

BISHOPTON PARISH COUNCIL



Minutes of Bishopton Parish Council

7.00pm on Wednesday 9th October 2024 in Bishopton Village Hall

1. Present: Parish Councillors Norman Melaney (Chair), Geoff Preston, Debbie Latham
In attendance: DBC Councillor Deborah Laing, Steve Wall, Alan Pilkington, Steve Rose (Clerk)
2. Public Participation: no requests received
Alan Pilkington was attending for agenda item on Remembrance Ceremony to be held on 10th November 2024.
3. Declarations of Interest in Items on the Agenda
3.1. Cllr Preston – issues relating to Mill Lane
4. Resignation & Vacancies for Parish Councillors:
Parish Councillor Philip Watson resigned on 14th October
Steve Wall was proposed as a new Parish Councillor and was unanimously accepted.
Darlington Borough Council will be notified of these changes. The Chair gave a detailed vote of thanks for the hard work that Phil had undertaken as a Parish Councillor and the Clerk will write a letter of appreciation.
5. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 11th September 2024
The minutes were accepted as true record with the addition that a unanimous vote was taken that the Village Green Policy must be adhered to in all issues relating to signage on The Green. There was a discussion as to what this actually means as there is much precedent and different interpretation to the published rules. These will be amended in the updated version to be approved soon.
6. Actions and Matters Arising:
6.1 Following the previous meeting it was noted that Dave Coated from DBC had shared their Byers Gill Impact Report as requested – it was also noted this was over 2 months old;
6.2 Paul Ibbotson from DBC was thanked for installation of speed limit signs on the gates at ends of village as requested previously;
6.3 Clerk will order large poppies for the village - 12 x large, 12 x smaller plus large Wreath – expenditure of up to £150 approved. Proposed by Debbie Latham and Seconded by Geoff Preston;
6.4 Clerk will raise a purchase order for works at No. 28 The Green when received from Norman Melaney
7. Remembrance Sunday Arrangements (1st November 2024 from 10:45):
Norman Melaney gave a detailed description of the planned ceremony to include Last Post, 2 minute Silence, Laying of Wreaths and acknowledgement of the fallen by Alan Pilkington. The Clerk will publicise in Bishopton Buddies, Parish News and on the website.
8. Finance
8.1. Financial statements and Budget monitoring for 2024/25 – these were circulated with no issues to report

8.2. Petty Cash payments £45 for Plants – Debbie Latham approved – Proposed by Geoff Preston, seconded by Steve Wall

9. Planning Applications:

No further action to be made on any planning applications.

10. Matter raised by Residents

10.1 Invasive plants on The Green – these had been removed and would be maintained by Steve Wall in the future

10.2 Resident Dee Smith has asked if there could be a bench installed in the church graveyard – this is the responsibility of Darlington Borough Council

10.3 Brambles on wall of graveyard need trimming/cutting – The Clerk will approach DBC Street Scene to deal with the issue

11. Village Green Management

11.1 Village Green Policy: the map being developed by Philm Watson needs to be undertaken by someone else. The Clerk will approach him to get the details;

11.2 Village Green Works:

- No 28 and other works will be undertaken – purchase order to be raised by The Clerk
- Steve Wall Garden Services will undertake strimming
- Alex Walker will undertake tree pruning;
- Hole in road by Talbot – DBC to be asked to inspect
- Dead tree by bus shelter – Steve Wall to inspect and report on
- Roses – Steve Wall to inspect and report on
- Dog Fouling & Residents Parking signage – no agreement as to best way to address issues
- Newsletter planned for Christmas which will include reminders on dog fouling and parking
- Issues around parking at the school between 8-9.30 and 2-4 – Clerk has been asked to inform DBC Enforcement
- It was noted that DBC have an app for reporting all issues like flooding and parking, etc – this will be included in the newsletter

12. AOB:

12.1 Christmas Carols Round the Tree – agreed that it would be held when the Fishburn Band is available (Wednesday 18th December agreed after meeting). Christmas Tree ordered and Village Hall booked for refreshments. Funding application to be made to Banks by Norman Melaney

12.2 The Clerk was asked to make public requests for common sense on Fireworks Night following incidents in 2023;

12.3 Byers Gill – Feedback given on hearings in October. Next hearings on 26th & 27th November

13. Date of next meeting: Wednesday 13th November 2024, 7:00pm in Bishopton Parish Hall