

## **Bishopton Parish Council**

### **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2023 at 7:00pm.**

**Present:** N Melaney (Chairman), Cllr P. Watson, Cllr: G. Preston, Cllr D Latham, Cllr S. Harker, Ward Councillor B Jones, L Foggett [Parish Clerk],

**448 Apologies for Absence:** Ward Councillor Deborah Laing

**449 Public Participation** Mrs Maria Darling, Mrs Yvonne Renton , Mr David Darling

449.1 Mrs Darling and Mrs Renton introduced themselves as prospective candidates for the positions of Ward Councillors in the forthcoming Darlington Borough Council elections in May.

Mrs Darling suggested areas for funding, especially for Village Halls. The Chairman thanked her for this but stated that he was already aware of funding schemes. There followed some discussion on funding and that many funding opportunities required match funding of some sort.

#### **450 Vacancies for Parish Councillors**

450.1 The 2 vacancies for Parish Councillors continue to be advertised but there are no candidates forthcoming.

#### **451 Declarations of Interest in Items on the Agenda:**

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

Cllr Harker expressed an interest in anything to do with the Playground.

#### **452 Previous Minutes:**

452.1 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 11<sup>th</sup> January 2023 meeting. Proposed by Cllr Preston and seconded by Cllr Watson.

#### **453. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes:**

453.1 Traffic Monitoring, Community Speedwatch and parking issues.

The clerk reported that the instances of speeding on the two functioning monitors was about the same as in the previous month. Both the monitors on the High St and Mill Lane are still showing vehicle speeds less than 5% over the speed limit of 30mph.

The clerk reported that the speed monitor at the west end of the village will be taken down and we shall try and get it repaired locally as we cannot afford to ship it to France and then pay repair bills.

There was no report from speedwatch and we are having problems with the number of volunteers available at certain times. We have no speedwatch equipment at present as it had to be returned to the police.

Parking in the village. These will be dealt with under agenda item 9.2 of the agenda.



## 454 Financial

### 454.1 Budget monitoring & current financial position

The Clerk presented the financial statement for 2022-2023.

### 454.2 Invoice for Parish News of £70

It was agreed to pay this annual fee proposed by Cllr Latham and seconded by Cllr Preston. The meeting asked the clerk to enquire about taking of half or full page adverts in the future.

### 454.3 Invoice from DBC for electrical checks.

This is the annual fee for electrical checks prior to erection of festive lights in December. It was agreed to pay this proposed by Cllr Harker and seconded by Cllr Watson.

### 454.5 We have had a quotation for repair of the Traffic monitor on The Green this is £774.48 which only includes carriage at £592 and a simple evaluation for £50. Repair costs and parts and labour will be extra of repair At present the council will explore other areas (see above)

### 454.6 The defibrillator pads are due to expire next month and need to be replaced

The clerk These are on order

### 454.7 We have received a number of invoices from AWG for the works on the Village Green others will follow. It was agreed at the last meeting that we would approach AWG and ask them to re-quote for some works and to arrange a site meeting regarding the tarmac outside no's 4,6,8, and 10 High St. They have re-quoted but we need to have a look at the specifications again before next meeting.

### 454.8 The Chairman raised the question of a donation from the Parish Council to the Action group objecting to the many solar farm developments surrounding the village.

The council agreed to making a donation of £500.

There followed some discussion about the extent of the solar farm proposed developments and the impact on the local environment and Bishopton Village in particular.

### 454.9 Petty Cash Payments

The clerk presented invoices for paper and printer ink of £37.81 and Travel expenses of £24.19 These were approved, proposed by Cllr. Latham and seconded by Cllr Harker.

There are no other petty cash transactions.

## 455 Planning Applications:

### 455.1 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.

This planning application has been revised but the council has resubmitted their objection.

### 455.2. Planning Application 22/00447/FUL Change of use of agricultural fields to glamping site with the siting of 10 no. bell tents with individual shower and toilet sheds, mobile kitchenettes, seating, extended access track, on-site parking provision, drainage and associated works Land West Of Outhouse Farm Bishopton Lodge Glamping Redmarshall Road BISHOPTON

The council lodged an objection to the planning application mainly on the grounds of highway problems and drainage.

### 455.3 The Chairman reported on the solar farm developments, and the activities of the action group. There was a considerable amount of discussion about the proposals. The next meeting will be on 22<sup>nd</sup> February.



## **456 Village Green**

### **456.1 Village Green trees survey update**

We will continue to try to obtain prices from independent arborists/tree surgeons. We have had one quotation. We have had quotes from four tree surgeons.

We have asked the Tree specialist who quoted the most favourable price of £4700 to furnish the Parish Council with method statement and risk assessments for the work. The Tender for the work will be awarded subject to these being given.

### **456.2 Damage to the Village Green and repair quotations**

A meeting will be sought between the chairman and AWG to discuss outstanding works. At the same time the matter discussed in front of the houses on High St. See item 454.7 above

## **457 Matters Raised by Councillors & the Clerk:**

### **457.1 Traffic incidents in Bishopston.**

Cllr Watson suggested that it was a good idea to collect data about accidents and traffic incidents as evidence of the danger of the roads. The clerk will issue a freedom of information requests to DBC and to Durham Constabulary.

### **457.2 The Bus Shelter – This matter will be put on hold until further notice.**

### **457.3 Matters that require follow up – road signs and other issues :-**

Dangerous Parking on Junction of Church View with High Street due to visitors to Talbot PH. Safety concerns raised. The Chairman will query resident access behind the proposed yellow lines.

Driveway being blocked by parked cars visiting Talbot PH (request for white line marking driveway)

The council agreed that they make representation to the highways dept and police representatives again about the outstanding highways matters.

Cllr Preston has tabled a document outlining the details of road signage that needs looking at.

### **457.4 The stopping of the Tees Flex Bus service.**

The Council asked the clerk to write to the TVCA about the possible cancellation of the renewal of the service at the end of February.

### **457.5 Horses on the Village Green**

There was some concern about persons exercising horses on the Village Green. This is strictly forbidden and a notice will be put on the website to this effect.

### **457.6 The Alternative Fuel Payment Scheme.**

Cllr Watson reported on the Alternative Fuel Payment scheme where households who do not have gas and rely on oil for heating can claim on the scheme. A notice will be put on the Parish website detailing how to claim.

### **457.7 Dog fouling notices.**


The council agreed to trial temporary notices about dog fouling around the village green.



**458 Date of Next Meeting:**

The next meeting will be at 7:00pm on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2023 in the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8:40 pm.

Signed: Chairperson:  Date 8/2/23