

BISHOPSTONE GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

*Minutes of the Bishopstone Group
Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 7th July 2021 at 7.30pm
in Stretton Sugwas Village Hall.*

PRESENT: Councillor John Macklin (Chairman), Cllr S Hubbard (Vice Chairman); Cllr R Morgan; Cllr M Holmes; Cllr C Draper and Cllr S Keefe.

ALSO PRESENT: Mrs Lesley Hay (Parish Clerk)

The Chairman welcomed those present to the July meeting.

Minutes

1. Apologies for absence were received from Cllr L. Handscomb; Cllr Lewis Goldwater; Cllr S Knights and Ward Cllr David Hitchiner.
2. No declarations of interest or written requests for dispensations were received.
3. The minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 5th May 2021 were accepted to be a true record and it was unanimously agreed they be adopted and signed by the Chairman.

(3.1) The Kenchester Parish Councillor vacancy has now been advertised for the legal amount of time – so the Parish Council are now in a position to co-opt.

4. Chairman's report July 2021

The Queen's Platinum jubilee.

Mr N Mason, the new owner of Bishopstone House, emailed and then telephoned with regard to a report he had heard that traditionally the Parish Council had planted a tree on his ground to celebrate the Queen's Silver and Golden Jubilees. He was concerned it would upset the parishioners if it was expected to take place for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and did not.

I looked back at the P C minutes and also from my own recollection there was no record of any P C involvement in tree planting at Bishopstone House although Bishopstone Parishioners had celebrated these events but at different locations. Mr Mason decided that he would hold his own private planting celebration.

Councillor Rosemary Morgan telephoned to say there is a meeting room on the side of Kenchester Chapel which maybe be suitable for P C meetings? I rang Gareth Evans, Administrator of the Chapel, and arranged to view the room. It is a small room with a single table and 12 chairs, kitchen and toilet. It could be used for further meetings although a bit on the small side - at the same cost as Stretton Sugwas Hall £8 per hour.

After some discussion, it was agreed that the facilities offered at the Stretton Sugwas Village Hall and its location were very acceptable. However, it was acknowledged, that due to other bookings for the hall, it would be necessary to change the Parish Council meeting evening to the second Wednesday every other month. It was agreed that the Chairman should go ahead and book the main hall for the next four meetings – September/ November/January and March 2022.

However, due to holiday commitments - the next meeting will be held a week early on Wednesday 1st September starting at 7.30p.m.

Bishopstone telephone kiosk. I am replacing the light tube, (awaiting part) and given the kiosk a general tidy up, it does need repainting - the paint is flaking off and it is starting to look tatty. I also checked the defibrillator. Is it covered under our insurance if it is stolen?

(a) After discussion – it was agreed that the Chairman would buy paint and Cllr Keefe and Cllr Morgan will rub down and repaint the kiosk.

(b) The Kiosk houses the defibrillator - the Clerk will check with Zurich regarding insurance if defibrillator is stolen or damaged.

Footpath BN4 is now passable at Bunshill after been blocked by flood water for 6 months. The farmer has cleared the ditch and Balfour Beatty jetted the blocked pipe under the road dispersing the flood water. Thanks to both parties for sorting out this problem. I have also been fitting new footpath notices around Bishopstone Parish replacing missing and faded notices.

The NBCC charity held a general meeting on 25th May 2021 when it was decided to wind up the charity and ask Bishopstone Group Parish Council to hold their assets as a separate fund - the final figure of the NBCC account is £4,571.24.

These funds are only to be used for the purposes of charity i.e.

- (1) To maintain and run the community space at St Andrew's church, Bridge Sollars as a community centre for the benefit of the residents of Bishopstone, Bridge Sollars, Byford, Kenchester and Mansell Gamage.

(2) To provide, promote and facilitate educational, training and social activities for the residents of Bishopstone, Bridge Sollars, Byford, Kenchester and Mansell Gamage.

After some discussion, the above proposal was agreed in principal but the Parish Councillors agreed that they will need some expert guidance on how to effectively and legally manage such an account. It was agreed that there needed to be further discussion with the existing Trustees - so the Chairman was asked to extend an invitation to the existing Trustees to attend the next meeting in September. Item to remain on the agenda.

5. Police Report – no representative present. The Clerk asked to complete the recent police questionnaire regarding Local Policing Charter – the two main concerns to be recorded are speeding and general theft.

6. Ward Councillor's report – Leader's Report had been circulated.

7. Finance: Account sheet/schedule of payment sheet circulated.

(7.1) It was unanimously agreed to pay of outstanding invoices.

(7.2) The clerk confirmed that the 2020-21 VAT reimbursement had been received and showed in the current figures circulated.

8. Highways and Environmental Matters:

(8.1) Footpath Officers' Reports – all in good order.

(8.2) Speeding issues A438 – no discussion - to remain on the agenda.

9. Correspondence

(9.1) Further to the Parish Council's letter to Garnons Estate with regard to future siting of fires - a response letter from the Estate had been received and circulated.

(9.2) Prime Foundation Grant – circulated. After discussion, it was agreed not to make an application for a grant.

10.Planning matters:

(10.1) Application No: 211635 Mansel Court South - (details circulated). After discussion – no objections were recorded.

11. Cllr S Keefe gave a brief update on 'Making space for Nature in our Parish' in that everything was growing well and there was nothing significant to report at present.

Clerk asked to contact D C Gardening about mowing the Kenchester triangle.

12. Items for next agenda –

(1) Church Lane. Byford.

In the meantime, the Clerk was asked to make enquiries regarding the road called Church Lane - by Byford Church - to the Green Lane access?

It is thought there is a natural spring and the water is running under the wall and down the road - causing flooding; damage to the road surface and in particular softening the road verges. The Clerk also to enquire if the Parish Council would be allowed to erect signs saying – ‘Do Not Park - Soft Verges’- to try and preserve the verges and to prevent folk for ending up in the ditch. This road is used by very large lorries on a regular basis - so they are not helping the situation/state of the road driving through a continual flow of water.

(2) Work on Byford Common has been delayed due to some hedging having to be removed – but, hopefully once the restrictions are lifted, work will commence.

Date of next meeting will be Wednesday 1st September 2021 starting at 7.30p.m.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.30 p.m.

Signed:

Date: