

# BISHOPTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Bishopton Parish Council which took place at 7.00pm on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2025 in Bishopton Village Hall



## MINUTES

1. Present: Parish Councillors Norman Melaney (Chair); Geoff Preston; Graham Fisher; Stephen Wall; Debbie Latham  
In attendance: DBC Councillor Deborah Laing; Steve Rose (Clerk)
2. Apologies for Absence
3. Items of Public Participation requested: time allocation of 3 minutes is usually allowed for presentations. None received
4. Declarations of Interest in Items on the Agenda
  - 4.1. Cllr Preston – issues relating to Mill Lane
  - 4.2. Cllr Wall – issues relating to contracting works to Village Green
  - 4.3. Cllr Melaney – issues relating to Bishopton Village Hall
5. The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 10<sup>th</sup> September 2025 were approved and signed.
6. Actions and Matters Arising not included in agenda
  - 6.1. Playground maintenance – report on progress by Cllr Melaney  
NO CHANGE – some resistance to providing the funding from OnPath/Point. Survey work being undertaken to assess options when funding is in place. Insurance claim not likely to be successful as damage is wear and tear. S Wall to do some remedial work to ensure safety. AWG Civil have agreed to replace swings at no extra cost. Some issues of site management including safety tape Cllr Fisher to inspect and take action as necessary;
  - 6.2. Playground account – transfer of funds reported by Cllr Melaney.  
Now completed – awaiting bank statements to confirm transfer.
  - 6.3. Speedwatch and Public Meeting: former Councillor Brian Jones to identify who now does the training. Request for funding for equipment to OnPath has been turned down.
  - 6.4. Matt Vickers MP public meeting: attended by Cllrs Preston and Latham.  
Included Police, Arriva, DBC, Stockton. Cllr Preston reported that first half of meeting on Tees wide issues was dominated by bus transport. Matt Vickers committed to getting a service to Bishopton. 2<sup>nd</sup> Half of meeting was in a Darlington only group which was more productive. Policing in rural areas discussed including new policy of support and new funding for use of drones. FarmWatch involved with implementation.
7. Finance
  - 7.1. Finance 2025-26: no issues to report. Full statement of accounts will be circulated when bank statements received (see attached).
  - 7.2. Payments: none to discuss
  - 7.3. Petty Cash payments: NM: £18 – keys; DL: £52 – plants. GP Proposed, SW 2<sup>nd</sup> Approved
8. Current Planning Applications all Awaiting Decision:
  - 8.1. **25/00251/FUL** Details of West End application (Bird & Bat Boxes) – NO COMMENT
  - 8.2. **25/01002/TFC** Parish Council application for works on trees – No COMMENT
  - 8.3. **25/00889/FUL** Change of Use of car park to outdoor seating area including 5 pods – will ask for re-design of positioning of pods to give better road safety
9. Remembrance Sunday: 9<sup>th</sup> November: Cllr Melaney organising speakers and Cllr Preston operating sound. Resident Dougie McMahon has kindly paid for and repaired letters on memorial.



10. Any other matters raised by residents to Clerk or Councillors :
  - 10.1. Parking outside 29 the Green: Clerk asked to write with polite request to be more considerate;
  - 10.2. No 4 The Green: a solution is being sought to address the resident's concerns. Cllr Melaney will speak to him;
  - 10.3. Holes need to be remediated outside Mrs Bence's house – Cllr Melaney to discuss with AWG;
  - 10.4. Many letters and emails from Mrs McMahon concerning the Village Green Policy. The Clerk will access training/advice on the parameters of how the policy is operated and how the Parish Council is allowed to take decisions and/or change the policy. He will approach Planning Aid for assistance;
  - 10.5. DBC Councillor Laing to contact Highways regarding lack of signs outside West House in Mill Lane.
  
11. Village Green Management
  - 11.1. Current works: Resurfacing outside 4-10 now completed
  - 11.2. Tree management – DBC asked to trim Churchyard trees. S Wall to do a final trim – expenditure previously approved.
  
12. Any other business:
  - 12.1. Annual Precept – to be agreed at next meeting and the communicated before final DBC deadline of 5<sup>th</sup> January.
  
13. Date of next meeting: Thursday 20<sup>th</sup>, 7:00pm in Bishopton Parish Hall

**BISHOPTON PARISH COUNCIL**  
**FINANCIAL YEAR 2025-26**  
**REPORT ON PERFORMANCE TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2025**



<b>Income</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Estimated Outturn 31/03/24</b>	<b>Budget 2025-26</b>	<b>Difference</b>
Bank balance B/F from 31/03/25	£11,979.83	£11,979.83	£11,979.83	£0.00
Precept: Darlington Borough Council	£11,050.00	£11,050.00	£11,050.00	£0.00
Refunds				£0.00
HMRC VAT		£3,000.00	£3,000.00	£0.00
Credit Openreach	£1.60			£0.00
Northern Powergrid: Wayleave				£0.00
Grants				£0.00
Point North: East & West Newiggin	£6,980.00	£7,500.00	£6,980.00	£520.00
County Durham Foundation: Defibrillators				£0.00
Other grants				£0.00
Transfer of funds from Playground account	£4,400.00	£4,400.00	£4,400.00	£0.00
Petty Cash in Hand				£0.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>£34,411.43</b>	<b>£37,929.83</b>	<b>£37,409.83</b>	<b>£520.00</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>				
Petty Cash	£300.00	£1,500.00	£1,500.00	£0.00
Village Green Maintenance	£1,676.82	£12,000.00	£12,000.00	£0.00
Village Hall Association	£500.00	£500.00	£500.00	£0.00
Insurance	£452.90	£452.90	£452.90	£0.00
Membership Fees	£47.00	£100.00	£100.00	£0.00
Audit Fee	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Training	£0.00	£200.00	£200.00	£0.00
Travel	£0.00	£300.00	£300.00	£0.00
Files Stationary & Inks	£95.17	£300.00	£300.00	£0.00
Postage	£0.00	£50.00	£50.00	£0.00
Clerk's Salary	£1,391.20	£2,000.00	£2,000.00	£0.00
HMRC Income Tax	£250.46	£500.00	£500.00	£0.00
Village Hall Internet	£261.07	£500.00	£500.00	£0.00
IONOS Website Fee	£503.52	£1,000.00	£1,000.00	£0.00
Telephone	£96.42	£200.00	£200.00	£0.00
VE Day & Remembrance Day	£134.02	£300.00	£300.00	£0.00
Christmas Celebrations	£0.00	£1,000.00	£1,000.00	£0.00
Newsletters	£0.00	£300.00	£300.00	£0.00
Playground Maintenance	£90.00	£2,000.00	£2,000.00	£0.00
Defibrillators	£197.20	£500.00	£500.00	£0.00
BVAG	£0.00	£500.00	£500.00	£0.00
Other Parish Council Expenditure	£59.97	£200.00	£200.00	£0.00
East & West Newbiggin	£0.00	£7,500.00	£7,500.00	£0.00
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>£6,055.75</b>	<b>£31,902.90</b>	<b>£31,902.90</b>	<b>£0.00</b>
Balance carried forward	£28,355.68			£124.18
Surplus/(Deficit)		£6,026.93	£5,506.93	£124.18
<b>Reserve Account:</b>	£1,253.22	£1,253.22	£1,253.22	£0.00