

BISHOPS TAWTON PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 23 October 2014 at Bishops Tawton Village Hall at 7:30pm

Present: Cllrs P Leaver (Chairman), K Barron, J Fahy, Ms S McKernan, Mrs E Peacock and C Verney.

In attendance: G Lane (NDC), D Luggar (NDC), 12 members of the public, Parish Clerk.

71. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Ms S Barber, J Tucker and R Edgell (DCC).

72. Police Report

No report had been received.

Cllr Mrs Peacock reported that PCSO Paul Grantham was moving to Braunton, with effect from 1 November, when two new PCSOs would be covering Bishops Tawton - PCSO Simon Barrett and PCSO Debbie Bolsom.

It was reported that one of the new flower tubs had been stolen from Mount Pleasant.

73. Parishioners Open Session

1. It was reported that a street light was lit all day. To be reported to Highways
2. A query was received into what permissions were obtained prior to the flower tubs being positioned throughout the village, and what insurance cover was in place. It was noted that the work had been carried out by the BT Community Ladies, and that the matter would be raised with them.
3. Concern was raised over the lack of grass cutting of roadside verges and banks in the village. It was noted that some responsibility lay with the neighbouring land/householders.

74. Approval of Minutes of meeting held on 25 September 2014.

Min. 58.43 Amended to read that it was agreed not to proceed with the purchase of a defibrillator.

Min. 61.3 Amended to read £13000.

Min. 67 Agreed to append copy of budget to minutes added.

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

75. Matters Arising from meeting held on 25 September 2014

Min.56.1 Cllr Ms McKernan reported that she had contacted J&J Bins regarding the repair of the dog bin at Park Villas and a new bin for the Playing Field, but unfortunately they were unable to supply new bins. The best price for new bins was £123 including delivery and fixings from Glasdon. It was agreed to purchase two new bins.

Cllr Ms Barber agreed to contact Mr Snell re the repair of the bin.

Min. 56.4. It was noted that councillors were required to attend meetings at least once in six months before being disqualified. Cllr Leaver to speak to the Monitoring Officer at NDC to ascertain if this applied to councillors who did work for the council, but were unable to attend meetings.

Min. 56.6 It was reported that some of the blocked drains had recently been cleared.

Min. 64. Cllr Mrs Peacock reported that some of the signs had received attention. The Chairman offered to contact DCC regarding the outstanding work.

Cllr Mrs Barber reported that the police had suggested that the parish council draft a letter which they would place in the windscreens of parked cars which were causing problems near the school. It was noted that the Chichester Arms were happy for parents to use its car park.

Min. 65. Cllr Mrs Peacock confirmed that there would be a poppy wreath for the parish council to lay on Remembrance Sunday.

76. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Leaver declared an interest in item 83 as his employer had been involved in work for the Village Hall Committee.

77. Planning

1. Applications

58046 Extension to dwelling & erection of garage Wayside, Bishops Tawton

It was resolved to advise the planning officer that the parish council was happy for the application to be determined within current planning policy.

2. Decisions

None received.

78. Play Area Update and Actions

1. Revised quote

Cllr Leaver reported that a revised quote of £18k had been received to include a slide. This could be reduced if the parish removed the old matting etc.

2. Lottery fund application

It was reported that the Awards For All application for £10000 was in progress. The Playing Field Fund currently stood at approximately £1700, and the parish council had agreed to contribute £1000.

The Playing Field Sub Committee would be meeting to identify additional sources of funding.

3. Community Councillor grant applications.

Cllr Lane confirmed that he was happy to support the project and contribute some of his community grant funding towards the new play equipment.

79. Highways

1. Salt for Mount Pleasant, Stage Cross, Easter Street etc.

It was agreed to enquire from Highways if they would be distributing bags of salt, as in past years.

2. Parking on Little Pill corner

It was agreed to enquire if Highways would be willing to erect a sign warning of oncoming traffic in the middle of the road.

It was agreed to invite Highways to the village to view the problems.

3. Repositioning School Sign

Due to the speed of traffic through the village at the point where people cross the road, it was agreed that the school sign should be moved further up the hill.

4. School parking issues update and actions: police notice, alternative car park arrangements.

Already covered earlier in the meeting.

5. Parish Involvement in Highway Repairs

It had been reported in the media that DCC were proposing to encourage parishes to take responsibility of repairing roads, including potholes.

It was agreed to await official notification from DCC before discussing the matter further.

80. Venn Quarry update

The Chairman reported that the Flooding Sub-Committee had met the new owner of Venn Quarry, who was looking into the feasibility of developing it into an up-market holiday resort with 250-500 lodges. Although any plans would involve flood alleviation work in the quarry itself, it would not include a holding tank to help prevent flooding in the village.

81. Gospel Hall Car Park Update:

Councillors had met the planners and Elm Estate to discuss the details of the proposed car park. The development would include £18k S106 contribution towards public open space and £2k towards car park maintenance.

82. Flooding sub committee report and actions

It was reported that the Emergency Flood Plan was being updated.

A letter from Nick Harvey MP had been circulated to councillors it was noted that there was no national agreement to provide insurance cover for properties at risk of flooding, although a voluntary scheme was in place. It was felt that it would be useful to know the situation with affected parishioners on whether they had been able to obtain cover.

No confirmation had been received from Defra regarding funding for a scheme at Bishops Tawton.

83. Village Hall Repairs

Mr Morrison reported on the two schemes that were being considered by the Village Hall committee to enlarge the hall. As the hall was a listed building, there were limitations on what could be done externally, but it was thought possible to enlarge the main room by carrying out internal modifications.

It was estimated that the work would cost approximately £100000, and would depend on funding applications to external sources being successful.

A public meeting would be held before any decisions could be made.

84. TAP Fund application proposals

It was noted that the £1711 funding allocated to Bishops Tawton would need to be spent, or allocated, by February 2015.

Various items were suggested: hire of contractor to cut banks etc; the purchase of grass cutting or play equipment; Village Hall. It was noted that it would be necessary to identify another parish with similar projects in order to make a claim.

85. Village Tidy up

Cllr Mrs Peacock reported that volunteers would be meeting at Chestwood corner on Saturday morning. It was planned to meet on the fourth Saturday morning of each month.

Thanks were extended to Mr Waldron for cutting the Playing Field hedge.

It was agreed to contribute £20 towards costs incurred at the village tidy-Up.

86. Dog Fouling

It was reported that there was a large increase in dog fouling in the village.

Cllr Mrs Peacock offered to contact the Dog Warden for help in resolving the problem.

87. Reports

1. District Councillor

Cllr Luggar reported that NDC had set aside £200k as a reserve.

Work at Lynton House and the Museum was progressing.

A Briefing Paper was being prepared for options for the future use of the civic Centre after the District and County Councils move to other buildings.

The recent sale of unwanted land owned by VDC had raised £250000. The sale of more land was being considered.

The results of a survey by SWW on the pumping station was expected at the end of December.

Cllr Lane reported that the SHLAA survey had been updated and urged councillors to have a look at it on the NDC website.

A number of new rental properties at Landkey had been unlet and would be offered to those in neighbouring parishes. Those wishing to apply should contact Devon Home Choice.

88. Finance

1. Payments:

1. J & J Bins – emptying dog bins	£52.00	Cheque No. 908
2. Mr J Harding – grasscutting	£72.00	Cheque No. 909

89. Correspondence

1. Letter from Nick Harvey MP re insurance cover for properties in flood risk areas. This had been circulated to residents concerned.
2. Mobile library schedule for 2015. It was agreed to place copies on the notice boards.
3. DALC Newsletters
4. Healthwatch Voices – Autumn 2014

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

Dog Fouling/Dog Bins; 2014/15Budget; Highways;

91. Date of future meetings:

27 November; 22 January; 26 February; 26 March; 23 April.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9:30pm