

BISHOPSTONE GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

*Minutes meeting of the Parish Council held on
Thursday 12th July 2018 at 7.30pm at the New Bridge Community Centre,
Bridge Sollars*

Minutes

PRESENT: Councillor John Macklin (Chairman), Cllr S Hubbard (Vice Chairman); Cllr Sharon Knights; Cll. Neil Newton; Cllr Rosemary Morgan; Cllr S Keefe; Cllr Lesley Handscomb; Cllr Lewis Goldwater.

PRESENT: Mrs Lesley Hay (Parish Clerk) 1 member of the public

The Chairman welcomed those present to the July meeting.

1. Apologies for absence – Cllr C Draper; Cllr S Crump.
2. To receive declarations of interest or written requests for dispensations – Cllr J Macklin declared an interest in item (5.1) Update in NBCC and signed the book.
3. To receive a report from the local Police Officer/Newsletter circulated – no representative present but a recent Newsletter had been circulated.
4. Ward Councillor Steve Williams report:

Ward Cllr Williams apologised for his non-attendance at the last meeting and explained that his original email address with Tesco had been closed down without his knowledge so he had not been receiving parish emails. A note was made of his new email address steverwilliams007@gmail.com

Ward Cllr Williams reported no recent planning notifications.

Ward Cllr informed those present that he, together with five other Ward Councillors, had been elected by Herefordshire Council to form a 'task and finish' group – this group will monitor and report on the delivery of pothole repairs by Balfour Beatty. This new initiative to try and improve the standard of workmanship; efficiency in dealing with multiple potholes etc and will start in September 2018.

(4.1) Update on proposed Fire and Police Services merger. Ward Cllr Williams referred to the recent media statement – copy of which had been circulated – in which Hereford and Worcester Fire Authority has elected to support

Shropshire and Wrekin Fire Authority in a judicial review challenge to the former Home Secretary's decision to change the governance of the Service. No further update available.

5. Chairman's report:

(5.1) Update on NBCC – The Chairman reported that Management Committee had held a meeting on the 30th May 2018 when many ideas were discussed with regard to the future of the New Bridge Community Centre. Please see copy of the Minutes of this meeting attached to the end of these Minutes.

After some discussion on the various ideas outlined in these minutes, in particular the implications of the Parish Council taking over the lease and the running of the Community Centre, it was agreed it defer this item to the next Meeting.

(5.2) Byford telephone kiosk – after some discussion it was unanimously agreed to arrange removal of the Byford telephone kiosk. Clerk to liaise with BT and Anthony Bush Herefordshire Council.

(5.3) The Signage Bishon Lane. The Chairman explained that, according to a recent application/research report to the Assistant Director, Environment and Place, it was now recommended that Bishon Lane be classified as a Restricted Byway.

The residents down the lane had requested a 'No Through Road' sign which could be attached to an existing sign at the entrance to the lane – as there is a problem with vehicle navigation systems sending drivers down this lane when looking for the church.

As there are recurring problems with motorcyclists using this lane – and because it is now listed as a byway – there is also a request for a sign saying 'No motorised vehicles beyond this point'.

The Chairman will liaise with the Locality Steward with regard to the legalities of purchasing/erecting these signs.

(5.4) The Chairman reported that he and Cllr. Hubbard had met with the Locality Steward and Jason Himsworth (Technician) Balfour Beatty to discuss the ditch on the entrance to Follybrook, Byford. The Chairman reported that they had also looked at the problem with a blocked culvert at the pumphouse Byford – both issues have now been logged on a Balfour Beatty worksheet.

(5.5) The Chairman reported that he had made enquiries and had been informed that the batteries in the defibrillator, unless used, have a five-year life span. The machine will automatically indicate when these do need replacing. For information the cost of a new battery is £65 + VAT.

(5.6) Open Session for local residents present at meeting and for matters raised between meetings.

Cllr Knights raised her concerns that Herefordshire Council had, without her knowledge or permission, uploaded on to their website her completed Declaration of Interest form which includes her personal details including her address and place of work. The Clerk will look in to the legalities of this - especially in light of the recent Data Protection Laws and will report back to the next meeting.

No other items were raised.

Chairman closed the open session

6. The minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 10th May 2018 were unanimously agreed to be a true record. These were duly adopted and signed by the Chairman.

(6.1) Update Data Protection - no further update to report at this time.

(6.2) Update Community Governance Review – the second phase is progressing – no further update available at this time.

(6.3) The Clerk explained that a Revised Code of Conduct had been agreed by Herefordshire Council and a copy of this document had been previously circulated. After some discussion, it was unanimously agreed not to adopt this new revised document but to remain with the original document adopted and signed at the meeting in May.

7. Highways report and Environmental Matters

(7.1) Discuss lengthsman and P3 worksheet for July/August – it was reported that on a recent visit to the villages the lengthsman had cleaned all the village signs together with necessary visibility strimming. Apart from the usual monthly tasks, no additional tasks were highlighted for July/August.

