

BISHOPSTONE GROUP PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
held on Wednesday 13th July 2022 at 7.00p.m.
in Stretton Sugwas Village Hall

PRESENT: Cllr. J Macklin; Cllr. R Morgan; Cllr. S. Knights; Cllr. L. Handscomb; Cllr L Goldwater; Cllr M Geary and Cllr. Muriel Holmes.

ALSO PRESENT: Ward Councillor David Hitchiner. Mrs Lesley Hay (Parish Clerk)

Chairman welcomed those present to the July meeting.

1. Apologies for absence were received from Cllr C Draper; Cllr S Crump; Cllr K Smith and Cllr Sarah Keefe.

2. To receive declarations of interest or written requests for dispensations.

2.1 Cllr M Holmes declared an interest in item 11 otherwise no declarations of interest were declared.

3. The minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 11th May 2022 were considered a true record and unanimously agreed that they be adopted and signed by the Chairman.

4. Chairman's Report

On the 12th June a resident reported a sink hole had appeared outside his property in Bishopstone on the C1097. I reported this to our Locality Steward who inspected the hole next day and quickly arranged for it to be tarmacked the following day. Thank you to the Locality Steward for a very quick response.

As I was on holiday when the lengthsman visited our parishes to carry out his routine maintenance on 20th June - I liaised with Councillor Sarah Keefe to meet with his team to make sure the Kenchester triangle's grass was cut avoiding any wildflowers.

4.1 Community Centre – the Chairman reminded Councillors that this facility may be still available to use as a Community Centre but would need someone to take the lead and negotiate with the PCC. There were setup funds available and maybe a grant. Item to remain on the agenda.

5. Ward Councillor's report.

Cllr Hitchiner reported that, unfortunately, the number of reported Covid cases have recently shown an increase within Herefordshire.

The Herefordshire Council had recently received a visit from Ofsted – their report will be available shortly.

The Herefordshire Council continue to focus their attention on the issue of Phosphates in the local rivers. Ward Cllr Hitchiner continues to lobby Ministers to take appropriate action. At the LGA conference there seemed to be more concern about waste treatment with little mention of farming. Upon his return to Herefordshire, Ward Cllr Hitchiner attended a meeting with local farmers and a national NFU leader. The contrast was quite strange – no mention of farming and food security at the LGA conference and yet such an important issue.

6. Clerk's Report to include:

6.1 Discuss updating some existing policies/procedures.

The clerk explained that there had been an amendment to the Standing Orders which had been circulated and it was unanimously agreed to adopt this amendment.

It was also agreed that some of the existing policies/procedures need to be revised and the Clerk will bring draft copies to the next meeting.

6.2 The Clerk had circulated the latest HALC Information Corner which offered various sessions of training now available after the Covid shutdown. The Clerk reported that she would be attending one of these training sessions on Thursday evening. After discussion, it was agreed that the clerk would liaise with HALC with regard to organising some 'in house' training. It was agreed that initially this training should include communication; data protection and Code of Conduct. Clerk to report back.

7. Finance: Account's sheet/schedule of payment sheet had been circulated.

7.1 It was unanimously agreed to pay the outstanding invoices.

7.2 Online banking – the Clerk confirmed that the bank had now received all signatory's information and copy signatures. Waiting now for the card; card reader etc. but for the time being payment by cheque will continue.

8. Highways and Environmental Matters:

8.1 Footpath Officers' Reports - all in good order.

8.2 Cllr Holmes asked the Clerk if she could liaise with Balfour Betty with regard to arranging a collection the purple bags currently outside her house.

8.3. The Clerk was asked to obtain copies of footpath maps for each of the parishes.

9. Proposal to establish a working group on communications

Cllr Geary put forward a proposal to form a working group to focus on the information flow between Hereford Council; the Parish Council and the Local Community. The scope would include all existing communications e.g. notices / circulations; the PC website; Parish noticeboards and consideration of new / additional communication channels, e.g. Social media.

This proposal was discussed at length and, whilst supported, it was agreed to wait until the 'in house' training had taken place on communication before proceeding. Item to be deferred until next meeting

9.1 Use of noticeboard and keys.

It was agreed that Cllr Holmes would purchase some paint stain for the Byford Notice Board.

It was agreed that a notice informing residents of the name and telephone number of the key holder should be displayed in all the Parish Notice Boards.

Cllr Goldwater mentioned that the Mansell Gammage Notice Board may need replacing as it was getting rather tired and rickety but he will monitor.

10. Brief update on 'Making space for Nature in our parish'

Cllr Morgan reported Kenchester triangle beds are a success so far although flowers were hidden when at their best as the lengthsman was late cutting the grass around them. Other sites doing well. Need to focus now on some mid-summer to Autumn plants to carry on – such as willow herbs in the wilder patches and knapweed in tidier plots. There are a growing number of

parishioners who have been creating 'no mow' patches – even small patches can make a difference. We would like to thank those residents – it is good to see people with wild flower patches in their gardens.

The Clerk reported that despite many attempts – unfortunately, it had not been possible to arrange a convenient date for Sarah King to visit – however, plans are now in place for the November meeting.

11. Planning applications: 221014 – Lower Farm House Byford.

Following a site visit and discussion – the Clerk recorded no objection on the Herefordshire Planning website.

11.1 Cllr M Geary proposed the Parish Council should consider a review and update the current NDP. The Clerk reported that she had contacted HALC for their advice and it is recommended that NDP's are not reviewed at the moment. The Core Strategy is being reviewed at present and by the time any NDP review got to the stage when it would need consultation - it is likely that the CS would have changed. This would mean that the review process would have to begin again to align with the new CS. Once the new CS is in place then NDP's will need to be reviewed to ensure they align with the new policies – this would be the recommended time to look at any other changes.

With this advice – it was agreed to wait until the new Core Strategy is in place.

12. Parish Council Initiatives. Cllr Geary put forward a proposal to include a new standing agenda to discuss current initiatives led by the Parish Council (e.g., Making Space for Nature) and any new ones that the Parish Council may be interested in developing e.g. Promotion of Recycling in the Parishes. This proposal was discussed at length. It was agreed that the Clerk would liaise with regard to a simple recycling initiative. Item to be deferred until the next meeting.

13. Correspondence: Policing Matters - correspondence is circulated as received.
Update on Herefordshire Local Plan - circulated.
Leader's Newsletter - circulated.

Date of next meeting will be Wednesday 14th September 2022
7.00p.m. start in Stretton Sugwas Village Hall

Signed:

Date: