

BISHOPTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Bishopton Parish Council

Held at 7.00pm on Wednesday 9th July 2025 in Bishopton Village Hall



MINUTES

1. Present: Parish Councillors Norman Melaney (Chair), Debbie Latham, Geoff Preston, Stephen Wall
In attendance: Steve Rose, Parish Clerk
Apologies: Parish Councillor Graham Fisher; DBC Cllr. Deborah Laing
2. No items of public participation were requested
3. Declarations of Interest in Items on the Agenda
 - 3.1. Cllr Preston – issues relating to Mill Lane
 - 3.2. Cllr Wall – issues relating to contracting works to Village Green
 - 3.3. Cllr Melaney – issues relating to Bishopton Village Hall
4. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 18th June 2025:
These were approved as a true record: Proposed Cllr Preston, Seconded Cllr Wall
5. There were no matters arising not included in the agenda
6. Finance
 - 6.1. Annual Accounts 2024/25: following approval by Parish Councillors, these were submitted and approved by the Audit Commission in accordance with regulations. The Parish Council recorded thanks to Peter Wood for undertaking the inspection of these accounts and completing the return.
 - 6.2. Playground account: it was agreed that the outstanding balances in this account will be moved to the Bishopton Parish Council savings account. Signatories are Cllr Melaney and former Clerk Les Foggett. Cllr Melaney will arrange for transfers.
 - 6.3. Finance 2025-26: a summary was circulated up to the date of most recent bank statement (follows minutes) – there were no queries.
 - 6.4. Payments approved: £40 to Great North Air Ambulance in lieu of Mike Macmahon funeral – Proposed Cllr Melaney, Seconded Cllr Latham; Jet Wash by AWG - £328 + VAT Prop Cllr Wall, Seconded Cllr Latham
7. Planning Applications:
 - 7.1. Prior Approval application for the change of use of 2 No. agricultural buildings into 4 No. dwelling houses (Use Class C3) with associated building operations. Outhouse Farm, Redmarshall Road, TS21 1EX. Received 28.05.2025. AWAITING DECISION; The clerk was asked to write expressing concerns over access.
 - 7.2. Trees – planning permission. The clerk will contact DBC to confirm permissions needed and report back.
8. Newsletter: it is hoped to get a newsletter out by the end of August. Any items to the clerk by end of July. Include Village Green improvements, History piece from Cllr Wall, Village hall and Café, Remembrance Day, Parking, Speeding



9. Matters raised by Residents

- 9.1. Roundabout in playground is not working correctly: Cllr Melaney has contacted the supplier and has been agreed to repair the equipment under warranty;
- 9.2. Many comments received about the poor parking around the school during drop off and pick up times – school has tried to encourage better use of road and pavements by parents but has little effect. Discussion over new signage but no decision taken;
- 9.3. A complaint has been received about brambles from the graveyard causing a hazard including scratching a child. DBC Streetscene will be contacted as they are responsible for the maintenance of the churchyard.

10. Village Green Management

- 10.1. Cllr Melaney gave a detailed report on the forthcoming works to be undertaken by AWG following a lengthy tendering process. It is hoped that works to High Street properties and The Green will be completed by the end of August.

11. Any other business:

- 11.1. The Notice Board is to be refurbished by Paul Irving – it was agreed that the wording would read “Bishopton Village Notices” and that it would be painted in olive green.

12. Date of next meeting: Wednesday 10th September 7:00pm in Bishopton Parish Hall

13. The meeting closed at 20.25

BISHOPTON PARISH COUNCIL
FINANCIAL YEAR 2025-26
REPORT ON PERFORMANCE TO 3 JUNE 2025



	Actual	Estimated Outturn 31/03/24	Budget 2025-26	Difference
Income				
Bank balance B/F from 31/03/25	£11,979.83			£0.00
Precept: Darlington Borough Council	£11,050.00			£0.00
Refunds				£0.00
HMRC VAT				£0.00
Credit Openreach				£0.00
Northern Powergrid: Wayleave				£0.00
Grants				£0.00
County Durham Foundation: Xmas Grant				£0.00
County Durham Foundation: Defibrillators				£0.00
Other grants				£0.00
Petty Cash in Hand				£0.00
Total Income	£23,029.83	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Expenditure				
Petty Cash	£300.00			£0.00
Village Green Maintenance	£80.00			£0.00
Village Hall Association	£500.00			£0.00
Insurance	£0.00			£0.00
Membership Fees	£47.00			£0.00
Audit Fee	£0.00			£0.00
Training	£0.00			£0.00
Travel	£0.00			£0.00
Files Stationary & Inks	£0.00			£0.00
Postage	£0.00			£0.00
Clerk's Salary	£415.84			£0.00
HMRC Income Tax	£99.79			£0.00
Village Hall Internet	£38.44			£0.00
IONOS Website Fee	£160.70			£0.00
Telephone	£32.14			£0.00
VE Day & Remembrance Day	£134.02			£0.00
Christmas Celebrations	£0.00			£0.00
Newsletters	£0.00			£0.00
Playground Maintenance	£0.00			£0.00
Defibrillators	£0.00			£0.00
BVAG	£0.00			£0.00
Other Expenditure	£0.00			£0.00
Total Expenditure	£1,807.93	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Balance carried forward				£124.18
Surplus/(Deficit) for 2023/24				£124.18
Reserve Account:	£1,248.72	£1,248.72	£1,248.72	£0.00