

BISHOPS CAUNDLE PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING MINUTES

HELD ON TUESDAY, 16TH MAY 2017 AT 7.30P.M.

IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Present: A. Jones, T. Loveless, L. Lyon, A. Tuffin, clerk S. Harris, 1 member of the public.

1. Election of Chairman for Annual Parish Meeting:

A. Tuffin proposed A. Jones, seconded by T. Loveless.

2. To receive apologies for absence:

Apologies were received from Cllr. Mary Penfold and Peter Blundell.

3. To approve minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 17th May 2016. Circulated previously, the minutes were approved and signed.

4. Parish Council Chairman's Report

Chairman Alan Jones welcomed everyone to the meeting and reported a year mostly dealing with routine matters. Fly tipping remains a problem and anyone who witnesses tipping is asked to report this to D.C.C. (there is a page on the Dorset for You website to do this,) or a councillor. Such acts have a financial cost which the tax payer has to meet. The other ongoing battle concerns dog fouling but I am pleased to report we have received few complaints and owners are to be congratulated in clearing up.

We have had to expend much time and effort in reporting potholes and blocked gulleys causing local minor flooding. Efforts to clean many of these have not been successful and required further attention. It is hoped recent reports will considerably reduce these complaints.

Similar to last year, there was a Christmas Tree on the green and we thank those involved in its supply and management.

Following the withdrawal of the Manor Farm Development, a new application has been submitted. An open meeting was organised to enable residents to both view and comment on these proposals. These comments and those of the council were forwarded to the planners. The general view was expressed that if we are to keep our local amenities viable, some small development is required.

Our desire to improve and expand the play area remains as an objective, but it has proven difficult to generate interest within the community to form a committee to drive these plans forward. The recent annual inspection resulted in the area failing and has had to be closed until repairs have been undertaken. Much of this work can be undertaken by community volunteers. A new fence has recently been erected following deterioration and damage. If not carried out the alternative would be closure of the facility which none of us want to see.

We have, by prudent management, managed to hold the precept at 2016/17 levels. However, this may not be possible in 2017/18 following the loss of Local Council Tax Support funding. This loss will need replacing plus we are already seeing costs increasing, although some of these will be 'one-off'.

Thanks to Mr. Moore who continues to cut the grass at the new cemetery and Church Green and maintains these areas in good condition. We have, however, seen a gradual deterioration in the maintenance of the closed cemetery by W.D.C.C. which has resulted in some adverse comments.

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Following resignations, we have had to co-opt new members to the council to fill the vacancies.


I wish to thank councillors for their work and support over the past year and hope they have found the work enjoyable. I propose a vote of thanks to our clerk Mrs. Sue Harris and thank her for all her hard work. Regrettably I must report she has resigned and therefore we have commenced a search for a new clerk.

6. Statement of Parish Council Accounts.

The clerk presented the accounts for the year, proposed for adoption by A. Tuffin and seconded by L. Lyon.

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

- **Bowling Club.** This meets twice a week in the village hall on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. Membership has fallen slightly and new members would be welcome. There is now only one team in the Blackmore League.
- **Parochial Church Council.** Barry Williams, treasurer of the P.C.C. sent a report thanking the Parish Council for the help with the cost of restoring the clock which is now functioning. The next stage is to have the face re-gilded as part of the major repairs and renovations planned. Internal alterations to the church are planned, including provision of a W.C., small kitchen, heating and lighting improvements and a replanning of the seating all of which will cost a good deal of money. The church bells are now being rung before the regular services and it is now on the circuit for bell ringers to ring peals.
- **Village Hall.** Alan Jones reported that finances are sound with a small reserve. All costs incurred have been met internally. This, despite incurring higher maintenance than budgeted. Electrical installation of equipment has been subject to its three-yearly inspection as required. This resulted in some parts of our installation having to be modified and new equipment purchased to comply with current standards. Also, emergency and fire equipment has been inspected and brought up to Fire Regulation standard. Both these inspections resulted in some considerable unexpected costs. The toilets have been redecorated as part of our ongoing maintenance programme. It is intended during the current year to re-paint exterior woodwork and walls; a contract for these works has been agreed. The refurbishment and updating of the kitchen will required major expenditure and it may be 2-3 years before the necessary monies become available. Much of these costs have been met because of fundraising which in the main have been poorly supported by members of our community. There is now a desperate need for members of the community to joining the existing Management Group especially as our Treasurer and Secretary has announced her retirement from the committee. Therefore, these posts must be filled as soon as possible. The current committee has tried to interest new members but without success. Therefore, one must pose the question – does the community want a hall and what is its future? May be an open meeting will bring some answers for without a Management Committee, the hall's management will pass to the Parish Council.
- **Village Community Shop.**
Liz Lyon sent a report:
Thanks to Sherborne Castle Estate, the Parish Council for the grant of £300 towards the staff and volunteer training costs for the PO, Tim Williams of Deft-Installations for the counter, Colin Thompson of Colsar Electrics for the electrical work, Dorset Community Action for their advice and for getting a whole page promotion in last


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October's Dorset Magazine and Rural Shops Alliance now, sadly, disbanded due to lack of funding.

Developments during the past year: The shop now looks very different from a year ago with the removal of the PO fortress, the new counter and shop layout. Customers have welcomed the new, more open layout which has enabled us to display the stock better. The changes were funded by the Post Office and we were delighted to be able to use local people to carry out the work.

Our manager left us during the year as she was offered a full time job which suited her better, and we appointed Glynis Coffin to work part time in the shop and PO. We are still juggling hours to make sure that we can provide customers with the best service in both the shop and post Office. With regret, we had to take the decision to make a temporary cut of 2 hours from the shop opening times and close at 3 on Tuesdays – this was due to a lack of volunteers. Some excellent and enthusiastic people have come forward and are in the process of learning the ropes so we hope to reinstate those hours soon.

The PO start-up has been our most significant achievement this year – in the end we got what we wanted but it was only after an 18month battle. Trading over the year to the end of March showed decreased profit with decreased turnover – the profit is partly due to savings (including not having the original bank loan repayments) and PO commission and decreased trading was, at least in part, due to uncertainty and disruption over the PO changes.


Looking to the future:

We are hoping to be in a position to start repaying the initial set-up loans within the next year. We will shortly be sending out letters so that we can confirm the amount needing to be repaid and then plan accordingly.

We have sent off applications to the Lottery and to Hall and Woodhouse for grants to renew the flooring and some of the older electrical equipment and to make a few more minor improvements to the shop – and await their verdicts. We will keep you informed through our newsletters.

Andrew Tuffin gave a vote of thanks to Alan Jones and Alan Jones thanked all the respective committees and officers for their contribution to the community.

There was no need for an Open Public Forum and the meeting closed at 8.00p.m.


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