

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Bishopstoke Parish Council  
held at Bishopstoke Methodist Church  
commencing at 7.30pm on 12 September 2023**

**Present:** Councillor Louise Hillier-Wheal (Chair)  
Councillor Geoff Harris (Vice Chair)  
Councillor Ralph Candy  
Councillor Andrew Daly  
Councillor Anne Dean  
Councillor Ray Dean  
Councillor Dave Francis  
Councillor Mark Kirby  
Councillor Chris McKeone  
Councillor Dermot McKeone  
Councillor Gin Tidridge  
Councillor Anne Winstanley

**In Attendance:** Mr David Wheal (Clerk to Bishopstoke Parish Council)

**Public Session** 0 members of the public were present.

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

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**32 Apologies for Absence**

32.1 Apologies were noted from Cllrs Lyon, Moore and Thornton

**33 To adopt and sign Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 11 July 2023**

33.1 The minutes of the above meeting had been included in the document pack for this meeting.

33.2 Proposed Cllr Daly, Seconded Cllr Winstanley, **RESOLVED** with one abstention that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 11 July 2023 be adopted as a true record.

**Action: Clerk & Chair – to sign and publish the minutes and document pack**

33.3 Cllr Daly voiced his concern over the bus shelter in Spring Lane. The Clerk noted that it has recently been cleaned but had almost immediately been vandalised again. Cllr Daly also asked whether the streets and gutters could be swept before Carnival. Cllr Tidridge offered to ask the Borough Council whether this could be done.

**Action: Cllr Tidridge – to contact the relevant department at the Borough Council to see whether a pre-Carnival street sweep could be completed,**

**34 Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensations**

34.1 There were no such declarations or requests.

## **35 Reports from Committees, Working Groups, Officers and Councillors**

35.1 The resolutions from Council Committees were noted. There were no recommendations to vote upon.

35.2 Cllr Tidridge asked for an update on the basket swing at Blackberry Drive. The Clerk informed the Council that he had contacted a play area company and been told that basket swings with ropes, like the one in Blackberry Drive, are taut when first supplied but can stretch over time. Other forms of swing are available with chain, or plastic, that already have the “dip” that people can sit in. The Clerk also noted that if the Council do decide to purchase a new swing for Blackberry Drive, then the existing one could be installed at Otter Close. Cllr Tidridge asked the Clerk to provide this information to the resident who has posed the initial question.

**Action: Clerk – to email the resident with an update on the basket swing at Blackberry Drive**

35.3 Cllrs also noted that the hedge planted at Stoke Common / Church Road play area is mostly dead, that the bin in the car park at Blackberry Drive is broken and that dogs are regularly let off the leash in the Cemetery. The Clerk will follow up on the hedge with Green Smile, add the bin to the replacement list and arrange a sign for the Cemetery

**Action: Clerk – arrange for replanting of hedge at Church Road play area, the replacement of the bin at Blackberry Drive car park and a new dog sign for the Cemetery.**

35.4 Cllrs Winstanley and Tidridge had submitted written reports which are attached to these minutes. Cllr Daly was seeking help for a disabled resident with their housing needs. Cllr Winstanley advised that the resident needed to be assessed as to their needs first, and then help – including grants for home alterations – could be provided by the Borough Council. Cllr Tidridge also noted that the Bishopstoke Neighbourhood Plan includes the need for more inclusive housing. Cllr Francis noted the recent meeting between Parish and Local Area officers and asked whether these could be held regularly with updates being provided to the Council. The Clerk noted that this was the plan.

## **36 To invite ideas for projects to add to the Community Investment Programme list**

36.1 The supporting papers had included the most recent copy available of the Community Investment Programme list. The Clerk noted that the Finance Committee had recently discussed providing Community Planters and Book Swap locations. It was also thought that the paths across and around Glebe Meadow could be added to the list. The Clerk requested Cllrs think about what they might like to add to or remove from the list and to provide any suggestions by Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October in order that they can be discussed at the October Finance Committee meeting. Cllr Ray Dean advised that smaller items are more likely to be achievable than large projects, due to the nature of the funding being requested. Cllr Kirby suggested low tech ideas rather than high tech.

**Action: Councillors – to consider ideas for projects to receive developer funding and submit them by Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October**

## **37 To discuss, amend and adopt the Policy on Ethics and Ethical Procurement**

37.1 The draft policy had been included with the supporting papers for this meeting.

37.2 Cllrs agreed the policy was an excellent start but wished to see additional clauses covering such things as applying minimum wage requirements for anything ordered from overseas, international trade difficulties, bonded labour and paper sourcing. It was also suggested that clause 1.5 have the following added at the end: “In addition, all other procedures contained within the Financial Regulations will be followed.”. Cllrs felt able to adopt the policy but requested an early review date for additions.

Initial: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

37.3 Proposed Cllr R Dean, Seconded Cllr Tidridge, **RESOLVED** with two abstentions to adopt the policy, amended to include Financial Regulations and to review the policy in 6 months.

**Action: Clerk – to update and publish the Policy on Ethics and Ethical Procurement, to add a review of the Policy to the March Council meeting and to remind Cllrs in advance of that meeting to suggest any amendments they might wish.**

**38 To decide whether to request a .gov domain name for the Council website**

38.1 The Clerk noted that this item had been included on the item following a push by government persuade more Councils to adopt the .gov.uk domain, and previous Cllr interest in the subject. Additionally the Clerk noted that this decision would be likely to leave the Council needing to redesign the website, and with far less flexibility to do so. It would also likely lead to increased costs.

38.2 No Cllr wished to proposed requesting a .gov domain name and so the Council's online presence will remain at bishopstokepc.org.

**39 To consider the Council's involvement in D-Day 80**

39.1 Cllrs generally supported the Council's involvement in D-Day 80 but had concerns over the use of bonfires.

39.2 Proposed Cllr Kirby, Seconded Cllr Harris, **RESOLVED** unanimously that the Clerk obtain more information prior to the Council making a decision.

**Action: Clerk – to obtain more information about D-Day 80 and bring it forward for discussion at a future meeting.**

**40 To consider content for the next press release**

40.1 The Council agreed that the next press release would include Carnival, nominations for Bishopstoke Champion 2024 being open, the availability of litter picking equipment, the grant provided to ARK, and an update on the Cemetery gates and the relocation of the War Memorial.

**Action: Clerk – to draft the press release and circulate it to the Communications Group for approval**

**41 To agree the date, time and place for the next meetings**

41.1 The next meeting will take place on Tuesday November 14<sup>th</sup> 2023. It will take place at 7:30pm at the Bishopstoke Methodist Church, following the Parish Assembly. The Clerk requested any agenda items and supporting papers be with him by November 7<sup>th</sup>.

*There being no further business, the Chair closed the meeting at 8:29pm.*

Chair's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Clerk's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_