

BISHOPSTONE GROUP PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
held on Wednesday 3rd July 2024 at 7.00p.m.
in Stretton Sugwas Village Hall

PRESENT: Cllr S. Crump (Chairman) Cllr. J Macklin; Cllr M Holmes; Cllr C Draper; Cllr. R Morgan; Cllr C Taylor; Cllr. L Handscomb; Cllr S Keefe and Cllr D Hadley.

ALSO PRESENT:

Mrs Lesley Hay (Parish Clerk); 1 member of the public.

Chairman welcomed those present to the July meeting. The Chairman extended a very warm welcome to Cllr C Draper on her return after a period of compassionate leave. The Chairman introduced Cllr Draper to the two Parish Councillors who had joined in her absence.

1. Apologies for absence – Cllr L Goldwater; Ward Cllr David Hitchiner.

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

2.1. The Clerk received an updated Register of Interest form from Cllr D Hadley. Cllr Hadley will deliver a copy to The Monitoring Officer.

3. To approve and sign the minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 8th May 2024 (circulated). 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.

4. Possible co-option of Parish Councillor. The Clerk explained that she had received a completed application form from Hayley Birch which had been circulated. The Clerk confirmed that there was a vacancy in the Byford Parish which could be filled by co-option and without the usual advertising. Unfortunately, Hayley was unable to attend this evening's meeting but it was agreed to invite Hayley to the next meeting in September with a view to co-opting her on to the Parish Council.

5. Chairman's Report 3rd July 2024

Firstly, may we take the opportunity to welcome Cathie back after a period of compassionate leave - it is lovely to see you Cathie.

The period since our last meeting has been relatively uneventful.

The verges have been trimmed making safer driving conditions around the lanes. The beautiful wild flowers were avoided I'm pleased to say due to the new notices that have been put up in the appropriate areas.

I managed to find the mirror in the hedge by the Credenhill turn and trim around it as requested.

The footpaths have been checked and I believe Lesley has only had one request for a grant application towards repair in Bishopstone near Bunshill.

It was with deep regret that we learnt of the death of our lengthsman's son in an RTA. Lesley kindly organised a card and some flowers from all 4 Parish Councils to be sent on our behalf.

6. Ward Councillor's Report March 2024 – apologies received.

Due to a General Election being called on the 4th July – Ward Councillors now go into the pre-election period known as purdah.

The **pre-election period** is the period in the [United Kingdom](#) between the announcement of an election and the formation of the new elected government. It affects [civil servants](#), who must be politically impartial, preventing central and [local government](#) from making announcements about any new or controversial government initiatives that could be seen to be advantageous to any candidates or parties in the forthcoming election.

6.1 Open Session - No issues raised - 6.2 The Chairman closed Open session

7. Finance: Schedule of payments sheet (circulated).

7.1 It was unanimously agreed to pay of outstanding invoices for May and June as circulated.

7.2. The Clerk confirmed that she had not received any notification from the External Auditor. The Exercise of Public Rights Notice can be removed from the Notice Boards after the 12th July 2024.

8. Highways/ Footpaths and Environmental Matters:

8.1 Footpath grant funding.

Bishopstone: The Clerk confirmed that she had submitted one claim for Bishopstone for the BN4 – replacement post for kissing gate.

Bishon Common: The ML1 was discussed at length. The present gate is kept locked by the owner to protect the livestock in the field. It was agreed that it would benefit from a new gate – which could still be kept locked – ideally with a small self-closing gate to be installed alongside. However, it was agreed that the original gateway couldn't be made smaller to allow for an additional self-closing gate due to getting farm machinery in and out. So a 'two in one' gate would be ideal.

It was also agreed that it needed an additional finger post further down.

It was agreed that Cllr Taylor would find What3words and take a couple of photos of the existing gate. The Clerk will then liaise with Crispin Abel to see if a site visit can be arranged to discuss the best way forward. If a solution can be agreed – and with the landowner's permission - maybe this expense could be covered under the current grant funding.

Kenchester: The Clerk confirmed that she had obtained an extension on the response date to allow Cllr D Hadley to prepare a full report on the Kenchester footpaths which he will present at the next meeting.

8.2 Bishon Lane's visibility. The Clerk will again contact the Locality Steward with regard to getting the verges and hedges cut back to improve visibility.

8.3 Credenhill junction near Magna Castra. The Chairman confirmed that she had strimmed round the mirror.

8.4 BY22/23 Cllr Holmes explained that where the Green Lane, U90012 becomes the BY 22/23 there is a huge puddle some 40 metres long, which fills the lane and is difficult to wade through as about 30cm deep! Still very wet even during this relatively dry spell of weather. (Photo had been circulated).

Cllr Holmes explained that the Estate owns the land and with their permission – walkers are able to take a short diversion of about 300 meters through the adjoining field. This area has been visited by Crispin Abel – PRoW Officer – and he is aware of this unofficial agreement. The Clerk will liaise with Crispin Abel to confirm that he is happy with this agreement and, if within the legislation governing footpaths, would it be possible to put up a Notice indicating the short alternative route?

8.5 Keys to the Bridge Sollers Notice Board have now been found and given to Cllr C Taylor.

9. Update on making space for nature.

Making Space for Nature – all looking well. The notices will be removed towards the end of the summer. Cllr Holmes asked if she could have two more notices next year.

Cllr Holmes confirmed that the sapling trees she planted two years ago are growing well – although some had failed replacements are available. However, these will have to be dug up and replanted later in the year after the growing season.

10. Planning –

App. No: 240950 Greyleys, Bishopstone. Proposed demolition of existing garage/utility and replace single storey side extension. After discussion it was unanimously agreed to support this application.

11. Correspondence:

11.1 The Clerk confirmed that she had completed the three month Police Community Charter – but has made a comment that the Charter does say that the police will visit each Parish Council twice a year and that it has been many years since this Parish Council had a received visit.

11.2 The Clerk confirmed that she had not received an update from David Bailey, General Manager or Anna Watts, Estate Manager National Trust's regarding plans for The Weir.

12. Items for the Next Agenda (no discussion). Gov.uk website.

13. Date of the Next Parish Council Meeting: Wednesday 11th September 2024
Apologies from Cllr J Macklin **Chairman closed the meeting at 7.40p.m.**

Signed:

Date: