

# BISHOPS TAWTON PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 28 March 2013 at Bishops Tawton Village Hall at 7:30pm

**Present:** Cllrs J Taylor (Chairman), Ms S Barber, K Barron, C Bell and J Lewis.

**In attendance:** Cllrs R Edgell (DCC), G Lane (NDC), 9 members of the public, Ms L Harding, Mr P Stewart (DCC), Parish Clerk.

## 137. Double Yellow Lines in Bishops Tawton

Paul Stewart, Neighbourhood Highway Engineer, DCC introduced himself and explained that he was covering the area since David Wines was transferred.

He understood that the parish was unhappy with the scheme proposed. The Chairman explained the wishes of the parish council and stated that two years had passed with still no action being taken.

Mr Stewart explained that records from the police did not support the parish council's claims that the road in question was dangerous. Before a scheme could be put in place, it was necessary to demonstrate a need. At present there was not enough evidence to support this. All schemes in the county were prioritized in order that those with the greatest need received attention. Quizzed further he explained that there would need to be a cluster of incidents within a short period before funding could be made available.

The recent consultation should be regarded as a 'straw poll' in order to gain reaction from parishioners. 72 households had been contacted, resulting in 21 against the scheme, and 26 in favour. In order for a scheme to progress there would need to be 60% - 70% in favour. The estimated cost of a scheme was £3000 in legal fees + the cost of lining etc. He would obtain an accurate cost. If the parish council were able to finance the scheme he did not think that there would be a problem, but at present there was approximately a backlog of 6 – 7 months.

If the decision was made to proceed with a scheme it would be advertised in the local press, to which parishioners would need to respond. Parishioners would not be contacted individually.

## 138. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs R Hambly, C Verney and D Luggar (NDC),

## 139. Police Report

Copies of the Spring newsletter were circulated to councillors and members of the public. It was noted that PCSO Hannah Denton had moved, and had been replaced by PCSO Paul Grantham.

## 140. Questions from the Public/Reports

1. It was noted that the problem with the play equipment related to the slide, not the swing as recorded in the minutes of the last meeting. The minutes were amended accordingly.
2. Concern was expressed that the council's response to a planning application was not received in time to be included in the report to the Planning Committee. It was agreed to also email responses in future.
3. It was noted that no grant had been given towards the upkeep of the churchyard.
4. It was agreed that the church would be able to loan the projector. Minutes amended to reflect this decision.
5. It was noted that the Flooding Report would be available to view on the DCC website from 3 April. This was a countywide report, and would include Bishops Tawton.
6. Concern was expressed over the effectiveness of work carried out by the Environment Agency. Fallen trees had been cleared from fields etc., but no work had been carried out in the river.

**141. Approval of Minutes of meeting held on 28 February 2013.**

Min 128. Cllr Taylor proposed that architects be asked to value the Playing Field and Village Hall in order to maximize their value, noting that both may be replaced in the future. It was agreed that three quotes should be obtained.

Min 131 Cllr Ms Barber stated that she wished for her approval for the revised development boundary be withdrawn.

The minutes were amended to take items 140.1 and 140.4 into account.

The amended minutes were agreed and signed as a true record.

**142. Matters Arising from meeting held on 28 February 2013**

None.

**143. Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Taylor declared an interest in item 152.1.

**144. District Councillor's Report**

Cllr Lane reported that there were 5 long term empty properties in Bishops Tawton, and 11 which had been empty for up to 6 months. In North Devon there were 1142 empty properties. Council Tax would now be charged at the full rate for all empty properties.

**145. County Councillor's Report**

Cllr Edgell reported that David Wines had moved to Tiverton, and that the parish was being covered by Paul Stewart until a replacement was appointed.

Section 3 of the Local Plan, which covered the rural areas, was still in the process of being prepared. Consequently the deadline for parishes to respond had been moved back to 1 June.

**146. Planning**

**1. Applications**

55341 Change of use of building from commercial storage to agricultural, Halmpstone Manor, Bishops Tawton

**It was resolved** to recommend approval.

**2. Decisions – Approval:**

55181 Extension to dwelling, loft conversion & raised decking at 11 Mount Pleasant Bishops Tawton

55166 Siting of polytunnel at Easter Mill, Easter Street, Bishops Tawton

**147. Local Plan**

Cllr Taylor reported that the council's response for the Local Plan had been submitted, before being aware that parishes were being consulted separately.

The response would now be re-submitted as part of the consultation for Part 3.

**148. Parish Assets**

It was noted that nothing further could be done at present.

**149. Flooding**

The draft report of flood incidents in Bishops Tawton had been prepared. The document highlighted the problem areas, and suggested how the problems could be rectified.

The findings of investigations carried out by the parish council would be available to parishioners at an Open Day.

It was agreed that the parish council would pay for the hire of the hall for the Open Day.

**150. Footpath 13**

Cllr Bell produced a newspaper article dealing with legal responsibilities of landowners who have footpaths crossing their land. Clerk to enquire into the accuracy of the article.

**151. Finance**

**1. New bank account**

Cllr Bell declared an interest in the item to be discussed, and took no part.

The clerk outlined three type of account available from Lloyds TSB, in order that money could be put aside for a proposed Community Centre/Village Hall.

Cllr Lewis proposed that £15000 be put into a high interest account for 3 years, which would generate 3% interest. Seconded by Cllr Ms Barber. All in agreement.

**2. Payments:**

|                                   |          |
|-----------------------------------|----------|
| 1. J & J Bins – emptying dog bins | £ 52.00  |
| 2. DALC subscription              | £ 259.07 |
| 3. Mr J Harding                   | £ 90.00  |
| 4. Bishops Tawton Village Hall    | £ 120.00 |
| 5. AV Partmaster – projector      | £1378.79 |

The five accounts were approved for payment.

Thanks were extended to the Chairman for his work in sourcing the projector.

**152. Correspondence**

Cllr Taylor declared an interest in the next item and left the room whilst the letter was discussed. The chair was taken by Cllr Barron.

1. A reply had been received from Cllr Greenslade to the letter sent by the parish council regarding the spending of public money.  
**It was resolved** to respond, with the request for information was now being made under the Freedom of Information Act .
2. A letter had been received from Mr Harding stating that the cost of cutting the playing field would increase from £50 to £60. As there had been no increase for several years, this was thought to be reasonable.
3. A letter had been received from Tawstock Parish Council regarding the joint TAP application. As the cost of the staging exceeded the total of the grant available, it was suggested that the balance be taken from the 2013/2014 fund. This was agreed.

Other circulars and periodicals were noted.

**153. Items to placed on the agenda of the next meeting**

Vacancy on the Parish Council; Footpath 13; Active Devon; A377.

**154. Date of next meeting: 25 April 2013**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9:25pm