

BISHOPSTOKE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Bishopstoke Parish Council commenced at 7.30pm on Tuesday 22 January 2013 at the Methodist Church Hall, Sedgwick Road, Bishopstoke

Present: Councillor A Winstanley (Chairman)
Councillor P Brown
Councillor A Cossey
Councillor J Harper
Councillor G Harris
Councillor M Lyon (paras 161 to 172.1)
Councillor C McKeone
Councillor T Mignot
Councillor M Thornton
Councillor S Toher

In Attendance: Mr P J Storey (Clerk to Bishopstoke Parish Council)

Public Session

Mr B Hughes, from Localism Works, introduced himself and offered his liaison services should the Parish Council have any future involvement in the development of the Cemex site at the top of Church Road.

158. Apologies for absence

158.1 Cllrs Hansell, Roling, Snook and Thomas.

159. Councillors' Questions and Announcements

159.1 The Chairman commented on the passing of Dave Stratton who had been chairman of the Parish Forum and subsequently a parish councillor for the first four years of the Council's existence. Cllr Winstanley also invited contributions for the next issue of the Newsletter which would be published by early March.

Action: All

160. Adoption of the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 27 November 2012

160.1 Proposed Cllr Winstanley, Seconded Cllr Harris, **RESOLVED** with Cllrs Cossey and McKeone abstaining (absent) that the minutes of the meeting held on 27 November 2012 with minor amendment be accepted as a true record.

Cllr Lyon arrived at this point

161. Matters Arising

161.1 Para 150.1 Cllr Winstanley advised that training course dates had been e-mailed to councillors and she hoped there would be a good take up.

Action: All

162. Declarations of Interest and Dispensation

162.1 None declared or sought.

163. Report on Planning Committee Meetings of 27 November 2012 and 8 January 2013 - to note Resolutions and to consider any Recommendations

163.1 Minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 27 November 2012 and 8 January 2013 had been circulated with the agenda papers.

163.2 Proposed Cllr Brown, Seconded Cllr Harris, **RESOLVED** unanimously that the minutes of the meetings held on 27 November 2012 and 8 January 2013, with minor amendment, be received and accepted.

164. Report on Finance and General Purposes Committees Meeting of 11 December 2012 and 8 January 2013 – to note Resolutions and to determine any Recommendations

164.1 Minutes of the meetings held on 11 December 2012 and 8 January 2013 had been circulated with the agenda papers.

164.2 Proposed Cllr Thornton, Seconded Cllr Cossey, **RESOLVED** unanimously that the resolutions of the meetings held on 11 December 2012 and 8 January 2013 be received and accepted.

164.3 Proposed Cllr Thornton, Seconded Cllr Cossey, **RESOLVED** unanimously that the recommendations –

- to contribute £1000 towards the STAR project costs
- to grant £1000 to the Bishopstoke Evangelical Church to help meet the costs of providing an access ramp
- to grant £500 to the Methodist Church to help meet the costs of roof repairs
- to vire an additional £2,080 for the new parish office

be approved.

164.4 Proposed Cllr Toher, Seconded Cllr Cossey, **RESOLVED** unanimously that £20,000 be vired to the play equipment budget to meet more of the capital costs of new play equipment

165. Adoption of Precept and Expenditure Budget for 2013 – 14

165.1 The Clerk explained that a memorandum of understanding was being drafted to reflect the Borough Council's decision to support the parish precept in future by way of a top up grant, the initial payment to be made on 1 April 2013. This grant would alleviate the shortfall in precepted income which would otherwise result given the changes in the funding of council tax benefit between Central Government and the Borough and the resultant lowering of the tax base. Given the Council's wish to maintain the Precept at its current level, and after allowing for the inclusion of an additional £6,000 to come to the Parish instead of the Borough in recognition of our responsibility for maintaining Glebe Meadow from 1 April 2013, a reduced tax base would only produce an income of £121,440 leaving a shortfall of £14,560. Without the grant, either the element of council tax payable to the Parish would have to increase or the expenditure budget would have to be reduced or an unduly high transfer from reserves would be necessary. The grant was therefore to be welcomed.

165.2 For the record, the current Band D payment to the Parish is £38.29pa. This would increase in 2013-14 to £39.59 ie an increase per annum of £1.30 but could be attributed directly to the additional £6,000 coming to us for Glebe Meadow for which there would be a corresponding reduction in tax retained by the Borough. Tax payers therefore would not suffer any actual increase in their payments next year as a result of the Glebe transfer.

165.3 Proposed Cllr Winstanley, Seconded Cllr Toher, **RESOLVED** unanimously that a total Precept and grant of £136,000 and an Expenditure Budget of £160,200 be set for 2013 – 14.

166. Burial Board fees and Allotment Tenants' charges for 2013 -14

166.1 In recognition of the continuing financial difficulties encountered by many across the Parish, the F&GP Committee had recommended that there be no increase in fees or charges levied.

166.2 Proposed Cllr Toher, Seconded Cllr Harper, **RESOLVED** unanimously that there be no increase in the Burial Board's fees or charges levied on allotment tenants for 2013 – 14.

167. To receive the RFO's report and approve payment of accounts

167.1 Approval of the payments schedules for November and December 2012 was deferred until the February 2013 meeting to enable some amendments to be made.

Action: Clerk

168. To appoint a representative to the Twynams Board of Trustees

168.1 Cllr Cossey explained the role of the Twynams Charity Board of Trustees which was to manage four almshouses in accordance with the wishes of their original benefactor. The Parish Council had previously requested formal representation on the Board and this was now possible. Cllr Thornton expressed a willingness to be considered.

168.2 Proposed Cllr Toher, Seconded Cllr Lyon, **RESOLVED** unanimously that Cllr Thornton be nominated as the Bishopstoke Parish member of the Twynams Charity Board of Trustees.

169. To receive reports from Councillors on External Meetings attended

169.1 Cllr Harris reported on theft at the BCA and the successful progression of negotiations with The Mount site developers to display their plans in the BCA building in return for some maintenance work on the BCA building.

169.2 Cllr Brown reported on progress by the Carnival Group in planning this year's Bishopstoke Carnival and a critical shortage of volunteers. All were requested to help 'spread the word' for more volunteers to ensure the success of the event which would be held over the weekend 7/8 September 2013.

Action: All

169.3 After having attended a seminar arranged by EBC, Cllr Lyon briefed on changes introduced under the Health Act and its impact on local communities, the aim being to place responsibility for public health back to county level.

169.4 Cllr Winstanley reported she had attended board meetings at HALC in her capacity as chairman.

170. Clerk's Monthly Report

170.1 Parish Office. A planning application had been submitted for the new parish office.

170.2 Shears Mill. Bad weather continued to delay the completion of the external groundworks and information boards were with the manufacturers, the cost of which would be met by EBC.

170.3 Council tax leaflet. As principal authorities were no longer required to produce information on council tax on paper but could place it on line, EBC was discontinuing the opportunity for parish councils to include an explanatory leaflet on their financial plans as a council tax booklet would no longer be produced.

170.4 The electrical safety checks on the allotment buildings had revealed the need to replace a number of rusting electrical appliances at a cost of £277 and the Assistant Clerk was progressing this work.

170.5 The Chairman and Clerk would be meeting with EBC officers to discuss using their expertise on public consultation and defining the associated costs of replacing some of the play equipment in both the Church Road and Templecombe Road play areas later in the year.

170.6 The Shears Mill turbine housing builder and members of the Hampshire Mills Group had accepted an invitation to address the Annual Assembly.

170.7 Unfortunately, the recent heavy snow falls had caused a large limb of the ancient Yew tree standing in the corner of Old St Mary's Churchyard to fall onto the adjacent pavement and Church Road. The Clerk had authorised emergency removal work and was seeking a professional opinion on what other remedial work might be necessary.

171. To consider content of the Press Release for January 2013

171.1 It was agreed that reference should be made to the Precept and budget for 2013 – 14, grants awarded and the Annual Assembly.

Action: Clerk

172. Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting

172.1 The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Tuesday 26 February 2013 at 7.30pm in the Methodist Church Hall, Sedgwick Road, Bishopstoke.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the Meeting at 9.00pm.