

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

Present: Councillor Gin Tidridge (Elected Chair for this meeting)
Councillor Ralph Candy
Councillor Andrew Daly
Councillor Anne Dean
Councillor Louise Hillier-Wheal
Councillor Sue Lynch
Councillor Martin Lyon
Councillor Chris McKeone
Councillor Dermot McKeone
Councillor Lou Parker-Jones
Councillor Anne Winstanley

In Attendance: Mr David Wheal (Clerk to Bishopstoke Parish Council)
Mike Gilham (Community Development Officer for Fair Oak & Horton Heath Parish Council – giving a presentation on his role)
Tom Postle (Green Smile – giving an introduction to the company and its work)

Public Session 7 members of the public were present.

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The Clerk informed the Councillors that both the Chair and Vice Chair had given their apologies and so a Councillor would need to be elected to be chair for the meeting.

104 Election of Chair

104.1 Councillor Tidridge offered to stand as Chair for the meeting.

104.2 Proposed Cllr Tidridge, Seconded Cllr Parker-Jones, **RESOLVED** unanimously that Cllr Tidridge be elected Chair for the meeting.

Cllr Tidridge came forward to Chair the meeting.

Public Session

Mike Gilham – Community Development Officer

Mike gave the Councillors information about the work he is currently doing with Fair Oak and Horton Heath Parish Council and the local community there. Work on bee and tree corridors could easily be extended to Bishopstoke as could wildflower planting in various areas of the parish. Mike is particularly interested in partnership working. Currently he is organising work at the Planney. The Community Payback team are working on the site and Eastleigh Borough Council's Direct Services will be clearing up the fly-tipping. Mike emphasised that he is available to advise and help with work across the local area and that if anyone has any thoughts or ideas they should contact him to discuss them.

Initial: _____ Date: _____

Tom Postle – Green Smile Ltd

Green Smile have recently been awarded the next three year contract for maintaining the open spaces around the parish, continuing their long relationship with the Parish Council. Tom introduced himself and briefly described the work that Green Smile does for the Council. Tom also announced that he would be attending the Assets Committee meetings to provide updates on the work being done and answer any questions the Councillors have. Tom then signed the new maintenance contract on behalf of Green Smile

Mike Gilham and Tom Postle left at this point

105 Apologies for Absence

105.1 Apologies had been received and were accepted from Cllrs R Dean, Francis, Moore and Thornton.

106 Motion for confidential business

106.1 Proposed Cllr Tidridge, Seconded Cllr Parker-Jones, **RESOLVED** that in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be discussed, it is advisable in the public interest that the public be excluded and for the record the business be regarded as confidential.

All members of the public present were attending with regard to the complaint and so were given dispensation to stay.

107 To consider a complaint against the Parish Council

107.1 All documents relating to the complaint had been provided in accordance with the Council's Complaints Procedure. The Council heard the complaint against the Council from a resident regarding the termination of an allotment tenancy. There had been a complaint made by one allotment tenant against another which was investigated and found to be justified. As a result, the second tenant had their tenancy ended. The complaint before the Council was regarding the decision itself and how the decision had been handled by the Officers.

107.2 The complainant and the Clerk each made statements and took questions from Councillors. Then all non-Councillors were asked to leave the room to enable the Councillors to debate.

The Clerk and the members of the public left at this point.

107.2 Councillors asked for a recorded vote.

107.3 Proposed Cllr Winstanley, Seconded Cllr C McKeone, **RESOLVED** with Cllrs Candy, A Dean, C McKeone, D McKeone and Winstanley in favour, Cllrs Daly, Lynch, Lyon and Parker-Jones against, and Cllrs Hillier-Wheal and Tidridge abstaining that "There is a difference of opinion between two allotment tenants. A complaint was made by one against the other which this Council upholds. This Council is right to terminate the tenancy of the second tenant on the grounds of annoyance caused to the first. However, it is unfortunate that mediation did not take place. Lessons do need to be learned from this incident. If the second tenant would like to apply for a plot on an alternative Bishopstoke Parish Council site in the future, that would be acceptable to members. Clearer allotment rules should be made widely available including reporting of disease, advice on how to approach problems arising from ill health and on assisting other plot holders. It is also unfortunate that complaints against parish councils are only dealt with by the relevant parish council. There is no ombudsman for parish council issues. Our allotments policy and complaints procedure need review in order to be fair to allotment holders, residents and officers."

107.4 Accordingly the complaint is rejected and the original allotment tenancy termination upheld.

Initial: _____ Date: _____

The Clerk and members of the public returned at this point.

107.5 Cllr Tidridge informed the residents that the decision of the Council would not be announced at that point as it was deemed unfair to the complainant that others hear the result before him. The complainant had requested to be informed of the decision by email, and that would be done before anyone else would be informed of the decision.

The members of the public left at this point.

108 Abridgement of agenda

108.1 Councillor Tidridge asked the Clerk if it would be possible to shorten the meeting as Councillors had spent a considerable amount of time on the complaint. The Clerk indicated that the items on grants, the fixed asset register and staff salaries needed resolving but that the others could be deferred. Cllr Parker-Jones requested that the “20’s plenty” motion also be discussed.

108.2 Proposed Cllr Lyon, Seconded Cllr Parker-Jones, **RESOLVED** unanimously all agenda items except grants, fixed asset register, 20’s plenty and staff salary be deferred to a future meeting.

108.3 The Clerk advised moving the discussion on staff salary up as the Council was still in confidential session and this was agreed.

The Clerk left the room at this point

109 Staff appraisal and salary

109.1 Proposed Cllr Winstanley, Seconded Cllr A Dean **RESOLVED** that the Clerk’s annual scale point increment be approved.

110 To amend the Grant Awarding Policy and subsequently decide on the grant request from Precious Steps Preschool

110.1 A memo detailing the various types of limited company and their appropriateness as recipients of Council grants had been included with the supporting papers for the meeting.

110.2 Proposed Cllr Parker-Jones, Seconded Cllr A Dean, **RESOLVED** unanimously the following:

That the grant policy section on Power of General Competence be amended to allow CIC companies to receive grants.

That the grant policy section on Power of General Competence be amended to allow companies limited by guarantee to receive grants, provided that the Finance Committee / Council is satisfied that the company in question is non-profit and is either charitable or of benefit to the community.

That the grant policy section on Power of General Competence be amended to confirm that companies limited by shares remained excluded from the grants policy.

That clause 2.1 of the grant policy be amended from “of benefit to Bishopstoke residents” to “of benefit to the area or residents of Bishopstoke”.

That the grant request from Precious Steps Pre-School be rejected on the grounds that it falls outside the scope of the Council’s grants policy.

Initial: _____ Date: _____

111 To approve the fixed asset register

111.1 The Fixed Asset Register has been included with the supporting papers for the meeting.

111.2 Proposed Cllr Winstanley, Seconded Cllr A Dean, **RESOLVED** unanimously that the fixed asset register be approved.

112 To support the “20’s plenty for Hampshire” campaign

112.1 A report explaining the 20’s plenty scheme and the impact it would have on the roads around Bishopstoke had been included with the supporting papers for the meeting. Cllr Parker-Jones had brought the motion and gave a brief explanation of the scheme to the Councillors.

112.2 Proposed Cllr Parker-Jones, Seconded Cllr Winstanley, **RESOLVED** that Bishopstoke Parish Council support the 20’s Plenty for Hampshire campaign; calls upon Hampshire County Council to implement 20mph across Bishopstoke Parish and that the Chair sign a letter, drafted by the Clerk, to Cllr Rob Humby at Hampshire County Council to request that the county a) makes 20mph the default speed limit on streets throughout Hampshire in places where people live, work, shop, play or learn, leaving 30mph as the exception on those roads, where full consideration of the needs of vulnerable road users allows a higher limit and b) allocates a ring-fenced amount from public health, sustainability and transport budgets to enable 20mph to be implemented county-wide within 5 years.

112.3 The Clerk was requested to contact Fair Oak & Horton Heath Parish Council to invite them to join the campaign.

Action: Clerk

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

113.1 The next meeting will take place on Tuesday May 10th in the Bishopstoke Methodist Church. The Clerk advised that the standard meeting time of 7:30pm for Full Council may be amended as it is intended that the Parish Assembly also be held that evening.

All other business having been deferred, the Chair closed the meeting at 9:20pm.

Chair's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Clerk's Signature: _____ Date: _____