

BISHOPS CAUNDLE PARISH COUNCIL
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING MINUTES
HELD ON TUESDAY, 7TH MAY 2019 AT 7.00P.M.
IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Present: A. Jones, T. Loveless, P. Blundell, D. Gardner, A. Tuffin, S. Meads, D. Kennelly (Village Hall Committee), Parish Clerk J. Walsh-Quantick

1. Election of Chairman for Annual Parish Meeting:

D. Kenelly proposed A. Jones, seconded by D. Gardner.

2. To receive apologies for absence:

Apologies were received from C. Mitchell and Richard Kirlew (Team Vicar).

3. To approve minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 15th May 2018.

Circulated previously, the minutes were approved and signed. Proposed P. Blundell, seconded D. Gardner.

Outstanding Action – Sign for Holt Lane, this has been ordered via WDDC and we are awaiting for it to be sited.

4. Parish Council Chairman's Report

Welcome to the Annual Parish Meeting and AGM of Bishops Caundle Parish Council. I will endeavour to give a brief synopsis of our works over the past year. Following the establishment of a unitary authority for Dorset, both of our D.C.C. and W.D.D.C councillors have been replaced by one councillor who is responsible for a larger area. This has been confirmed in the recent election as Robin Legg. Robert Gould, our District Councillor, has retired after many years service during which he has worked tirelessly for the local community for which we thank him. Similarly, our thanks go to our County Councillor, Mary Penfold.

Unfortunately, we have witnessed the closure of our Post Office and bus service for financial reasons. Concerning the latter, we held an open meeting attended by our local M.P. Sir Oliver Letwin, which was helpful and informative. We thank Barry Williams for his hard work in trying to get our bus service re-introduced. Vehicles speeding through the village remains of concern and we have had ongoing correspondence with the police and members of the community have been given contact details for Holwell Community Speed Watch.

Mr Jones
15/04/20

Full planning permission has been granted at the Manor Farm site and it is being marketed by the Estate. It is hoped to see some progress in the not too distant future. Otherwise we have commented, where necessary, on planning applications including a house build, an extension, tree removal and pollarding. We thank our Councillor for Sites and Building for his guidance and it is pleasing to note that most of our comments have had some input in the final decisions.

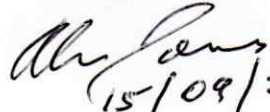
We have been able to maintain both Church Green and the new Cemetery to a high standard thanks to our contractor. However, the same standards of maintenance have not been undertaken both at the Churchyard and the closed Cemetery resulting in complaints and damage to gravestones which have been repaired at the expense of W.D.D.C.. The sports field continues to be maintained by the Football Social Club at minimal costs to the Parish Council and we offer our thanks for their continued efforts. The bus shelter has required cleaning and damaged glass was replaced by polycarbonate to reduce the risk of further damage.

The play area remains a bone of contention which has resulted in high maintenance costs following the area failing its annual H&S inspection resulting in closure of the facility until remedial works are undertaken. This has required refurbishment of some of the facilities and protective bark replacement both at considerable cost to the Parish Council. These costs could have been much reduced had members of the community volunteered their help. The closure means that the play area can no longer be used by our children. Efforts are ongoing to renew some equipment and provide extra facilities for older children and adults. However, we need members of our community to volunteer to identify suitable equipment and costs, more importantly to raise funds and seek grants to finance the scheme.

Once again by prudent management we have managed to maintain our expenditure within our budget, for which Councillors are to be congratulated, despite higher costs than expected at the play area. This has been achieved without the need to increase our precept and the loss of the district council grant. Our costs are ever increasing and we may not be able to maintain this situation in future years. During the years we have made grants towards capital costs to both the Village Hall and Community Shop. I would also record a vote of thanks to Nigel Ladd for undertaking the internal audits on the finances.

I would like to propose a vote of thanks to our councillors for their support and hard work over the past year. Remember that Councillors are not paid and give their time and expertise on a voluntary basis. The last vacancy was filled by co-option early in 2018 but Terry Loveless has not sought re-election leaving a new vacancy which we hope to be filled shortly. We would like to thank him for his work and will miss his words of wisdom. Our new clerk has settled in her role successfully and provided us with excellent help, advice and management of expenditure for which I propose a vote of thanks and hope that she continues to enjoy her work with us for many years ahead.

5. Statement of Parish Council Accounts.


15/09/20

Treasurer's report

- Hall hire charges were increased by 50 pence per hour from 1st May 2018. The increase in hire charges has proven effective, with all regular users accepting the increase, and resulting in the hall making a profit of £974 for the 2018 financial year. The deposit account balance has increased by £500, giving us a reasonable cushion against any unexpected costs.
- We were able to negotiate a slightly lower premium for the hall insurance, and have signed up for a three year contract.
- With electricity prices expected to rise over the next few years we have agreed a four year fixed price contract with Southern Electric through Utility Aid, who reviewed a number of options on our behalf. Utility Aid is a broker working mainly with the Not-For-Profit sector, working with 27 suppliers to obtain the best available rate for clients based on their average usage.
- Given the improvement in finances over 2017 and the steady usage of the hall we have kept hire charges at the current level for the time being.

C. Village Community Shop – Presented by Peter Blundell.

Thanks once again to the volunteers and to Sherborne Castle Estate for their continued support for the shop.

The committee obtained a shed on Freecycle and, after some repairs, it was erected to provide additional storage enabling us to carry more stock in the shop's storeroom. Many thanks to those who contributed their time, materials, expertise and muscle to complete the job: Duncan, Tim, Pete, Jim, Carole and Peter.

The shop thanks Liz Lyon who served on the management committee for many years and was chair for more than 3 years. Many tasks are done unseen by customers and those working in the shop, but without which, the shop would not function. Many thanks to the remaining members of the committee who have taken on these tasks.

After reviewing the financial situation at the end of the last financial year, we calculated that we would not be able to repay any more of the unsecured loans amounting to £3000 until our trading position improved. Indeed, projections showed that it would be a struggle maintaining a positive cash flow. Ultimately, and with great regret, it was decided that we would have to stop supporting the Post Office from within the finances of the shop and instead apply to host an Outreach service. The Post Office assessed our needs as being 2 hours per week based on their modelling. In the end we were offered 3 hours a week. The Outreach service is being supplied on Wednesday afternoons from 13:30 to 16:30 with a Royal mail collection at 16:30.

Staffing the shop, especially in the afternoons, continues to be difficult. The shop is only able to open the hours it does with the current volunteers taking on extra shifts. In particular Tuesday and Friday afternoons are very hard to staff and the management committee may have to close the shop on one or more afternoons if we do not get more volunteers.

Overall sales were up by about 2% which was good considering major retailers were seeing adverse trading conditions. However, costs both fixed and variable also increased beyond what the shop could sustain with the inevitable loss of the job of running the Post Office. The shop funded the

Alh Jones
15/09/20

The clerk presented the full parish council accounts for the year, these were fully approved. Proposed by D. Gardner and seconded by S. Meads. The internal audit of the accounts will be completed by N. Ladd by the end of May and the audited accounts will be forwarded to councillors.

6. Representatives from Village Organisations were invited to give a brief statement of the year's activities:

A. Parochial Church Council.

Apologies were received from Richard Kirlow (Team Vicar) and a statement was read by the clerk on his behalf.

Unfortunately, I cannot be with you for the meeting as I am not around that evening. However, you might like to include the following:

We are presently discussing with the Salisbury Diocese future plans for the Church and it would be premature at this stage to say anything further. It is, however, our intention to invite the village to a meeting hopefully in the near future to discuss our thoughts and ideas for improvements to the Church building.

As you can see, lots going on at present with the church and we hope to share things with the parish more widely soon.

B. Village Hall Committee – Presented by David Kennelly.

Secretaries Report

The 2018 financial year was largely uneventful but successful. Bookings have remained steady, and income was boosted by the hall being used by the Blackmore Vale Lions for the half marathon, and for the Dorset Arts Fortnight. A number of clubs book the hall for regular meetings, and we continue to get bookings from local people for parties and other events. We even had a booking from a group in Poole who had found it difficult to get anywhere locally.

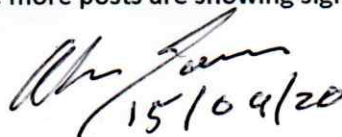
The hall has been booked for the elections in May this year, and by the Blackmore Vale Lions for the Bishops Caundle half marathon.

To add to the number of craft groups regularly using the hall, a new quilting group has started, meeting weekly throughout the year.

A Microwave has been purchased for the kitchen, following requests from some of the groups that regularly use the hall. We are considering replacing the electric cooker, which is showing signs of its age and may not pass a future safety inspection.

The normal maintenance has been carried out on the fire alarm system and heating system. The only other maintenance requirements were the replacement of all inserts on the chair legs (to prevent the chairs from marking the main hall floor), and some plumbing requirements to replace the faulty flushing system in the gents toilets and to unblock the ladies toilets after the half marathon.

We have had to have repairs made to a section of the fence at the side of the car park, where several posts had rotted. Further work will be required in future where more posts are showing signs of rotting.


15/04/20

running of the Post Office for two years but was no longer able to meet the cost of over £5000 which has to be paid for out of gross margins.

D. Football Social Club

No representation.

E. Short Mat Bowling Club

Presented by Peter Blundell

Chairman's Report - Thanks to the committee members and to all those who have helped with the smooth running of the club throughout the year. Thanks to those who have driven us to matches and to Colin for unlocking the doors. This has been a very good year. We thought at times that we would be promoted but that was not to be, maybe next year?

Treasurers Report - The report is not ready but Bob will provide a report for everyone to see. We have about £2500 balance at present. We also have some savings in an account. We have a trip planned to Weymouth where we will be playing long mat with The Fleet Bowling Club We also have new shirts so we will be very smart for next season.

Team Captains Report - We came third in the league. We still cannot beat Sherborne! Thanks to everyone for playing so well and being supportive and fun. We have had a very good year and hope for even better things next year. We have a friendly match arranged against Thornford and might be able to arrange matches with some other clubs.

F. Other Village Groups

No representatives.

7. Open Public Forum

No members of the public attended.

The meeting closed at 19.40.

Mr Jones
(15/09/20)