clerk reported that the new website does exist but cannot yet be transferred from One.com to 1and 1 Ionos involving the transferring of the IPS Tag. The cost of the new website provision has changed and is now £1 per month for six months and then £10 per month thereafter. This is for all the storage of documents and all the email provision.

It was proposed that we agree to this provision, proposed by Cllr. Preston and seconded by Cllr Harker.

It is hoped that the new website can be up and running soon.

44.2 The Clerk reported that he had undertaken a number of visits to the village to meet with officers of DBC and complete works on the traffic monitors and work on securing the gates and hedges on the playground and submitted a travel expense claim. The Council agreed to pay the travel expenses proposed by Cllr. Latham and seconded by Cllr. MacMahon.

44.3 The clerk will report back to the next meeting regarding provision for telephone calls and website development. The council will discuss this at the next meeting.



45 Village Green

45.1 Village Green Trees update

We have had a reply from Mr Wright regarding the replacement tree on the Village Green., and have agreed to the placement of an Acer on the site of the old tree.

Cllr Harker reported that she has contacted the DBC arborist has been successful regarding the inspection and survey of trees on the village green. The Environmental Services at DBC will contact the Clerk and payment details for the survey will be obtained. The council agreed to proceed with the survey proposed by Cllr MacMahon and seconded by Cllr Latham. In the meantime, the clerk will approach Mark Leighton about pruning the bottom of the trees, and convey the prices to councillors.

Cllr Latham asked about winter plants for the tubs on the village green, she will endeavour to source some.

Similarly- Cllr Latham will also source more bulbs for the Village Green.

There was some discussion about replacing the tub on the village green which is falling apart. It was suggested that we look at replacing it with a one made of recycled plastic. This will be investigated.

45.2 Strimming has been carried out on the Village Green.

45.3 Christmas Tree Order

The Clerk will contact Croft Christmas Trees and get a price for supply and delivery of a tree for this Christmas.

46 Financial

46.1 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.

46.2 Traffic Monitor payment.

We are awaiting the payment of £3000 from the Banks grant for the traffic monitors, we can then process the invoice from Elan City. It was agreed to defer this proposed by Cllr. Harker and seconded by Cllr Preston.

46.3 Invoice for cutting grass in the Playground

We have received two invoices for grass cutting of the Playground from Mark Leighton a total of £390. It was agreed to pay this proposed by Cllr. Latham and seconded by Cllr.Preston.

46.4 Invoice for Strimming the Village Green

We have received an invoice for grass cutting of the Playground from Mark for £56.00. It was agreed to pay this proposed by Cllr. MacMahon and seconded by Cllr.Harker.



46.5 Clerks Salary June – Sept 2019

The salary of £322.44 for the 3rd quarter was agreed, Proposed by Cllr. Robins and seconded by Cllr Preston. The PAYE of £80.60 will be paid on 17th October.

The Travel expenses (see item 44.2) were also paid £52.53 for 112 miles. This proposed by Cllr. Latham and seconded by Cllr. MacMahon.

46.6 Payment for Picnic benches in the Playground

See item 42.2 above. The Council will pay £1134.00 inc VAT for the picnic benches from the new playground account. Proposed by Cllr. Robins and seconded by Cllr Preston.

46.7 Organisation for Petty Cash

Cllr. Melaney presented bills for £20.23 for fixings for the new Bishopton Castle Sign and the new Playground Sign to be paid from from Petty Cash These all approved proposed by Cllr.Harker and seconded by Cllr Robins.

47 Correspondence

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

INCOMING

Borough Council – re Invoice for legal Fees
Elan City delivery of traffic monitors
Dogwood open day information
Mud/Slurry on the road
DALC minutes
Email from resident re dogs in the Playground
Mr Wright – re tree on Village Green
Quotation for Playground Benches
Notification from DBC regarding Public Space Protection orders.

OUTGOING

Email & Telecon to Elan City re Traffic monitors
Inform DBC of Mud/slurry on the road
Email to resident re dogs in the Playground
Email to Mr Wright – re tree on Village Green
Order for Playground Benches
Letter of thanks to Dogwood

48.Matters Dealt with last meeting

- 48.1 A resident has reported a damaged sign on the Village Green regarding parking for residents only. A replacement sign will be investigated.
- 48.2 The Council were very sad to learn of the death of Francis Fabi who was a valued member of the Parish Council in the past. The Council will write to Mrs. Fabi expressing our thanks for his work on the Parish Council and express our condolences.
- 48.3 DBC must be informed of the damage to the pavement near the churchyard. The clerk will contact the Borough Council Highways dept.

49.Date of Next Meeting:

The meeting closed at 9:26 pm.

Next Meeting 7:00 pm on Wednesday 16th October 2019 in the Village Hall.

Signed: Chairperson: 

Date 16/10/19.