(7.2) Footpaths update – there were various issues discussed which the Chairman will take forward to discuss with the Locality Steward -

- (a) To look at the gate – Bishon Lane.
- (b) BS2 inspect the operation of the two metal gates on second field difficult to open
- (c) BS2 - the foot path officer for Bridge Sollars, Rosemary Morgan, will arrange to repair the gate catch on the first gate by Bridge.
- (d) BS2 - New finger post required by the poplar planation towards Madley.

(7.3) Update by Tree Warden - Cllr Goldwater explained that there was possible funding for tree planting with free packs of saplings but these had to be planted on assessible public land. The tree grant was closed at the moment but should reopen during National tree week late November.

He also described a possible seed gathering event – again in late Autumn – more information at the next meeting.

Cllr Goldwater also asked those present to be aware of Ash Die back and described what to look out for as the most obvious signs of the disease.

(7.4) The mud on the BOAT at Byford Common was discussed. A letter of complaint has been sent in to the Estate Manager by a resident but with no obvious improvement. The Chairman will visit with Locality Steward who may be prepared to make a personal visit and request those responsible clear the road of the mud - maybe on a weekly basis.

(7.5) Problem of water welling up under the road surface in Church Lane opposite Byford House. It was reported that there is a constant seepage in two places resulting in water running down the road. In view of the recent very dry weather, it must be assumed there is an underground leak somewhere – in the first instance, the Chairman will visit with Locality Steward.

8. Finance: Up-to-date accounts sheet/schedule of payments sheet had been circulated.

(8.1) It was unanimously agreed to pay all outstanding invoices and cheques were raised and signed.

(8.2) The Clerk reported that the audit papers had been completed and sent to the External Auditor. Public Notices are displayed on the Notice Boards.

9. Planning matters

(9.1) To receive Neighbourhood Development Plan update.

Councillors were reminded that the Neighbourhood Planning Team set a date for consultation which was to last for 6 weeks. To encourage the widest possible local participation, the Parish Councillors sent a copy of the NDP to

each household in the parishes with a letter encouraging residents to take part in the consultation.

Cllr Hubbard reported that 19 comments had been received which included 4 objections 15 in support. The Plan will now go forward to an independent examiner and a selection list of available examiners will be made available. The Clerk will liaise with other Parish Councils for their feedback on various examiners. It was agreed that it would be beneficial to have an examiner with rural knowledge.

Once an examiner is appointed, they will take about 3 – 4 days to complete their report. However, it is hoped that the examiner will visit the area before writing the report which should be completed by the end of September.

Once this procedure has been completed, the Plan may proceed to referendum and if successful will be adopted as planning guidance by Herefordshire Council.

10. Correspondence: No items to be discussed.

11. Discuss date of next meeting – Thursday 13th September 2018 at 7.30pm

Meeting closed at 9.00p.m.

Signed:

Date:

New Bridge Community Centre
Minutes of Management Committee Meeting held on May 30th 2018

Present: John Macklin, David Macklin, Sue Hubbard,
Lesley Handscombe, Marg Smith, Jo Macklin, Jan Kersley, Cathie
Draper, Wendy Coombey (Community Partnership and Development), Tim Bridges
(Church Buildings Officer).

Apologies: Wyn Fisk, Rana Davies-James.

The minutes of the last meeting were approved with one small correction

The Data Privacy Policy was approved and adopted.

The main business of the meeting was to discuss the future of the community centre and its relations with the PCC. During a wide ranging discussion the following issues and ideas were discussed

- Need to get Parish Council involved – possibly for the parish council to take over the lease and the running of the community centre or have a management committee made up of parish councillors, residents and PCC representatives. The Taylor Report (just published) contains recommendation for parish councils to support the use of church buildings as community assets
- The community centre currently has a deficit of about £500pa due to electricity costs because of the heating – is this the right sort of heating or should it be changed? Should the community centre close during January and February?
- Need to increase bookings and use of the building. Possible ideas suggested - advertise in Hereford Times; sites such as Facebook and Twitter (especially for attracting younger people). Training in using social media is available
- Need to improve car parking and access – should we start negotiations with Herefordshire Council again? This might be easier if the parish council were running the centre.
- Consultation with residents of the 5 parishes carried out a few years ago about use of the community centre showed many suggestions for courses and events that people would like to see but no-one is prepared to organise them
- Drop in footfall is a general problem for community centres and parish halls as social habits change
- In any new lease of the building the rent should be more than the existing peppercorn rent but would have to be reasonable and something that the parish council (or other group) could pay.
- There are various options for the future viability of the church as a place of worship which are being discussed by the PCC
- It is essential to move on from the “them and us” mentality – this could be helped by the parish council taking over the lease (as all the 5 parishes would be represented there) or by the running being taken over by a community group chaired by Rana.

Agreed that Wendy Coombey will discuss the issues with Rana and a working group will be formed to carry the discussions forward and work on possible models.