

BISHOPSTOKE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Bishopstoke Parish Council commenced at 7.30pm on Tuesday 26 November 2013 at the Methodist Church Hall, Sedgwick Road, Bishopstoke

Present: Councillor A Winstanley (Chairman)
Councillor P Brown
Councillor A Cossey (Items 272 to 284)
Councillor J Harper
Councillor G Harris
Councillor M Lyon
Councillor C McKeone
Councillor T Mignot
Councillor C Thomas
Councillor S Toher

In Attendance: Mr P J Storey (Clerk to Bishopstoke Parish Council)
Mrs C Taylor (Assistant Clerk)

Public Session

No members of the public were present.

272. Apologies for absence

272.1 Cllrs Hansell, Roling, Snook and Thornton.

273. Councillors' Questions and Announcements

273.1 Cllr McKeone again raised the apparent waste in leaving broken railings in the river when they could probably be reused. This had been taken up previously with Hampshire Highways but to no avail. Discussion also centered on the overgrown nature of the Bishopstoke Channel and although many knew the reasons for this, and there was an explanatory information board attached to the railings, it was thought appropriate to include an article in the next Newsletter; the Clerk would draft.

Action: Clerk

273.2 Cllr Toher raised the issue of the diverted buses, with closure of Sedgwick Road, using Spring Lane rather than Church Road and Cllr Winstanley mentioned they not stopping at the bus stops on their temporary route to the annoyance of the travelling public. The Clerk would contact Bluestar.

Action: Clerk

274. Adoption of the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 22 October 2013

274.1 Proposed Cllr Mignot, Seconded Cllr Toher, **RESOLVED** unanimously that the minutes of the meeting held on 22 October 2013 be accepted as a true record.

275. Matters Arising

275.1 There were no matters arising not dealt with elsewhere in these minutes.

276. Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensation

276.1 Cllr Toher declared an interest in Item 8, the Age Concern grant.

277. Correspondence

277.1 The Clerk drew Members' attention to correspondence received and, in particular, the change in the rules relating to who may approach HALC for advice. Previously, this had been restricted to the Chairman and Clerk but now any councillor could approach HALC and the Clerk issued the appropriate password and username for access to the HALC website.

278. Report on Planning Committee Meetings on 22 October and 12 November 2013 - to note Resolutions and to consider any Recommendations

- 278.1 Minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 22 October and 12 November 2013 had been circulated with the agenda papers.
- 278.2 Proposed Cllr Toher, Seconded Cllr McKeone, **RESOLVED** unanimously that the minutes of the meetings held on 22 October and 12 November be received and accepted.

279. Report on Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting of 12 November 2013 – to note Resolutions and to determine any Recommendations

- 279.1 Minutes of the F&GP Committee meeting held on 12 November 2013 had been circulated with the agenda papers.
- 279.2 Proposed Cllr Winstanley, Seconded Cllr Toher, **RESOLVED** unanimously that the resolutions of the meeting held on 12 November 2013 be received and accepted.
- 279.3 Proposed Cllr Mignot, Seconded Cllr Winstanley, **RESOLVED** with Cllr Toher abstaining that the recommendation to grant £1000 to Age Concern Bishopstoke to help fund one year's entertainment at The Riverside Club be approved.
- 279.4 Proposed Cllr Toher, Seconded Cllr Cossey, **RESOLVED** unanimously that the Parish Council offer to take over the organisation and administration of the Bishopstoke Carnival.

280. To receive the RFO's report and approve the October 2013 statement of account

- 280.1 The RFO reported that an application had been submitted to Awards for All to help fund the play areas upgrades and that a decision would be made known by 22 January 2014. There was also a probable refund due from SSE for work undertaken to connect the Parish Office to the electricity supply as it had not involved as much ground work as originally estimated. A Government consultation was in progress on changes in legislation covering the audit of accounts and the dates accounts should be available for public viewing; no comments were thought necessary on the proposals.
- 280.2 Proposed Cllr Cossey, Seconded Cllr Harris, **RESOLVED** unanimously that payments be authorised as per the tabled statement of account.

281. Precept and Expenditure Budget 2014 – 15

- 281.1 The Clerk explained the uncertainty surrounding the tax base used to calculate the rate of council tax payable. The F&GP Committee recommendations had been determined after careful consideration of the expenditures likely to fall due in the next financial year and the probable need to budget increasingly for costs associate with the new Cemetery and allotments, more play area upgrades and also the need to rely less upon reserves which would be depleted anyway as a result of the current play area upgrade costs. With this in mind, the Committee had recommended the Expenditure budget as tabled and proposed a 5% increase in Precept. It was recognised that the increase in Precept would be dependent upon the top up grant payable by EBC and as the tax base had yet to be determined a final increase would be tabled for resolution in January 2014. Also impacting on this would be the Special Expenses amount for the maintenance of the Brookfield estate which had yet to be determined.

Action: Clerk

282. Burial Board fees and Allotment Tenant charges

- 282.1 After three years at the same level, the F&GP Committee had recommended a small increase in the Burial Board fees to take effect from 1 April 2014.
- 282.2 Proposed Cllr Cossey, Seconded Cllr Winstanley, **RESOLVED** unanimously that the Burial Board fees be increased from 1 April 2014 as tabled.
- 282.3 Again, there had not been an increase in allotment tenants' charges for three years and significant sums had been spent on maintaining the allotment site and meeting service charges and the F&GP Committee had recommended that the cost per rod be increased. It was also recognised that tenants were living longer and that it would be timely to increase the age at which the senior discount took effect from 60 to 70 years and to reduce the amount of discount given from 50% to around 30%.

282.4 Proposed Cllr Cossey, Seconded Cllr McKeone, **RESOLVED** unanimously that for new tenants the discounted rent be applied from age 70 rather than the present 60 years of age, the age discount be reduced for all from the current 50% to 30% rounded up/down as appropriate and the full rent per rod be increased from £6 to £7 all with effect from 1 January 2014.

283. Play area upgrades

283.1 The Clerk briefed on the outcome of the public consultations regarding the choice of play equipment for the Stoke Common and Templecombe Road play areas, the associated costs and the preferred contractor. The public had selected the designs for both sites from the same contractor which had subsequently resulted in a slight reduction in the total costs.

283.2 Proposed Cllr Harris, Seconded Cllr Cossey, **RESOLVED** unanimously that the contract for upgrading the Stoke Common and Templecombe Road play areas be awarded to Vitaplay Ltd with a proposed installation date in the Spring of 2014.

284. Open spaces and play area byelaws

284.1 Item deferred pending further deliberation.

Action: Clerk

Cllr Cossey left the meeting at this point

285. To receive reports from Councillors

285.1 Councillors had attended the various Armistice Day and Remembrance Day Services held in the Parish and Borough.

285.2 Cllr Thomas queried if any further thoughts had been given to marking the 100th anniversary of the start of WW1 given that the Royal British Legion was planning events which we could link to. As determined previously, no plans were being made currently to become involved as a parish.

285.3 Cllr Lyon reported he now sat on the Eastleigh Museum committee and that he was engaged in talks with Southern Water on the length of time taken to complete the road works in the Fisher Pond/Colden Common areas.

285.4 Cllr Brown had attended the Memorial Service for Glynis Elliott and that a floral tribute had been sent.

285.5 Cllr Harris was installing a hearing loop in the BCA.

285.6 Cllr Winstanley had attended the NALC AGM and briefed on the very low increase in subscriptions and that at a seminar organised by EBC on fracking there was only a low risk of fracking being undertaken in the Eastleigh area.

286. Clerk's Monthly Report

286.1 The Clerk reported that the Parish Office now had power but the internet connection was still awaited from BT.

286.2 The Police were reviewing the amount of time a PCSO was present in the Parish as it had been observed they were not meeting their contractual obligations; the Clerk would continue to monitor.

286.3 Three names had been requested for inclusion on the War Memorial and the Clerk was establishing eligibility and seeking next of kin consent.

286.4 An order for a new bus shelter on the north side of Hamilton Road near to the junction with Underwood Road had been placed following the public consultation from which no objections had been received.

286.5 Fair Oak and Horton Heath Parish Council, like us, was soon to embark on producing a neighbourhood plan and thought there might be an advantage if both councils worked together on those areas of common interest. Cllr Toher, who was lead councillor for our plan, endorsed this idea.

287. November 2013 press release

287.1 It was agreed that mention would be made of the grant awarded to Age Concern, progress on the Parish Office, the Whalesmead Road clock repairs, action being taken to resolve the Riverside flooding problem, the Community Speedwatch initiative for which more volunteers were required and that we were now on Facebook.

Action: Clerk

288. Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting

288.1 The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Tuesday 28 January 2014 in the Parish Office, Riverside, Bishopstoke.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the Meeting at 9.40pm.