

BISHOPSTONE GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting

held on Wednesday 5th May 2021

This meeting was held via Zoom due to the Covid19 guidelines/restrictions

Web site address: bishopstonegrouppc-hereforshire.co.uk

PRESENT: Cllr. J Macklin, Cllr. S Hubbard; Cllr. R Morgan; Cllr. C Draper;
Cllr. S. Knights; Cllr. L Handscomb; Cllr L Goldwater and Cllr S Keefe.

PRESENT: Mrs Lesley Hay (Parish Clerk);

Chairman welcomed those present to the Annual Parish Meeting.

It was noted that there was no Annual Parish Meeting held in 2020 due to Government lockdown guidelines

Apologies for absence: Ward Cllr. David Hitchiner; Cllr M Holmes and Cllr S Crump.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 9th May 2019 were accepted as a true record and it was proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed they should be adopted and signed by the Chairman.

Chairman's Report 2020-2021

Due to the Covid 19 pandemic we could not legally hold our May 2020 meetings, the advice from government was for the current serving officers to stay in post for another year, unless they wished to step down. I am grateful to all serving officers and councillors for helping to comply with these unusual circumstances we find ourselves in.

Our first Parish Council meeting was held on June 18th 2020 an outdoor meeting in the Community Centre Car Park which followed government guidelines, the other meetings in September, November, January 2021, March and May were all held by using Zoom.

In June the Parish Council applied through our Clerk for additional funding towards rectifying drainage problems throughout the five parishes, called The Lengthsman Funding Grant. We were successful in obtaining the grant of £7,140.00

The lengthsman carried out the work in November, firstly cleaning out the parishes ditches and then hiring a jet washer to clean out the drainage pipes within the parishes, this did identify some major problems with a collapsed pipe under the road in Kenchester and drains in Bishopstone village with outlets blocked causing water to run down the road also the continuing problem with water seeping through the road surface by Byford Church. (when normality returns the Parish council will have to ask Balfour Beatty to help sort out the drainage). The lengthsman has carried out his monthly maintenance work throughout the year on our roads.

On January 17th and again on 30th January. There were two serious Fly tipping incidents on the C 1098 in Bishopstone where old building material had been tipped from a lorry blocking part of the highway. This was reported to Balfour Beatty their response was very quick and positive removing the material within a few days.

Litter picking was undertaken throughout the five parishes in April. Thank you to all the Councillors and parishioners who helped.

In July 2020 a new kissing gate was fitted by the Lengthsman at the start of footpath KT9 in Kenchester after the original one had been stolen.

Footpath BY31 in Byford became blocked by deep water so the Parish Council made the decision to put up a notice showing a diversion.

The main planning applications considered by the Parish Council over the last year, included Pear Bough Barn Mansell Gamage, Land at White Roses Bishopstone with a proposed new dwelling, at the Lord Nelson Inn, a proposed extension and part change of use to dwelling house.

The Community Centre closed on 30th September - the community space of the building was handed back to the Church. The Deed of Covenant (lease) expired on 15th May 2020, due to Covid19, lack of support and the complex problems of two parties occupying the same building it was decided by the Trustees not to proceed with a new 10-year Deed of Covenant.

Byford Common became a focus for the Parish Council this year, including a complaint by a resident about the on-going problem of burning rubbish on the Common After some discussion it was decide to erect Common Rights notices at both ends of the common. Balfour Beatty proposed a scheme comprising an open drainage ditch approximately 200m in length to provide a positive gradient to discharge flood waters from the property "Whitehouse" to the existing drainage

ditch which currently exists to the north west of Yew Tree Cottage. This has not been completed yet. Thank you to the Councillors and particular Councillor Sue Hubbard for help in sorting out these problems on the common.

Making space for Nature in our Parish was a scheme taken up by Councillor Sarah Keefe and Councillor Rosemary Morgan with help from Councillor Muriel Holmes for Byford this includes planting wild flowers throughout the parishes on verges and green spaces, thank you all for your efforts in supporting this very worthwhile scheme.

I was sad to receive the resignation letter from Neil Newton as a Councillor, he has left the area. I would like to thank Neil for the six years he served on the Parish Council for all his help and for his regular litter picking around his parish of Kenchester.

Finally, I would like to record the Parish Councils thanks to our Clerk Lesley Hay for all her advice and help throughout this very difficult year

Chairman closed the meeting at 7.35p.m.

Signed:(Chairman)

Date: