

BISHOPSTONE GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

*Minutes of the Bishopstone Group
Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 9th March 2022 at 7.00pm
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; Cllr L Handscombe and Cllr S Keefe.

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

The Chairman welcomed those present to the March meeting.

MINUTES

1. **To receive apologies for absence** – Cllr C Draper and Ward Cllr David Hitchiner.
2. **To receive declarations of interest** or written requests for dispensations – none received.
3. **The minutes** of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 12th January 2022 - it was unanimously agreed that these minutes should be adopted and signed by the Chairman as a true record.
4. **Chairman's Report: March 2022**

On January 21st I met with the lengthsman to carried out a survey of all the parish roads in regard to drainage, cleaning out all the network of ditches and pipes. From this the lengthsman has given a quote of £12,062.00 to carry out the work. This figure has now been used to fill in the Parish Council's application form to apply for a drainage grant from Balfour Beatty.

This grant will not cover the repairs in three areas of the parishes identified previously, the water on the road west end of Bishopstone village, or the collapsed pipe under the road at Kenchester Rectory and the water running on the road at Byford Church. These major repairs can only be carried out by Balfour Beatty. On January 22nd I met with the Ward Councillor to inspect the water problem at the west end of Bishopstone after he received a letter of concern from a resident.

I would like to formally ask to meet with the locality Stewart so these repairs can be discussed, recorded and listed for repairs.

When carrying out the Parish survey a parishioner pointed out that the closure sign on the East end of footpath BY31 was confusing because BY21 started from the same point, it was agreed to move the sign to the next kissing gate, I contacted the Locality Stewart to let him know this had been carried out.

The new bank account to hold the NBCC funds opened in January, on 17th January £4571.24 was transferred into this account, the NBCC has now closed their bank accounts.

On 28th March 2022 the Parish Council's defibrillator's pads and batteries will run out of date, they are 5 years old. These will need replacing or the defibrillator will be taken off "The Circuit". The pads will cost £123.95 to replace and the batteries £53.69 both prices inclusive of VAT which we can reclaim. It is very important they are replaced.

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 and should be eligible for co-option at the May meeting.

Open Session

Cllr Holmes asked if a speaker could be invited to come to the May meeting to give information on the regulations surrounding the new 'recycling' initiative due to come into force later this year.

The Chairman closed the open session

5. Ward Councillor's report – apologies sent.

For local information:

- I attended the Boundary Commission "inquiry" in Worcester yesterday to make representations. I was the only person attending during the session for which I registered. There had been two cancellations by other attendees. The parishes of Clehonger, Eaton Bishop and Madley, being South of the River, do not agree with the proposed boundary changes which would put those places in North Herefordshire. I'm not sure of Bishopstone's views but I suspect you don't feel too strongly either

way. I believe you were in North Herefordshire constituency before the last reorganisation. Perhaps you could let me know.

- I also attended the BBLP zoom session entitled “Golden Valley Bi-Monthly Locality Briefing” yesterday. It was attended by several from BBLP including the Locality Steward. Also, by some Parish Clerks and Parish Councillors who had specific issues to raise. It is probably only worth attending if parishes have particular issues to raise. But a worthwhile effort by BBLP to improve communication. I mentioned the flooding on the street that runs through Bishopstone. Paul Norris has this on his radar.

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.

(6.2) The Clerk confirmed that the annual pay increase for 2021-2022 had been agreed at 1.75% - this is backdated to 1st April 2021. This will be taken into account in the March salary.

7. Highways and Environmental Matters:

7.1. Footpath Officers’ Reports – all footpaths good for the time of year.

7.2 Drainage Grant application – has been submitted and receipt acknowledged.

7.3 Lengthsman -Expression of Interest/ Annual Maintenance Plan 22/23 – both have been submitted and receipt acknowledged.

7.4 Rights of Way will go back ‘in house’ from 1st April 2022

7.5 Locality Steward – questionnaire – Clerk will complete.

8. Visit by Sarah King - It was agreed to invite Sarah King to the July meeting.

Cllr Lewis Goldwater joined the meeting.

9. Planning applications: 220546 – Reserved matters following outline approval ref 204024/) for three dwellings- after discussion – no objection.

10. Jubilee celebrations – parishes are organising their own individual local events.

Date of next meeting:

Date of next meeting will be Wednesday 11th May 2022
Annual Parish Meeting – starting at 7.00p.m.
followed at 7.30p.m. by the Annual Parish Council Meeting

Following Cllr Holmes request for a speaker on recycling in Open Session – the clerk will liaise with a colleague from Monkland who recently did an article for the Monkland Newsletter on recycling.

Clerk to make enquiries about hiring the large hall as this is the Annual Parish Meeting to which members of the public are invited by the Chairman. It was agreed the PC would provide tea and coffee - again the clerk to liaise with the Village Hall Booking Clerk.

Chairman closed the meeting at 7.40 p.m.

Signed:

Date: