

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Bishopstoke Parish Council
held at Bishopstoke Methodist Church
commencing at 7.30pm on 8 November 2022**

Present: Councillor Andrew Daly
Councillor Ralph Candy
Councillor Dave Francis
Councillor Geoff Harris
Councillor Louise Hillier-Wheal (Vice Chair) (from para 48)
Councillor Martin Lyon
Councillor Chris McKeone
Councillor Dermot McKeone
Councillor Gin Tidridge
Councillor Anne Winstanley

In Attendance: Mr David Wheal (Clerk to Bishopstoke Parish Council)
Mr Mike Gilham (Community Development Officer to Fair Oak & Horton Heath Parish Council)

Public Session 0 members of the public were present.

Mike Gilham gave a presentation to the Council on the work he is doing with Bishopstoke's Borough Councillors within Bishopstoke. The Planney has been successfully cleared and tidied, and the new benches and artwork, designed by artist Andy Frost following workshops with Stoke Park Junior School, are now in place. The current project is Bee and Tree corridors and there are areas within Bishopstoke which have been earmarked for this project. Mike then touched briefly on his work with the Greening Campaign, the As One project and the Y-Zone.

Mike extended an offer to all Councillors to contact him should they have any questions or wish to get involved with any of the projects.

Councillors welcomed the work being done by Mike, especially the involvement of the schools in local projects. However, concerns were raised about the portrayal of the work taking place with Bishopstoke Parish Council as, although the Council had been updated on the progress of the work at the Planney by Borough Councillors there had not been any involvement of the Parish Council in any of the decisions.

The Council also had concerns about whether Bishopstoke would be expected to fund the maintenance of the Planney. Mike assured the Councillors that it is intended to be the responsibility of the Borough Council to maintain. Finally, some questions were raised about decisions being taken about Bishopstoke at the Borough Council Local Area Committee which perhaps Parish Councillors might like to be involved in. Cllr Tidridge offered to ask the Local Area Manager to extend the invitation to attend LAC team meetings to all Parish Councillors rather than the current Chair, Vice Chair and Clerk of the Parish Council.

Action: Cllr Tidridge

The Clerk was asked to pass Mike's email address to all Parish Councillors

Action: Clerk

Cllr Hillier-Wheal arrived at this point.

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48 Apologies for Absence

48.1 Apologies had been received from Cllrs Anne Dean, Ray Dean, Andy Moore and Mike Thornton. The apologies were noted.

49 To adopt and sign Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 27 September 2022

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

49.2 Proposed Cllr Tidridge, Seconded Cllr Hillier-Wheal, **RESOLVED** with 4 in favour and 5 abstaining due to absence that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 27 September 2022 be adopted as a true record.

50 Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensations

50.1 Cllr Tidridge declared an interest in item 8 on the agenda, the discussion of the Greening campaign.

51 Reports from Committees, Working Groups, Officers and Councillors

51.1 The resolutions from Council Committees were noted.

51.2 Proposed Cllr Winstanley, Seconded Cllr C McKeone, **RESOLVED** with 9 in favour and 1 abstaining that the Council approve the Burial Board fees for the year 2023/24.

51.3 Proposed Cllr Winstanley, Seconded Cllr C McKeone, **RESOLVED** with 9 in favour and 1 abstaining that the Council enter a three year insurance deal with BHIB.

51.4 Proposed Cllr Winstanley, Seconded Cllr C McKeone, **RESOLVED** with 9 in favour and 1 abstaining that the Council maintain travel token funding of £4,000 for the year 2023/24 and keep the base level of tokens at 120.

51.5 Proposed Cllr Winstanley, Seconded Cllr C McKeone, **RESOLVED** with 9 in favour and 1 abstaining that the Council vire £1,500 from reserves for staff training purposes.

51.6 The Clerk's report was noted. The Clerk gave a verbal update welcoming Cllr Geoff Harris – newly elected Parish Councillor for the Whalesmead Ward. The Clerk also gave a plea for more Councillors to volunteer to join Committees as the Planning meeting set for earlier in the evening had been cancelled as it would not have been quorate. This is the third time this year that a meeting has been cancelled this way.

The Clerk noted plans for Carnival 2023 with the main Fete on Sunday 17th September on Glebe Meadow as usual, and the first Bishopstoke Sports Day to be held on Saturday June 3rd on the open space by Blackberry Drive. Cllrs were informed that it is hoped both the current Mayor, and the next Mayor, will be forming tug-of-war teams and were invited to consider a Bishopstoke Parish Council vs Fair Oak & Horton Heath Parish Council tug-of-war match.

The Clerk noted the concerns regarding the Parish Council not being involved with the work being done by Mike Gilham within Bishopstoke. It may be the case that all land being considered is owned by the Borough rather than the Parish but certainly there could have been better communication and more involvement of Parish Councillors. The Clerk indicated his concerns that with the change in team running the Y-Zone, Bishopstoke Parish Council has gone from the Clerk and Chair attending a

quarterly meeting of the Y-Zone Management Committee alongside Fair Oak's Clerk and Chair to having no representation at all in the current meetings, which take place every two weeks. Cllr Tidridge agreed with these concerns and suggested the Clerk contact the Local Area Manager to ask that Bishopstoke be included. Cllr Tidridge indicated she would support that proposition.

The Clerk also mentioned that although Bishopstoke Parish Council has no buildings in which it can host a "Warm Space" he is aware that the Bishopstoke Methodist Church is considering whether they can provide something and he had reached out to suggest that if they go ahead they could consider applying for a grant from the Parish Council,

Cllr Winstanley noted that the Bishopstoke Community Association has still not heard back regarding the defibrillator and that she was pleased to see the Civility and Respect Project being discussed. The Clerk indicated he would contact the Bishopstoke Community Fund to determine what the delay was.

Action: Clerk

Cllr Francis asked for the letter regarding Bow Lake Gardens to be forwarded to all Cllrs.

Action: Clerk

Cllr Candy volunteered to join the Planning Committee. Proposed Cllr Hillier-Wheal, Seconded Cllr Harris, **RESOLVED** unanimously that Cllr Candy be appointed to the Planning Committee.

Action: Clerk

51.7 Cllr Winstanley informed the Council that in addition to having properties available for those in need to rent, Twynam's had returned to another part of its original charter and was now providing grants to organisations supporting those in need. These grants are all taken any surplus the charity has and are being given to organisations such as ARK, the MHA and also directly to schools to support families on low means so that their children can take part in school trips, or have new uniform when it is needed.

51.8 Cllr Tidridge reported that, as an Eastleigh Borough Councillor for Bishopstoke, she had attended an Eastleigh Borough Council cabinet meeting at which a consultation regarding the recently purchased land at Stoke Park Farm was agreed. The consultation will begin on 1st December and the Clerk was asked to publicise the link when it does. Cllr Tidridge also noted the Remembrance Sunday service being held at the bandstand in Eastleigh at 10am on Sunday 13th November and mentioned that EBC have a webpage containing information about all road closures on that day which residents may find useful. Again, the Clerk was asked to publicise this page.

Action: Clerk

51.9 Cllr Lyon noted that he and Cllr Winstanley had attended a recent Airport Consultative Committee meeting and had sent comments on that meeting to the Clerk. Cllr Lyon asked the Clerk to circulate those comments amongst Cllrs.

Action: Clerk

52 To consider the Council's position regarding the transfer of the Strawberry Mead open space

52.1 A summary of the history regarding the transfer had been including with the document pack.

52.2 During the debate, Cllr Francis asked the Clerk to put together a report detailing exactly the land that is proposed for transfer, the pros and cons of the transfer, and the financial cost to the Parish of maintaining the land. Cllr Lyon reported that the cut through from Blackberry Drive to Elderberry Close was in need of maintenance and asked the Clerk to determine who was responsible for it. Cllr Lyon also asked what would happen to the Y-Zone building. The Clerk replied that the Y-Zone, and the land between the Y-Zone and Stokewood Surgery, would remain with the Borough Council. Cllr

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Harris asked the Clerk to check that the Eastleigh Borough Council insurance policy covers the Parish activities sufficiently.

Action: Clerk

52.3 Proposed Cllr Lyon, Seconded Cllr Harris, **RESOLVED** unanimously that the Parish Council write to the Borough Council asking why the transfer cannot go ahead currently.

Action: Clerk

53 To agree how the Council wishes to deal with apologies

53.1 Papers outlining the current method of accepting apologies had been included with the document pack.

53.2 During debate Cllrs asked if the Clerk would be able to monitor attendance and notify Cllrs once they reach five months without attending meetings. The Clerk indicated this would best be covered in Standing Orders. Cllr Harris asked whether it is permissible to give apologies on behalf of someone else and the Clerk confirmed it is. Cllr Hillier-Wheal asked whether, in the event that a Councillor knows ahead of time that they will be away for a long period that can request early dispensation from the Council and the Clerk confirmed this is allowed.

53.3 The Clerk was asked to bring forward amendments to standing orders setting out that Cllrs will be contacted by the Clerk if they have not attended for five months, and also that Cllrs can request early dispensations if needed. The Clerk was also requested to add to a future agenda a discussion about whether all Council activities, including working groups and representing the Council to other bodies, should be reported on the website. Finally, the Clerk was asked to confirm when the request for apologies to be accepted has to be voted on before the end of the 6 month period, or merely requested.

Action: Clerk

54 To approve the continued membership of and contributions to external bodies

54.1 The list of external bodies was included with the document pack.

54.2 Cllr Tidridge asked for the Council to consider joining the Association of Natural Burials. The Clerk offered to add this to the next Assets Committee agenda. Cllr Tidridge offered to forward the relevant information to the Clerk.

54.3 Proposed Cllr Candy, Seconded Cllr D McKeone, **RESOLVED** unanimously that the membership of and contributions to the listed external bodies continues.

Cllr Tidridge left the meeting at this point.

55 To consider signing up for the Greening Campaign

55.1 The presentation on the Greening Campaign had not arrived in time for the meeting and so Cllrs felt unable to make an informed decision. They noted that the deadline for applications for grants from the Borough Council was the 16th November.

55.2 During debate the Greening Campaign was acknowledged as playing a valuable role in providing communities with a focus on and momentum towards making small changes that will add up to a big difference to their impact on climate change and the environment. However, it was thought by some Cllrs that perhaps this would better be done by the Borough Council or County Council. It was suggested that the Council apply for the grant but defer any decision on how it be used until after

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the presentation has been seen at which point if the Council decides not to go ahead with the Campaign it will return the funding to the Borough Council.

55.2 Proposed Cllr Harris, Seconded Cllr Winstanley, **RESOLVED** with 8 in favour and 1 abstaining that the Council apply for the Borough grant but defer a decision on joining the Campaign until after the presentation has been seen.

56 To consider content for the next press release

56.1 The Council agreed that the next press release would include the grant to the Highbridge Conservation Group; dates for Carnival events in 2023; the Bishopstoke Champion award; the proposed nature reserve; welcoming Cllr Harris and wishing all residents a Merry Christmas.

57 To agree the date, time and place for the next meetings

57.1 The next meeting will take place on Tuesday January 10th 2023. It will take place at 7:30pm at the Bishopstoke Methodist Church. The Clerk requested any agenda items and supporting papers be with him by January 3rd.

57.2 The Clerk noted that budget discussions in 2022 had been helped by having a virtual information meeting at which Cllrs could go through the proposed budget and ask any questions they have. It was proposed that a similar meeting happen again this year and the Clerk informed Cllrs there would be an invitation to such a meeting for the week beginning 2nd January 2023.

There being no further business, the Chair closed the meeting at 9:25pm

Chair's Signature: _____ Date: _____

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