

BISHOPSTONE GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

*Minutes meeting of the Parish Council held on
Thursday 10th January 2019 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; Cllr Rosemary Morgan; Cllr S Keefe; Cllr Lesley Handscomb; Cllr M Holmes; Cllr S Crump; Cllr C Draper.

PRESENT: Mrs Lesley Hay (Parish Clerk) Ward Cllr S Williams;
one member of public – Mr M Farmar re: Greylands, Kenchester.

The Chairman welcomed those present to the January meeting.

1. Apologies for absence – Cllr N Newton; Cllr L Goldwater.
2. To receive declarations of interest or written requests for dispensations – Cllr J Macklin; Cllr S Hubbard; Cllr C Draper; Cllr L Handscomb; Cllr M Holmes declared an interest in item (5.1) all signed the book.
3. To receive a report from the local Police Officer/Newsletter circulated – no representative present.
4. Ward Councillor Steve Williams report:

Ward Cllr Williams reported no update on the proposed Fire and Police Services merger. Item to be deferred.

Ward Cllr Williams reminded Councillors that Councillor Lester, Leader of Herefordshire Council has invited councillors to attend the Parish Council Summit on 24 January 2019. Ward Cllr Williams confirmed he will be attending. Cllr Lesley Handscomb also confirmed she would be attending on behalf of Bishopstone Parish Council.

May Elections - Ward Cllr Williams confirmed that he will be putting his name forward to be considered for re-election as Ward Councillor for this area in the May elections.

5. Chairman's report:

(5.1) Cllr Macklin gave a short presentation explaining the background with regard to the formation of NBCC and up to date account sheets were circulated.

Notes of an informal meeting held on Friday 4th January between the PCC and the Parish Council had been circulated. This meeting was held to discuss the future of the NBCC

lease. The current lease is due to finish in May 2020 and the NBCC had made an approach to the Parish Council with a proposal that the Parish Council take over the lease from that date.

A very lengthy and full discussion followed. It was agreed, having carried out diligent enquiries and a full financial risk assessment the Parish Council, at this point in time, are unable to commit to taking on the lease in May 2020. Clerk to inform PCC as the earliest opportunity.

(5.2) The Chairman reported that further to a walk about with Locality Steward on 3rd December 2018 - the following were highlighted as outstanding issues:

- (a) Signpost towards Bishon Common- this is in hand and will be completed ASAP
- (b) Two blocked culverts Bishon Common – job booked.
- (c) The culvert by the Pumping Station has been cleared.
- (d) Blocked ditch Byford Common, BB to clear - they will install concrete grips for easier cleaning.
- (e) The tree overhanging on footpath BY29 will be removed by BB.
- (f) BY3 fingerpost has been removed. The Locality Steward was reluctant to put in a new post unless it was pointing in direction of current footpath - he will contact PRO office to see if has been rerouted.
- (g) It was agreed that the Parish Council would order some footpath posts and signs with jubilee clips - to include a more discreet half size marker post and finger arrow to be erected at Church Lane Byford at the start of footpath BY31
- (h) Sign and post on Kenchester footpath KT6 next to the walls - the Locality Steward recommends footpath officer or lengthsman remove some holly branches for better access. Cllr Crump offered to arrange to have the offending branches trimmed back.
- (i) Wooden sign at the start of KT1 deemed acceptable but would benefit from a replacement. Clerk to liaise with lengthsman.
- (j) Hurdles on BN7A – these are now clear
- (k) MG3 checked also clear only sheep hurdles which were open.
- (l) Pothole 5inch deep on C1097 between Bishon Lane turn and Jolin plus bad pot holes at the North End of Bishon Lane U90016 – Paul to examine but if not deep enough for Balfour Beatty to repair – ask lengthsman to fill maybe with Viafix. Clerk to liaise.

(m) Gate on junction of KT4 and BN4 – discussed and it was agreed to look into replacing the stile with a with a kissing gate. Clerk to liaise with lengthsman re site suitability; quote for gate and erecting.

(n) The culvert at Ferry Lane Byford needs to be cleared of hedge trimmings otherwise the water very quickly backs up and causes surface flooding. Clerk to liaise with Locality Steward.

(5.3) Bishon Lane/Common Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 –
Map modification order – details had been circulated – no further update.

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

Mr M Farmar attended the meeting to discuss a proposed additional planning application for Greylands, Kenchester. Maps and diagrams were circulated – and it was confirmed that the boundary between Kenchester and Stretton Sugwas runs straight through the middle of the plot. It was acknowledged that further planning applications could be compromised due to the application being subject to two Neighbourhood Development Plans – but, it was also acknowledged that there are plans to move the entire boundary into Stretton Sugwas as soon as March of this year.

Ward Cllr Williams suggested Mr Farmar's best course of action, in the first instance, would be to present an outline planning application to Herefordshire Planning Office. If this was subsequently refused, Mr Farmar could then approach both Ward Councillors – at present Ward Cllr Bob Matthews and himself, who could submit a request for this application to be taken to the Planning Committee due to the extenuating circumstances associated with the boundary anomalies and NDPs.

Mr Farmar thanked the Parish Councillors and Ward Cllr Williams for their help and support with this matter. Mr Farmar left the meeting.

No further items were raised.

Chairman closed the open session.

6. The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 7th November 2018 were unanimously agreed to be a true record. These were duly adopted and signed by the Chairman.

7. Highways report and Environmental Matters

(7.1) Mansell Gamage – parking on the narrow walkway/road. Cllr Draper (supported by an email from Cllr Goldwater) reported that the parking of cars on the road and pavement along the Mansell Gamage village road was giving cause for concern. Whilst it was appreciated there was very little anyone could do to get these cars removed due to the lack of personal off-road parking spaces associated with each

dwelling – it was agreed that emergency vehicular access could be seriously compromised. Ward Cllr Williams offered to initially do a site visit and then to approach the local PCSO and the Fire Officer with regard to highlighting this potential emergency vehicle access hazard.

(7.2) Mansell Gamage – broken culvert causing excess surface water – it was agreed that this is an ongoing problem which had been previously discussed and, as the problem was in a gateway owned by the Estate – the problem had been reported to the Estate Office.

There is a considerable amount of surface water and this could easily freeze and make difficult driving conditions. It was noted that precautionary ‘ice’ road sign had recently been erected.

It was agreed to ask the Locality Steward to revisit the site on the B4230 by Mansell Lodge and to again approach the Estate Office with a view to getting this culvert repaired as a matter of urgency.

(7.3) Lengthsman and P3 worksheet for January/February – items listed as per agenda item (5.1) D C Gardening and the Chairman to liaise.

(7.4) Footpaths – discussion covered under agenda item (5.1)

(7.5) Cllr Goldwater was unable to attend the meeting - apologies received. The Chairman read out a report sent in by Cllr Goldwater which included:

Matters raised between meetings:

Stop the Drop Litter Forum attended 27th November 2018

In light of our efforts to keep our individual parishes free of litter, it was suggested at the forum, that active community groups (like ourselves), businesses and organisations, take up the "Litter Pledge". With our three parish litter picks we will always be doing more than the pledge asks and for our efforts, we have been given is a laminated certificate for Bishopstone Group Parishes to display on a notice board.

Whilst we are still awaiting the roll-out of a formal Local Action Plan on ash dieback from DEFRA, the Tree Council and the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. I thought it would be a useful exercise to actually start mapping the locations of Ash trees growing alongside roads across our 5 parishes.

I only recorded the minor and less busy roads, not the main A438 as it would be unwise and unsafe to drive at 30mph logging waypoints here! The maps are enclosed in the pack of material I left for you.

The purpose of this simple survey, was to start to focus our attentions on where ash trees were likely to present the a risk to road users (if it is assumed that any and every ash tree may

succumb to die-back and create a hazard). I also want to encourage parishioners to look at ash trees in their neighbourhoods, in the summer for some of the tell-tale signs of diseased trees.

I am offering to run a "signs of die-back" training session here, in the summer if this is of interest which will include, using your smart-phone to record and survey trees

I will be organising a summer tree ID session in July on the same lines as the winter tree ID.

Community litter picks like ours can be advertised on the HCC council website at <https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/stopthedrop> also fly tipping etc is to be reported there.

National campaign - The "Great British Spring Clean" will be taking place between 22 March – 23 April 2019 - to collect and safely dispose of single-use plastic from our streets, parks and beaches, recycling as much as possible.

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.
9. Planning matters:
 - (9.1) NDP report to Parish Council Nov 2018 - Cllr Hubbard reported:
The plan is still at the examination stage. We have recently sent site assessments for the examiner as requested but no further update available at present.
 - (9.2) Planning consultation – 184498 – Lower House Byford –
Re replacement of beam - on objection.
 - (9.3) Planning consultation – 184174 – Fishing Hunt, Knapp Farm
After discussion – it was agreed to make a comment on the planning application website.

The Bishopstone Group Parish Council felt that as the size of the fishing hut has apparently doubled since the original planning application – they would like to suggest that Natural England be invited to re visit the site.

Closing date for comments is tomorrow 11th January 2019 – Clerk to register comment.

10. Correspondence: HALC Information Corner circulated together with NALC pay scales from April 2019.
11. Items for discussion at next meeting – Hedge cutting after dark; Litter pick; kissing gate
12. Date of next meeting – Thursday 14th March 2019 at 7.30pm. Meeting closed at 9.20 p.m.

Signed:

Date: