

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Bishopstoke Parish Council  
held in the Parish Office, Riverside, Bishopstoke  
commencing at 7.33pm on 23 July 2019**

**Present:** Councillor Sue Toher (Chair)  
Councillor Geoff Harris (Vice Chair)  
Councillor Anne Dean  
Councillor Joanna Francis  
Councillor Chris Greenwood  
Councillor Louise Parker-Jones  
Councillor Mike Thornton  
Councillor Gin Tidridge

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

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

**FULL\_1920\_M04/**

**Public Session**

**50 Apologies for Absence**

50.1 Apologies had been received and were accepted from Cllrs Brown, Daly, Moore, Roling and Winstanley. Cllr Mignot was not present.

**51 Councillors' Questions**

51.1 Cllr Tidridge wanted to know why the Parish Council had not been consulted on the removal of the post box on Stoke Common Road. The Clerk was requested to try to obtain more information.

**Action: Clerk**

58.2 Cllr Greenwood ask for the issue of potholes not being repaired to be flagged up to the County Council as an urgent matter. Councillor Thornton indicated he would do so.

**Action: Cllr Thornton**

**52 To adopt and sign Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 25 June 2019**

52.1 The minutes of the above meeting had been circulated prior to this meeting.

52.2 Proposed Cllr Greenwood, Seconded Cllr Parker-Jones, **RESOLVED** unanimously that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 25 June 2019 be adopted as a true record.

**53 To consider Matters Arising from the above Minutes**

53.1 The Clerk reported that allotment plot holders are given the following advice regarding chemicals:

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“Tenant shall not use weedkiller on any of the footways under any circumstances – footways are to be maintained as grass; When using any sprays or fertilizers, the Tenant must:

take all reasonable care to ensure that adjoining hedges, trees, paths and crops are not adversely affected, and must make good or replant as necessary should any damage occur, and

so far as possible select and use chemicals, whether for spraying, seed dressing or for any other purpose whatsoever, that will cause the least harm to members of the public, game birds and other wildlife, other than vermin or pests, and

comply at all times with current regulations and legislation, ensure that any pesticides or chemicals of any description, which are kept and stored on the plot, are stored safely and securely, and comply with all current laws and regulations. Any pesticides or chemicals brought onto the allotment plot are the sole responsibility of the Tenant.”

The Clerk noted that no specific chemicals are mentioned but that the Council would be entitled to ban specific chemicals at the allotments. The Clerk was asked to contact all allotment plot holders advising that they cease using any product containing either glyphosate or metaldehyde and that the Council is likely to be banning their use in a forthcoming Council meeting.

**Action: Clerk**

53.2 The Clerk further reported that no advice is given on chemicals to contractors. Green Smile have been contacted and indicated that they do currently use glyphosate, which is licensed by the EU until 2022, but would switch to alternative products if necessary. They do not use metaldehyde. The Clerk was requested to inform Green Smile that glyphosate is likely to be banned by the Council at its next meeting and request they make the necessary preparations to switch products.

**Action: Clerk**

53.3 Minute 38.4 – The Clerk will be putting together a comprehensive report, including Sayers Road, Glebe Meadow and other areas, to outline the proposals for wildflowers. This will be brought forward in a future meeting.

**Action: Clerk**

53.4 Minute 40.2 – Cllr Thornton reported that Hampshire County Council has no plans to introduce a hail and ride scheme at this time.

53.5 Minute 46.5 – Cllr Greenwood indicated that he had not received the slides to pass to the Clerk. The Clerk was asked to check whether they had been sent to him instead and, if found, forward them to the Council.

**Action: Clerk**

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

54.1 There were no declarations or requests.

**55 Report on Planning Committee Meeting 25 June 2019 – to note Resolutions and to determine Recommendations**

55.1 The Planning Committee Minutes 25 June 2019 had been circulated prior to this meeting.

55.2 Proposed Cllr Greenwood, Seconded Cllr Toher, **RESOLVED** unanimously to note the resolutions of the Planning Committee meeting held on 25 June 2019.

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55.3 Proposed Cllr Greenwood, Seconded Cllr Toher, **RESOLVED** unanimously that an extra line be added to item 5 (consideration of planning applications) on the planning agenda, after all specific applications have been considered, to read: "Consideration of planning applications that arrived after the publication of this agenda", and that a sentence be added to section 3.4 of the planning committee terms of reference, to read: "This includes applications that arrived after the publication of the agenda, but prior to the meeting".

**56 Report on Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting of 9 July 2019 – to note Resolutions and to determine Recommendations**

56.1 The Finance and General Purposes Committee Minutes from 9 July 2019 had been circulated prior to this meeting.

56.2 Proposed Cllr Harris, Seconded Cllr Tidridge, **RESOLVED** unanimously that the resolutions of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held on 9 July 2019 be noted.

56.3 Cllr Harris asked whether the PAT testing had been completed. The Clerk reported that due to a diary mix up this had not been done but was being rescheduled.

**57 To receive reports from Working Groups and other bodies**

57.1 Carnival Working Group – Cllr Harris reported that things are progressing well. The recent meeting had been to go into more detail on the events. They need to rethink what happens in the tea room as the usual person is not able to help this year. Cllr Harris reported that Natural England had been notified that Carnival takes place and had indicated that Carnival would have to apply for a licence if it is to continue. This has now been done and has been granted subject to a system being put in place to wash all footwear of those either in or near the water on their way out of the area.

57.2 Cllr Parker-Jones indicated worries about items falling off the floats and wondered if there could be some rules about what floats can be made of. Cllr Harris was asked to forward the River Float entry form to Cllr Parker-Jones. Cllr Thornton offered to contact Stoke Park Junior School to ask them to engage with environmentally friendly floats.

**Action: Cllrs Harris & Thornton**

57.3 Cllr Tidridge asked about quiz dates. Cllr Harris replied that the dates have been decided and will be publicised soon.

**58 To receive the RFO's Report and approve the June 2019 Statement of Accounts**

58.1 The RFO reported that there was nothing of note in this month's accounts.

58.2 Proposed Cllr Toher, Seconded Cllr Parker-Jones, **RESOLVED** unanimously to receive the RFO's report and approve the June 2019 Statement of Accounts.

**59 To discuss and make decisions on Bishopstoke Parish Council Declaring a Climate Emergency**

59.1 Cllr Tidridge complained about the language used for the agenda item, believing that it should have stated it was a motion and that the full wording should have been used. The Clerk indicated that the effect of the way the agenda item was written is the same, and that this is the wording that has always been used by the Parish Council. The Clerk was requested to ask HALC to advise whether the word "Motion" is needed.

**Action: Clerk**

59.2 Cllr Tidridge outlined the climate change problem for the Council.

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59.3 Proposed Cllr Tidridge, Seconded Cllr Parker-Jones, that Bishopstoke Parish Council declares a Climate Change and Environmental Emergency. In doing so it agrees to:

- a) put in place measures to ensure that the Council's own operations and functions achieve carbon neutrality by 2025. This should include functions that are undertaken by contractors appointed by Bishopstoke Parish Council
- b) ensure that the Council's procurement policy recognises carbon neutrality as one of the primary considerations
- c) recognise the urgency of action to mitigate and adapt to climate change in every decision taken by the Council
- d) support residents, community groups and local businesses to achieve a carbon neutral parish by 2030

59.4 Proposed Cllr Toher, Seconded Cllr Harris, **RESOLVED** unanimously that the original proposal be amended by adding the following:

- e) call on the Borough Council, County Council and central government to provide the powers and resources to support us in this
- f) set up a task and finish group, made up of Councillors and representatives from the community to prepare an action plan within 6 months on the actions Bishopstoke Parish Council will take to deliver on these commitments.

59.5 Cllr Greenwood indicated that whilst he fully supports the aims of the motion he does not believe that it is appropriate for Bishopstoke Parish Council to declare an Climate Change and Environmental Emergency. For that reason the Cllr indicated he would abstain. Cllr Greenwood also stated that anything done by the Parish Council should be manageable and proportional to its work.

59.6 Proposed Cllr Tidridge, Seconded Cllr Parker-Jones, **RESOLVED** with Cllr Greenwood abstaining that Bishopstoke Parish Council declares a Climate Change and Environmental Emergency as detailed in 59.3 and amended in 59.4.

## **60 To receive reports from County, Borough and Parish Councillors on matters of interest**

60.1 Cllr Harris reported that he had attended the recent YZone meeting on behalf of the Parish Council. The invoices are due to be sent out soon. Cllr Harris had also attended a meeting on the Airspace Change Proposal. It was stated at the meeting that reasons for the changes are to allow more automated routing of air traffic over Eastleigh and Winchester. It was also stated that air traffic movements are likely to increase from 50 in and out per day to 75. Finally Cllr Harris reported on a recent meeting between the Bishopstoke Community Association and Hampshire County Council at which the first stages of planning to remove the tower were discussed.

60.2 Cllr Tidridge reported that the Hub toilets are being demolished and will be replaced by 4 extra parking spaces. The Borough Council has been asked to upgrade the cycle storage at the Hub as it is currently not suitable for standard bike locks. Cllr Tidridge had attended a consultation at St Pauls regarding it's extension. The Cllr also reported that at a recent meeting the Borough Council had declared a Climate Change and Environmental Emergency.

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60.3 Cllr Thornton reported that Hampshire County Council had also declared a Climate Change and Environmental Emergency but had attached no timescale to it. This is being revisited to hopefully add a time limit.

60.4 Cllr Parker-Jones reported that she had met with a tree consultant at The Planny where there are a number of dead trees. The Borough Council will be undertaking extensive work to improve the area. Cllr Parker-Jones also reported on a recent Bishopstoke, Fair Oak and Horton Heath Local Area Committee Team meeting which had begun looking at the Traffic Restrictions Orders going forward. There should be a consultation in September on parking on Riverside up to Spring Lane. Cllr Parker-Jones had also attended the Southern Water Conference and, along with other attendees from the Parish Council, had not been impressed with Southern Water's response to recent events. The Clerk was asked to promote the Southern Water Priority Service Register on the Parish website. Finally, the Cllr reported she had attended the Mela, which had been very enjoyable, and at which she had seen Bishopstoke Carnival's Court.

**Action: Clerk**

60.5 Cllr Dean reported attending a recent Memorial Hall meeting where the Hall ceiling repairs were discussed, The Cllr had also enjoyed attending the Mela.

60.6 Cllr Toher reported that she had attended the Armed Forces day on behalf of the Parish. She had also attended the Memorial Hall meeting. The Parish Council is now a trustee of the Hall and so it is hoped that the final transfer is not far away now. The ceiling is being repaired in August and so the main hall will be unavailable from the 15<sup>th</sup> to the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Cllr Toher had also attended the Mela, which she would encourage all Cllrs to do in the future. Finally, Cllr Toher and the Clerk had met with a representative from Virgin Media regarding upcoming work in the Parish which the Clerk would be giving more details about.

**61 To receive the Clerk's Monthly Report**

61.1 In response to actions from the previous meeting the Clerk reported that in the event of high chemical levels in the river the Borough Council, Southern Water and the Environment Agency would be contacted. The Parish would then follow whatever recommendations came from those in charge. Office hours are now on display on the office door and the main noticeboard, as well as on the website and Facebook.

61.2 The Clerk also reported Virgin Media had requested a meeting between themselves, the Chair and the Clerk to discuss their upcoming work in the Parish. The Parish will be given details of which roads are to be affected and when - and have already been supplied with contact details for questions and complaints. These have been published online. Parish Councillors were given the contact details of the main liaison person for this project.

61.3 Glebe Meadow – Following the last meetings an inspection of the seating area at the skate park revealed it was dangerous, with the mesh seating having been bent up and leaving dangerous metal spikes where people would sit. This led to the decision to remove the shelter immediately which was done very efficiently by Vitaplay. The contractors who litter pick and perform the routine health and safety inspections have confirmed that the damage only appeared in the preceding week. The photograph supplied by our quarterly inspector shows that at the time of the May inspection there was rust evident, but no safety issues and certainly no spikes. The contractor has noted that litter is down enormously in the week since the shelter was removed. Cllr Parker-Jones asked whether there should be a monthly inspection and the Clerk was requested to add this to the next Finance & General Purposes Committee agenda.

**Action: Clerk**

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61.4 Play areas – quotes have been received for the various works identified in the May inspections and all necessary work has now been ordered.

61.5 Tree Charter – The National Association of Local Councils recommends that all Parish and Town Councils sign up to the Tree Charter. Unfortunately, this did not arrive in time for inclusion on the agenda for July so it will be considered at the next meeting in September. In short it sets out 10 principles for Parish and Town Councils to embed into their documentation to protect and enhance the local treescape. It also provides a focus for tree awareness events and gives connections with people like the Woodland Trust who are willing to provide free trees to plant for some of the events.

61.6 Budget – a reminder to all Councillors that if they have a project in mind, small or large, whether it relates to existing work of the Council or something the Council does not yet do, then those suggestions need to be with the Clerk by September so that they can be included in the discussions around budget planning. It would be helpful if there were some indication of the urgency of the project, the rough cost, whether this is to be done this coming year or at some point in the future, and whether the cost would be borne by the Council, through developer's contributions directly, or by being placed on the Boroughs Community Infrastructure Project list.

**Action: All Councillors**

61.7 Finally the Clerk stated his wish to put on record his thanks to the whole Council, but in particular to the Chair and the two Assistant Clerks, for their help and support in what has been a difficult time. This support had made the process as easy as possible from a work perspective.

## **62 To consider content for the July 2019 Press Release**

62.1 It was agreed that the press release would include: the Virgin Media work, the declaration of a Climate Emergency, the Carnival quiz dates and a note of congratulations to the organisers of the Mela.

**Action: Clerk**

## **63 Date, time, place and agenda items for next meeting**

63.1 The next meeting will be on Tuesday 24 September 2019, at 7:30pm in the Parish Office.

63.2 Agenda items for the meeting to the Clerk by Monday 16 September 2019 please.

63.3 Councillor Francis gave her apologies for the meeting on the 24<sup>th</sup> September

*There being no further business, the Chair closed the meeting at 8.52pm*

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

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