

## BISHOPSTONE GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

*Minutes of the Bishopstone Group  
Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2022 at 7.30pm  
in Stretton Sugwas Village Hall.*

**PRESENT:** Councillor John Macklin (Chairman), Cllr R Morgan; Cllr M Holmes; Cllr L Goldwater; Cllr S Knights; Cllr S. Crump; Cllr K Smith and Cllr S Keefe.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Mrs Lesley Hay (Parish Clerk) Ward Cllr David Hitchiner.  
1 member of the public present

The meeting was held observing the current Government Covid restrictions.

The Chairman welcomed those present to the January meeting.

### MINUTES

1. **To receive apologies for absence** – Cllr C Draper and Cllr L Handscombe.
2. **To receive declarations of interest** or written requests for dispensations – none received.
3. **The minutes** of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2021 - it was unanimously agreed that these minutes should be adopted as a true record.

**4. Chairman's Report: January 2022**

On 13<sup>th</sup> November I reported the fly tipping in the lay by on the C1099 at the junction with footpath KT9 to the locality Stewart, he issued a job number and it was removed within a fortnight.

Again, on 26<sup>th</sup> November I contacted the Locality Steward to see if he could help remove an abandoned van left in a passing place on the C1098 it had been there for several months and the Police said they could not help as it had not been reported stolen or missing. The locality Stewart contacted the police and it was removed.

Dave Campbell, the lengthsman, reported that following his November visit to the parishes, extra work would be needed to clear ditches in Byford and in Mansell Gamage on the lane to Shetton. This would require two days' work at a cost of £450 plus VAT a day.

The Parish Council does have some money left in the lengthsman budget but not enough to cover two days. However, since this report we have been informed that there could be again this year potential funding for drainage projects, if this is the case, we can include this work within this grant.

Over the last 2 months I have had a lot of correspondence with the bank over the new account we applied for last September, I can now report that we have successfully added Councillor Muriel Holmes as a signatory and also received a letter from the bank to say we have opened a new account but we are still waiting for further details.

**4.1 Venue; date and times of futures meetings** – it was unanimously agreed to continue to use Stetton Sugwas Village Hall for future meetings and the Chairman will book for the next 12 months. After discussion, it was agreed to change the start time of meetings from 7.30p.m. to 7.00 p.m. – Chairman to confirm this is convenient with the Village Hall booking clerk.

Dates of future meetings confirmed as:

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2022 – Presentation by Sarah King - Herefordshire Wildlife Trust.

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2022 – Annual Parish meeting and  
Annual Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2022

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2022

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2022

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2023

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2023

#### **4.2 Byford Parish Councillor vacancy.**

Mr Mark Geary was present at the meeting. Mr Geary continues to show interest in becoming a Parish Councillor representing Byford. Unfortunately, Mr Geary has not lived in the village for the required 12 months – but he was again welcomed to the meeting and invited to attend future meetings until May when he would have fulfilled the required criteria to become a Parish Councillor.

**5. Ward Councillor's report** – will be circulated as Leader's Newsletter.

Ward Cllr Hitchiner reported that there is a significant backlog of planning applications in the council's systems due to a number of factors including a shortage of specialist advisors (which is a national issue), officer vacancies (which are being filled) and the dreaded Covid. Additional support has now been secured specifically to address the case backlog and he is advised that officers anticipate the backlog being cleared by the end of the financial year (end of March).

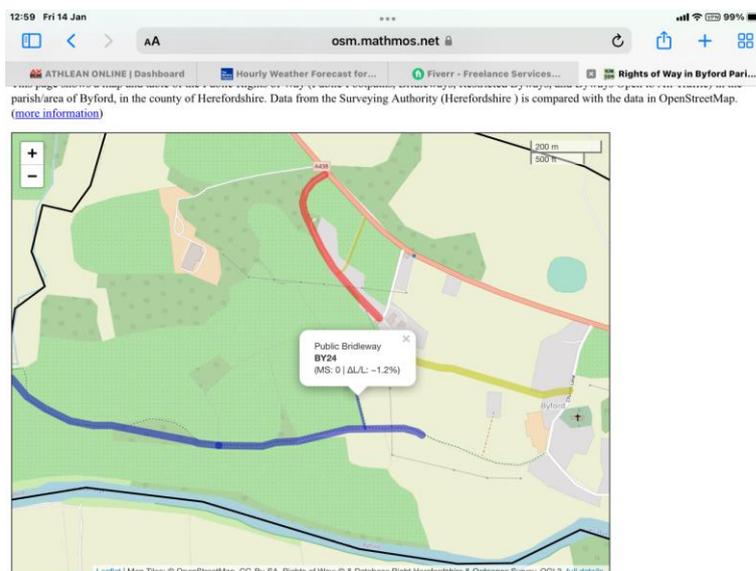
Ward Cllr Hitchiner confirmed that the current Monitoring Officer has given three months' notice and the vacant post will be advertised.

## 6. Finance: Account's sheet/schedule of payment sheet circulated.

(6.1) A schedule of payments sheet had been circulated and it was unanimously agreed to pay all outstanding invoices.

## 7. Highways and Environmental Matters:

7.1. The Parish Council are pleased that the BY31 remains closed. However, there were some concerns raised in that the Notice says the footpath is closed with no alternative - any users are having to turn back. The Wye Valley Walk is just yards away and accessible via the BY24; therefore, users could be directed via this route which would eventually return them to the BY31. Would it be possible to change the wording on the Notice indicating there is an alternative routine and perhaps attach a map indicating this alternative. Clerk to contact the Locality Steward.



For info, the yellow line is the closed BY31, the thin blue is the alternative BY24 and the thick blue the Wye Valley Walk.

7.2 Speeding issues A438 - no up to date information. Ward Cllr Hitchiner will follow up.

7.3 Fly tipping Byford. Cllr Draper reported fly tipping at Byford. Locality Steward has visited and recorded it. There is not a great amount but there are concerns that the amount could increase if not removed – situation to be monitored.

The Locality Steward was also has asked by a local resident to check the local culverts – he has report that these are both running; in order and no signs as feared of collapse.

The Locality Steward reported noticing along this section - which is a Byway not a road - that the ditches (riparian) are in need of clearing in places.

One land owner is Garnons and the remainder seem to be householders.

This was discussed and it was agreed to wait until the 'drainage walk about' with the lengthsman to consider if these issues could be included in any future drainage grant funding.

**8. Recent Correspondence:** nothing to report.

**9. Planning applications:**

9.1 Planning applications: No: 214412 Cherry trees Bishon Lane Replacement dwelling. After discussion – it was unanimously agreed to support this application.

**10. Brief update on 'Making space for Nature in our parish'.**

Following an email from Sarah King who has recently joined Herefordshire Wildlife Trust as the Team Wilder Community Engagement Officer. The Clerk was asked to extend an invitation to Sarah King to give a short presentation at the meeting in January – however, due to current Covid restrictions – this presentation has been postponed until March.

An article written by Mervyn Davies of Bishopstone on birds seen on the Bishon Common SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest) to be published soon on the parish website.

**Date of next meeting** will be Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2022 - earlier start of 7.00p.m.

Chairman closed the meeting at 8.15 p.m.

Signed:

Date: