

BISHOPS TAWTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 27 June 2013 at Bishops Tawton Village Hall at 7:00pm

Present: Cllrs Ms S Barber, K Barron, R Hambly, Ms S McKernan, and C Verney.

In attendance: Cllrs R Edgell (DCC), G Lane (NDC), D Luggar (NDC), 42 members of the public, Parish Clerk.

The Chair was taken by Cllr Hambly, Vice Chairman of the Council.

22. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr C Bell.

23. Election of Chairman

Cllr Hambly reported that he would not be standing for election for chairman, due to other work commitments.

As there were no nominations, it was agreed to defer the election of Chairman to the September meeting.

24. Police Report

A report had been received from PCSO Paul Grantham. He did attempt to attend the previous meeting, but was unable to get in the door, due to the number of people attending. He had subsequently been called away, and had been unable to return.

During the past month there had been two reported crimes in the Bishops Tawton beat area: one theft of items from private land adjoining a parking area, and one of driving a motor vehicle whilst unfit through drink or drugs.

Of concern in his report for May had been the matter of the two burglaries in the village, both had been walk in burglaries, where the properties had been occupied by elderly people & both were possible due to doors being left unlocked.

A new police initiative relating to "doorstep crime" was being rolled out and material was available from police stations. He offered to bring some with him to the next meeting. The material included "NO COLD CALLERS" stickers for doors / windows, advice leaflets and checklists to assist with descriptions of suspicious persons. Following the burglaries he had distributed quite a few of these "packs" to properties in the area. There had been no more burglaries or attempts reported since, so there was no need for people to be unduly alarmed. However he urged everyone to be conscious of their household security even when just enjoying the nice weather in their back garden and report any suspicious activity to the police.

25. Questions from the Public

It was confirmed that approved minutes of meetings would appear on the new website.

It was confirmed that Standing Orders allowed the meeting to continue without the Chairman or Vice Chairman being present, provided that there was a quorum.

Concern was expressed over any development at Riverbend. It was noted that any proposed development would need to address any flooding issue as part of a planning application.

Cllr Verney explained his views of a 'vigilante group' in the village, which had appeared in the North Devon Journal. Cllr Luggar explained that the 800 properties quoted appeared in the SHLAA report. Mr Leaver further explained that the figure was based on the area of land within the proposed development boundary that was originally submitted for the North Devon Local Plan. This proposed development boundary was later withdrawn.

It was noted that future development within the development boundary would need to comprise five or six properties.

A request was received for the hedges to be cut in Sanders Lane. The overgrown hedges were causing problems for Stagecoach. Clerk to contact Highways.

26. Approval of Minutes of meetings held on 23 May and 13 June 2013.

The minutes of the meetings held on 23 May and 13 June were agreed and signed as a true record.

27. Matters Arising from meetings held on 23 May and 13 June 2013

The Planning Department at North Devon Council had stated verbally that the new development at Landkey would not affect the Venn Stream.

The Bishops Tawton Flood Plan stated that any planning application that would have an effect on the Venn Stream would be opposed by the parish council.

The report had been sent to various agencies, who had been requested to respond if they did not accept its findings. As responses had not been received it was assumed that the report had been accepted.

28. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Hambly declared an interest on item 33 – North Devon Local Plan.

Cllr Ms McKernan declared an interest on planning application 55776.

29. Reports

1. District Councillors

Cllr Luggar reported that the Bishops Tawton Conservation Area was being reviewed. An exhibition would be held in the Village Hall on 11 July, 3 – 6pm.

A motion was being put to full council requesting a surcharge on Business Rates for out of town stores, which would be used for economic activity in the area.

Cllr Lane reported that of the total of 504 properties in Bishops Tawton, 15 were recorded as being Long Term Empty. At the present time 12 families were listed as being in Housing Need.

2. County Councillor

Cllr Edgell had nothing to report.

In answer to a question he explained that the flooding report in North Devon Direct had been incorrectly copied, and no funding would be available for Bishops Tawton. Funding was being targeted at 15 parishes which had been identified as flash flood areas. Flooding at Bishops Tawton was considered to be predictable.

He was trying to find out what could be done to combat flooding in the village/

30. Planning

1. Applications:

55776 Removal of Condition 5 (occupancy restriction) attached to planning permission 1586 to allow use as a residential dwelling at Nine Acres, Bishops Tawton.

Cllr Ms McKernan declared an interest and took no part in the discussion.

It was resolved to recommend approval.

55838 Extension to dwelling at Fern Cottage, Easter Street, Bishops Tawton

It was resolved to recommend approval.

2. Decisions - Approval:

55541 Erection of conservatory at 3 Park Villas Bishops Tawton.

31. Co-option of Parish Councillor

It was agreed to defer co-option of a parish councillor until after the election.

32. Election of two Parish Councillors

The Clerk reported that the election would take place on Thursday 15 August. The deadline for nomination papers to be returned to the Returning Officer was noon on Friday 15 August.

Nomination papers were given to three parishioners who had expressed an interest in being elected to the parish council.

33. North Devon Local Plan

1. Call for sites.

Cllr Hambly declared an interest and left the meeting while the Local Plan was being discussed. Mr Waldron reported that he owned two sites that could be developed to provide between 5 and seven new dwellings.

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It was thought that another 6v dwellings could be built on the site of the old workshops. It was noted that the site of the Filling Station could not be included as a new site. It was agreed to check if any conditions had been stipulated in the planning approval.

It was agreed to place an advertisement in the North Devon Journal calling for potential development sites either within or on the edge of the development boundary.

34. Appointment to sub-committees and outside bodies.

It was resolved to defer the item until a future meeting, when the council would have its full compliment of councillors.

35. Dog Fouling

Cllr Hambly reported that new signs were needed on the Plying Field. It was agreed that this should be done. Cllr Hambly offered to obtain prices and report back at the next meeting.

It was reported that there was no problem at the moment in the churchyard. The situation would continue to be monitored.

36. Obstruction in Sentry Lane

Cllr Hambly reported that the wall had been in place for many years. This was a Highways issue. It was noted that the complainant had reported the manner to Highways. It was agreed to enquire if Highways had responded.

37. Standing Orders

Nothing further to report.

38. Lori Harding – formal thanks for work carried out for the parish council.

It was unanimously agreed that Ms Harding had done an excellent job in preparing the Flood Report, which had involved a lot of work and time.

Cllr Verney reported that following her illness Ms Harding would soon be returning home, and would welcome visitors.

39. Finance

1. Adoption of Accounts for 2012/2013

Cllr Hambly proposed that the accounts for 2012/2013 be adopted as a true record of the council's financial affairs. Seconded by Cllr Ms Barber. All in agreement.

2. Completion of Audit Commission Annual Return

Sections 1 & 2 of the Annual Return was agreed and signed.

3. Request for Grant: Bishops Tawton PCC

A request for a grant had been received from Bishops Tawton PCC for a grant towards the upkeep of the churchyard for 2013/2014.

It was agreed to award a grant of £200, the same as 2012/2013.

Cheque No. 854

4. Payments:

1.	Bishops Tawton PCC – re-issue of cheque for 2012-2013 Churchyard grant	£200.00	Cheque No. 850
2.	J & J Bins – emptying dog bins	£ 52.00	Cheque No. 851
3.	Mr J Harding – grasscutting – May	£ 90.00	
	June	£150.00	£240.00
4.	Parish Online – annual fee	£ 24.00	Cheque No. 853
5.	Matrix Print & Design – Open Day	£ 68.16	Cheque No. 855

The five accounts were agreed for payment.

40. Correspondence

1. Barnstaple Town Council advised that a Planning/Environment School would be held on 12 October. Suggestions for the Environment section of the agenda were invited. It was agreed that 'Flooding' should be included.
2. An email had been received from Joanna Pay requesting the Parish Council to continue to keep the pressure on the relevant bodies to resolve the flooding problems in the village. It was noted that the council would continue to do whatever it could until action was taken.

41. Items to placed on the agenda of the next meeting

Election/Co-option of Parish Councillors; Call for sites; Conservation Area Consultation; Dog Fouling – update; Letter to John Taylor; Web site.

42. Date of next meeting: Thursday 25 July 2013

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9:45pm.