

BISHOPSTONE GROUP PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
held on Wednesday 11th January 2023 at 7.00p.n.
in Stretton Sugwas Village Hall

PRESENT: Cllr. J Macklin (Chairman); Cllr. R Morgan; Cllr L Goldwater; Cllr. S. Knights; Cllr. L. Handscomb; Cllr. Muriel Holmes; Cllr Sarah Keefe and Cllr S Crump.

ALSO PRESENT:

Ward Councillor David Hitchiner Mrs Lesley Hay (Parish Clerk) One member of the public.

Chairman welcomed those present to the January meeting.

1. Apologies for absence were received from Cllr M Geary.

2. To receive declarations of interest or written requests for dispensations. None declared.

3. Chairman's report

During the last week of November, I had several site meetings with the Lengthsman while he was carrying out the instructed schedule work for the Parish Council, he completed the ditching and drainage work throughout the five parishes, (I think it was an excellent job carried out to a high standard) he successfully unblocked the pipe under the road in Kenchester village and installed new pipe work and drain by Kenchester Rectory.

Two additional under road pipes, one below Kenchester Rectory and another by the Clovers Bishopstone could not be cleared because of damage possibly caused when the contractor's dug a trench to install the fibre optic cable along these sections of road. I will report our findings to Belfour Beatty highway department through the locality Stewart.

The ditch at Byford Church could not be dug to the required depth because the lengthsman found concrete laid under the verge between the wall and road edge. He did manage to dig a shallow ditch and jetted out the pipe running under the road. This we will have to monitored to see if this work has improved the water situation.

Sign Byford (No River Crossing) as requested at the last Parish Council meeting.

I have measured the Byford sign pole, it is a standard 3inch, I have contacted the firm recommended by our locality Stewart and received a quote 600mm x 450mm with fixings £69.90, 1050mm x 750mm £196.39.

After some discussion – it was unanimously agreed to purchase the 600mm x 450mm with fixings at a cost of £69.90 + VAT and postage. The Chairman will go ahead and order.

On December 11th when carrying out my weekly check on the Defibrillator in Bishopstone the machine indicated that it was not operational, I rang and informed the Circuit that it was out of action. The batteries were flat, I had replaced the batteries in March this year, (expiry date on batteries 03/2031) there was evidence that the cabinet had been opened, I replaced the batteries and attached a note:-

‘Please do NOT Tamper with this Defibrillator. This is Life Saving Equipment’

Due to unfortunate circumstances and a misunderstanding of section 85 of the Local Government Act the Parish Councillor who represents Mansell Gamage for over 30 years has automatically disqualified herself as a Parish Councillor. The vacancy notice will be displayed and uploaded on to the website.

4. Co-option of Parish Councillor for Bridge Sollars

The Clerk confirmed that Bridge Sollars has had a vacancy for a second Parish Councillor since the election of 2019. The Chairman was delighted to confirm that Catherine Draper would be willing to fill that vacancy and become Parish Councillor representing Bridge Sollars. The Parish Council then followed its co-option procedure; Mrs Draper was unanimously voted in and duly appointed as a Parish Councillor. The Clerk will inform the Election Office.

5. Ward Councillor’s Report – items discussed will be covered in Leader’s report which will be circulated.

5.1 Open Session

The Clerk reported having received a telephone call regarding Bishop Common hoping to discuss any ‘Making space for Nature ‘projects that may be happening on the common. Bishop Common is designated SSSI – owned by the Duchy of Cornwall. The SSSI meadow itself is in Mansel Lacy parish, but borders onto Bishopstone (and Brinsop/Wormsley CP). It was also designated as a local wildlife site (LWS) - strangely though not all the SSSI is LWS. Cllr Goldwater informed the Councillors that a colleague had informed him that they did not survey it as part of their Wilder Herefordshire project. Chairman offered to follow up the query.

5.2. Discussion on possibility of changing the Parish Council meeting venue to Nelson Inn – Cllr Knights will investigate regarding costings etc. To be deferred until next meeting.

5.3 Close Open session

6. Finance: Schedule of payment sheet (circulated).

6.1 Agree payment of outstanding invoices.

It was unanimously agreed to pay all outstanding invoices.

6.2 Confirmation of Drainage Grant remittance

The Clerk confirmed that the reimbursement for the drainage grant had been received.

7. Correspondence

7.1 Police Report – emails circulated

7.2 Correspondence – Paul Middlebrough who is the newly appointed Assistant Police and Crime Commissioner.

After discussion, it was agreed the Clerk would write back outlining the present concerns but that there was not, at present, any urgent issues which required him to attend a parish council meeting.

7.3 Updating Police Community Charter

Clerk will update the present Charter with the addition of concerns regarding lamping in and around Kenchester.

8. To approve and sign the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 9th November 2022. It was agreed that the minutes were a true record and unanimously agreed they be adopted and signed by the Charman.

9. Highways and Environmental Matters:

9.1 Footpath Officer Reports

9.2 There had been no action regarding updating the BS31 temporary closed signage – despite the clerk emailing. Clerk to follow up with another email.

9.3 Jubilee trees

Cllr Holmes has met with representative from the Estate and they have identified five suitable places to plant either a Rowan or Flowering Cherry tree. This left several trees still to be allocated to a suitable site but these could wait for another year if necessary. There was discussion on the costing of guards; stakes; ties etc. Initially costings worked out at approximately £30 per tree. Cllr Holmes to see if she can get some help from the Estate and will report back to the next meeting.

10. Update on a .gov website

The allocated.gov.uk website address was incorrect. Both the Chairman and Clerk have spoken with HALC and we are now waiting for the correct address to be allocated. In the meantime, the old website is now working again and it was decided to remain with this site until the correct .gov.uk address is confirmed.

11. Planning

11.1 Application No: 223698 – Broomleigh, Bishopstone

Site visit had taken place and discussion with the applicants. After discussion – this application was supported and comment uploaded on to the Planning Website.

11.2 Application No: 223552 – 1 Court Farm Cottage, Mansell Gamage

After discussion, it was agreed to add Cllr Goldwater's additional comments to the comment previously recorded before Christmas.

11.3 Application No: 223906 Woodside Cottage, Mansell Gamage

There was considerable discussion on this application. Cllr Goldwater to do a site visit and will write a report on his findings. This will be shared with Council before being submitted on to the Planning website.

11.4 Application No: 223703 Lord Nelson Inn – on objection

12. Date of next Parish Council meeting: Wednesday 8th March 2023 - 7.00p.m.

Item for the next agenda – Climate emergency

Signed:

Date:

PAYABLE TO	FOR	GROSS AMOUNT £	VAT £	NET AMOUNT £
D C Gardening	Jetting storm drains – work additional to Drainage Grant	£1524.00	£254.00	£1270.00
Lesley Hay	Clerk's salary – Dec 22	As per contract		As per contract
PAYE	PAYE - December	£70.00		£70.00
Expenses	Dec Expenses	£17.30	£2.55	£14.75
D C Gardening	Drainage works (as per grant quote)	£5206.80	£867.00	£4339.00
Defib/Warehouse	Replacement Defibrillator batteries	£55.60	£9.27	£46.33
ICO	Annual Data Protection	£35.00		£35.00
D C Gardening	Lengthsman	£74.70	£12.45	£62.25