

BISHOPSTONE GROUP PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
held on Wednesday 10th January 2024 at 7.00p.m.
in Stretton Sugwas Village Hall

PRESENT: Cllr. J Macklin (Chairman); Cllr. R Morgan; Cllr L Goldwater; Cllr. L. Handscomb; Cllr S. Keefe; Cllr D Hadley and Cllr S Crump.

ALSO PRESENT:

Mrs Lesley Hay (Parish Clerk) 4 members of the public.

Chairman welcomed those present to the January meeting.

1. Apologies for absence – Cllr C Draper; Cllr M. Holmes; Ward Cllr David Hitchiner

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

2.1. The Clerk confirmed that Bridge Sollers (which is within the Bishopstone Group Parish Council) has a vacancy for a Parish Councillor following the resignation of Cllr Sharon Knights. The Chairman was delighted to confirm that Charlotte Taylor would be willing to fill the vacancy and become a Parish Councillor representing Bridge Sollers Parish Council. The Parish Council then followed its co-option procedure; Charlotte Taylor was unanimously voted in and duly appointed as a Parish Councillor and came to the table with full voting rights. The Clerk will inform the Election Officer and the Monitoring Officer.

3. Ward Councillor's Report – no report as apologies sent.

The Ward Councillor had sent a link to the Herefordshire Council Leader's Report which and been circulated.

Possible reduction in number of Parish Councillors representing Bridge Sollers – deferred until Ward Cllr Hitchiner is able to attend a meeting.

3.1 Open Session – no issues raised that would not be covered later in the agenda.

Town, Parish and Community Council D-Day 80th June 2024 – email to be circulated.

3.2 The Chairman closed the Open Session

4. Chairman's Report

I had several meetings and telephone calls with the Lengthsman during the period 4th- 6th December dealing with queries while he was carrying out work covered by the drainage grant. Again I think he carried out very professional work considering the very wet conditions we suffered over those 3 work days.

A parishioner from Bishopstone reported that a 30mph speed warning sign had gone missing from its post on the west side of Bishopstone village.

On Tuesday the 2nd January several parishioners' made comments on the deep flood water (unpassable in some places) on the C1097 in Bishopstone and Kenchester particularly badly effected where the residents on Bishon Lane where the flooding caused the sewerage to overspill into properties.

The volume of water had overwhelmed the 6-inch road drain pipes, combined with mud and debris washed from the fields blocked the grills on the drain covers causing the road to flood, when the water receded I cleared away the mud and debris from the tops that I could access so the system could work effectively again.

Some fly tipping has been reported on the C1097 in Kenchester including an old fridge and other rubbish thrown into the ditch. I have reported this to Herefordshire Council case number FS576114684.

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

5.1 It was unanimously agreed to pay all outstanding invoices.

PAYABLE TO:	FOR :	GROSS AMOUNT £	VAT £	NET AMOUNT £
Lesley Hay	Clerk's salary –	As per contract		As per contract
HMRC	PAYE	£89.20		£89.20
Expenses	Expenses	£18.75	£2.84	£15.91
D C Gardening	Grant funded work to be reimbursed	£4905.60	£817.60	£4088.00
D C Gardening	Lengthsman work to support match funding	£631.90	£105.32	£526.56
ICO	Annual Date protection	£35.00		£35.00

5.2 Rent Village Hall – the clerk explained that she had paid £32 (£16 x 2) to cover the outstanding invoice for 2023. The hire fees have increased to £9 per hour so the clerk had forwarded £108 to cover the invoice for 6 meetings for 2024 (£18 x 6). Any extra ordinary meetings will be paid for separately.

6. Correspondence

6.1 Police Reports – emails circulated as and when.

6.2 HALC Information Sheet – had been circulated

6.3 Review HALC costings for 2024-2025 – had been circulated

6.4 Change of date for July meeting 2024 – after discussion it was agreed, if possible, to change the July meeting date to the 1st Wednesday in the month. Clerk to liaise with the Village Hall.

7. The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 8th November 2023 had been circulated and it was agreed that these were a true record and it was unanimously voted by the Councillors in attendance that they be adopted and signed by the Chairman.

8. Highways and Environmental Matters:

8.1 The 2023-2024 grant funded ditching work was discussed and generally it was agreed that this had proved beneficial in the areas where work had been completed.

8.2 Update on Drainage grant for 2024-2025 – the Clerk confirmed that she had applied for a match funded grant and the application had been acknowledged. This grant would be less than received this year at £876 plus Herefordshire Council match funding of £876 plus £876 Precept match funding.

8.3. The Clerk confirmed she had submitted the Expression of Interest form for remaining in the Lengthsman Scheme and receipt had been acknowledged.

9. Parish updates:

9.1 Footpath Officers reported that all footpaths were in reasonable order allowing for the recent inclement weather.

There was some discussion regarding missing footpath signs on the BN4. The Chairman agreed to inspect the next day and would replace any missing directional signs.

The Wye Valley Walk was discussed and it was agreed that the Clerk would approach Crispin Able (Herefordshire PROW Officer) with regard to this issue.

9.2 Sand Bags – there was a discussion with regard to the storage of future sand bags.

It was agreed that the clerk would order two pallets of sand bags – one to be delivered to Bishon Lane and the other to Bridge House, Kenchester. Cllr Taylor will measure the overall pallet size and order two covers – it was agreed that this purchase could go ahead before the next meeting. Invoice to be sent to the clerk for reimbursement.

9.3 Grit bins – it was agreed that the clerk would order a small grit bin as a replacement for one missing by the School House at Kenchester – to be delivered to Cllr Hadley. Once delivered, the Clerk would inform Balfour Beatty that it needs to be filled and reinstated on their maintenance round. However, if it becomes necessary, Cllr Hadley will arrange to get it filled on this occasion and invoice to be sent to the Clerk. Clerk will inform Locality Steward.

9.1.1 Kenchester – see reports above.

9.1.2 Bridge Sollers – see reports above. To confirm Cllr C Taylor has now been elected as the new Parish Councillor representing Bridge Sollers.

9.1.3 Byford – the Byford resident who attended the meeting had already provided, in advance, very detailed information and photographs, representing the flooding/drainage problem at Byford – these had been circulated – but for future reference please see copy at the to back of these minutes.

The resident explained in detail the ongoing problems – and it was agreed that a site meeting would be arranged to include the resident; the Chairman; the Locality Steward; Cllr M Holmes (representing Byford Parish Council) and the Ward Cllr D Hitchiner. The Clerk will liaise when the Ward Councillor has returned from holiday.

9.1.4 Bishopstone

(a) On the west approach to the village the 30mph sign posts are very faded and there are missing 30 mph markers. The Clerk confirmed she had reported this to the Locality Steward who, in turn, had confirmed that she has forwarded information to Balfour Beatty's maintenance team.

Pot Holes – Bishon Lane. The potholes along Bishon Lane are getting worse and need urgent attention. There was a lengthy discussion on this on-going problem and eventually it was agreed that a site meeting would be arranged to include the residents; the Chairman; the Locality Steward and the Ward Cllr D Hitchiner. The Clerk will liaise when the Ward Councillor has returned from holiday.

The sewage problems experienced along Bishon Lane during the recent flooding would be a Welsh Water problem and the residents will have to liaise directly with this Authority.

9.1.5 Mansell Gamage – Cllr Goldwater will investigate the U90200 as to whether there are grit bins along this unclassified road. Cllr Goldwater will report back.

10. Planning – none to date

11. Items for the Next Agenda (no discussion).

12. Date of the Next Parish Council Meeting on Wednesday 13th March 2024 – 7.00p.m.

Signed:

Date:

