

BISHOPTON PARISH COUNCIL

Notice is hereby given that the meeting of Bishopton Parish Council will take place at 7.00pm on Wednesday 10th September 2025 in Bishopton Village Hall



MINUTES

1. Present: Parish Councillors Norman Melaney (Chair); Geoff Preston (Vice- Chair); Debbie Latham; Graham Fisher; Stephen Wall
In attendance: Darlington Borough Councillor Deborah Laing; Steve Rose (Clerk);
Residents: Sue Melaney; Julian & Karen Hewison; Lindley McMahan; Jayne Robins
2. Items of Public Participation requested: time allocation of 3 minutes is usually allowed for presentations. In order of request received by Clerk - issues requested to be discussed are noted:
 - Jayne Robins: Request for CPR Training: update given by Sue Melaney who reported that resident Luke Evans has volunteered to deliver training in the Village Hall for up to 25 people – dates will be circulated. Sue Melaney will also contact Gary Blenkinsopp to give specific defibrillator training – SR to give her contact details;
 - Julian & Karen Hewison: made a joint presentation about their dissatisfaction with the process around consultation of their recent planning application. Parish Clerk acknowledged that the previous meeting had been public and they would have been welcome to attend although their planning was not on the agenda – apology was given to them. Clerk also acknowledged that the minutes could have been more detailed. It was stressed to MR & Mrs Hewison that the concerns of the Parish Council were entirely about the safety of the junction following many comments from residents about issues relating to speed, poor road markings and poor visibility especially in the winter. It was agreed that lessons had been learned and it is hoped that relationships can be harmonious in the future;
 - Susan Melaney: i) Community Speed Watch – has suggested that this is resurrected and will call a meeting to see who may wish to volunteer; ii) CPR training (see above); iii) Bishopton Village History Night – suggesting that this may be of interest based around photos being shown on Bishopton Buddies. Council agreed to support the idea and £50 was approved towards costs – Proposer Graham Fiser; 2nd Stephen Wall
 - Lindley McMahan – Questioned Village Green Policy as publicly published policy did not cover areas being remediated. Explained that the Policy had been updated and new maps have been prepared. Clerk published new policy. It was reported that the current work would cost £6,000 inc VAT and the Council had approved the expenditure as there was shared use in the areas affected.
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 9th July 2025
 - 6.2 Les Foggett, previous Clerk is on holiday and will organise transfer of funds from Playground account main Parish Council account on his return.
5. Actions and Matters Arising not included in agenda
 - 5.1. Playground maintenance – Cllr Melaney reported on progress including a survey of works required. He will look into producing a sign indicating recommended age range of users. He will also look into funding from Point North (OnPath Fund) for swings – agreed to emergency funding. Clerk was asked to approach Darlington BC to provide more bins;
 - 5.2. Village Notice Board – work completed and installed;
 - 5.3. Three Cornered Leek (invasive species) – this has been treated and has not reappeared. Thanks to Stephen Wall for undertaking this work.



6. Finance
 - 6.1. Finance 2025-26: current position reported;
 - 6.2. Payments approved – Proposed by Graham Fishers, 2nd Geoff Preston
 - Strimming – S Wall £110; Paul Irving – Notice Board: £408.02;
 - Marfords – sign writing – approx. £84; Xmas Tree - £516 inc VAT;
 - Band - £100; Pantomime - £500; Wreath - £60; Other Remembrance Day costs - £30
 - 6.3. Petty Cash payments: Clerk travel and admin - £60 Proposed – Debbie Latham, 2nd Stephen Wall
7. Current Planning Applications:
 - 7.1 25/00892/TFC** Notification to carry out works to trees in a designated conservation area - Fell 1 No. fir tree|45 The Green Bishopton STOCKTON-ON-TEES TS21 1HE. **AWAITING DECISION**
No Comment
 - 7.2 25/00889/FUL** Change of Use of car park to outdoor seating area including 5. No pods for a temporary period of 5 years (Retrospective) Talbot Hotel 47 - 49 The Green Bishopton STOCKTON-ON-TEES TS21 1HE. **AWAITING DECISION**
It was agreed that an objection would be made, not in principle but to question lay out of the proposals as it is thought they could be done more conveniently.
8. Remembrance Sunday
 - Local resident Doug McMann to remediate letters on memorial;
 - Ceremony would follow format from last year with reading of names and wreath laying using recorded First Post as last year;
 - A letter of thanks would go to Doug McMann
9. Newsletter – Clerk apologised for delay and will try to complete in next couple of weeks’
10. Traffic Calming Measures & Parking
 - Cllr Melaney has received a number of comments and complaints about cars being damaged in the street including loss of wing mirrors and scratches. It was agreed that a public meeting will be called to discuss all aspects of traffic including the new Speedwatch proposal – NM and SR to organise.
11. Any other matters raised by residents to Clerk or Councillors – dumping green waste
 - A request to move the waste bin away from the Village Hall will be made to Brian Graham at DBC StreetScene - Clerk
12. Village Green Management
 - 12.1. Current works: are now complete,
 - 12.2. Tree management: DBC planning required – Clerk
 - 12.3. Churchyard: Streetscene will be asked to deal with brambles as a resident had scratched their face
13. Any other business
 - DBC will be approached about resurfacing in St Peter’s Wynd following request from resident
 - Point North have requested a photo shoot to celebrate the OnPath grant funding – to be organised by Norman Melaney.
14. Date of next meeting: Wednesday 8th October, 7:00pm in Bishopton Parish Hall