

BISHOPSTOKE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Bishopstoke Parish Council commenced at 7.30pm on Tuesday 12 May 2015 in the Parish Office, Riverside, Bishopstoke

Present: Councillor A Winstanley (Chairman)
Councillor P Brown
Councillor A Cossey
Councillor J Harper
Councillor G Harris
Councillor M Lyon
Councillor C McKeone
Councillor T Mignot
Councillor V Parkinson-MacLachlan
Councillor M Thornton
Councillor S Toher

In Attendance: Mr P J Storey (Clerk to Bishopstoke Parish Council)
Mrs C Taylor (Assistant Clerk to Bishopstoke Parish Council)

Public Session

Representatives from Bellway Homes gave a presentation on their plans for development of the Stoke Park Farm area for which outline planning permission had been granted for 60 homes, of which 21 would be affordable, a new Cemetery and new allotments, together with an open space. A previously held public consultation on 16 April 2015 had attracted in excess of 50 visitors and they were in touch with the local residents association. They drew attention to the public path which would divide the new Cemetery, the parking to be provided both at the Cemetery and the allotments, the necessary road widening, the development of which would be to an adoptable standard, the current bridle way which would be relocated to the northern boundary, and that the intention was to develop using traditional material to maintain a rural feel to the area. Local residents had expressed concern at the need for adequate parking on the development, respect for the biodiversity aspects of the site, the noise from the planned pumping station, contractors' vehicles approach routes for parking, and construction noise disturbing the peace and tranquillity of the current and new Cemeteries to the distress of the bereaved. The Company was addressing these points and would establish a liaison group once work had started.

Additionally, Councillors queried the likelihood of contractors' vehicles parking on local roads until able to access the site; the need for strict control within the determined regulations for contractors' vehicles with offenders banned from further entry; the need for respect to be afforded to the bereaved being assisted by the erection of screens between the existing Cemetery and the site; the need for and location of workers' car parking; sewage disposal from the development and effective drainage of the whole area. Included in the queries raised to which Bellway would respond were confirmation of the state of the new Cemetery and allotments in that no residual costs should fall to the Parish Council; and the status of any private management company established to manage those areas which remained unadopted. There was serious concern at the potential financial impact on the Parish Council if public areas remained unadopted; a need existed for a back up sewage pump to be installed and concern at the inability to remove sewage if the power failed.

The Chairman thanked the visitors for their comprehensive presentation and looked forward to their responses to the points raised and sight of the full application in due course.

41. Election of Chairman

- 41.1 Proposed Cllr Cossey, Seconded Cllr Parkinson-MacLachlan, **RESOLVED** with Cllrs McKeone, Lyon and Toher abstaining that Cllr Winstanley be re-elected Chairman for 2015 -16.

42. Election of Vice-Chairman

- 42.1 Proposed Cllr Winstanley, Seconded Cllr Parkinson-MacLachlan, **RESOLVED** with Cllr McKeone abstaining that Cllr Harris be re-elected Vice-Chairman for 2015 -16.

43. Apologies for absence

- 43.1 Cllrs Roling, Snook and Thomas.

44. Appointment to Committees, Working Groups and external panel membership

- 44.1 The following appointments to Council Committees were approved –

Finance and General Purposes Committee (F&GP) – Cllrs Cossey, Mignot, Parkinson-MacLachlan, Thornton, Toher and Winstanley

Planning Committee – Cllrs Brown, Harris, McKeone, Parkinson-MacLachlan, Snook and Toher

- 44.2 The following appointments to Working Groups were approved -

Inter-active media working group – Cllrs Brown and Toher

Parish Council Newsletter – Cllrs McKeone and Parkinson-MacLachlan

Carnival Group – as required

Travel token working group - Cllrs Brown, Cossey, McKeone and Toher

- 44.3 The following appointments to external panels/organisations were approved –

Road Safety and Passenger Transport Forum - Cllr McKeone

EDALC - Cllrs Winstanley and Harris

Bishopstoke Memorial Hall – Cllrs Harris and Lyon

BPC/LAC liaison - Cllrs Winstanley and Harris

Airport Consultative Committee - Cllrs Harris (primary) and Snook (standby)

Bishopstoke Community Association – Cllrs Harris and Thornton

Twynams Charity - Cllr Brown

45. Councillors' Questions and Announcements

- 45.1 Cllr Toher, being supported unanimously, expressed thanks to Cllr Thornton for his work whilst the elected local Member of Parliament.
- 45.2 Cllr Harper reiterated her concern about the risk of accident at the entrance to Torwood Gardens off Alan Drayton Way and wished this to be noted.
- 45.3 Cllr Lyon expressed concern at the accident risk created by the permission granted for the car wash on Bishopstoke Road but accepted this risk had been highlighted in the Parish comments on the original application which had subsequently been approved. He would monitor the situation.
- 45.4 Cllr Cossey confirmed the vacant Twynams cottage had been let.
- 45.5 Cllr McKeone asked if repairs to the broken Barge path railings could be hastened; Cllr Lyon would investigate.

Action: Cllr Lyon

46. Adoption of the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 24 March 2015

- 46.1 Proposed Cllr Toher, Seconded Cllr Parkinson-MacLachlan, **RESOLVED** with Cllrs Brown, Harris, Lyon, Mignot and Thornton abstaining (absent) that the minutes of the meeting held on 24 March 2015 be accepted as a true record.

47. Matters Arising

- 47.1 There were no matters arising not dealt with elsewhere in these minutes.

48. Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensation

- 48.1 Cllr Toher declared an interest in the Age Concern grant payment.

49. Correspondence

- 49.1 The Clerk drew Members' attention to the certificate received confirming the award of Foundation Status under the new local council award scheme; the consultation by HALC on the future of the Association's affiliation to NALC; and the MP's enquiry on the travel token scheme to which he had replied.

50. Report on Planning Committee Meetings of 24 March, 14 and 28 April 2015 - to note Resolutions and to determine any Recommendations

- 50.1 Minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 24 March, 14 and 28 April 2015 had been circulated with the agenda papers.
- 50.2 Proposed Cllr McKeone, Seconded Cllr Toher, **RESOLVED** unanimously that the minutes of the meetings held on 24 March, 14 And 28 April 2015 be received and accepted.

51. Report on Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting of 14 April 2015 – to note Resolutions and to determine Recommendations

- 51.1 Minutes of the F&GP Committee meetings held on 14 April 2015 had been circulated with the agenda papers.
- 51.2 Proposed Cllr Winstanley, Seconded Cllr Harris, **RESOLVED** unanimously that the resolutions of the meeting held on 14 April 2015 be received and accepted.
- 51.3 Proposed Cllr Winstanley, Seconded Cllr Harris, **RESOLVED** unanimously that the recommendation to adopt the Statement of Internal Control for the year ended 31 March 2015 be approved.

52. To receive the RFO's Report and approve the March 2015 Statement of Account

- 52.1 The Statement of Account and Payments Schedule for March 2015 had been circulated with the agenda papers.
- 52.2 Proposed Cllr Winstanley, Seconded Cllr Harris, **RESOLVED** with Cllr Toher abstaining that payments for March 2015 be authorised as per the tabled Schedule.

53. Renewal of the General Power of Competence

- 53.1 Proposed Cllr Winstanley, Seconded Cllr Harper, **RESOLVED** unanimously that the General Power of Competence be renewed for a further year.

54. To receive reports from County, Borough and Parish Councillors

- 54.1 Cllr Harris commented that the high electricity costs in the BCA were due to poor control over consumption and that steps were being taken to remind Hall users of the need to conserve energy; in the meantime, hire rates would have to be increased to cover these excessive costs. The Committee had decided to seek more paid staff to undertake the administrative work previously undertaken by volunteers because people were no longer volunteering. He also reported on the recent planning course he had attended which had provided some useful background information.

- 54.2 Cllr Lyon accepted the consultation process for lowering the speed limit along Alan Drayton Way would not be concluded until mid-Summer and informed Councillors that he was pursuing repositioning the 30mph signs along Allington Lane.
- 54.3 Cllr Brown stated that the OFSTED report on Stoke Park Junior School was awaited.
- 54.4 Cllr Thornton had attended a Dementia Awareness meeting and recommended others also attended similar meetings to increase general awareness levels on dementia.

55. Clerk's Monthly Report

- 55.1 Vandalism remained a serious problem in the Parish with stone slabs from the Old Cemetery being thrown into the River and a tree being ripped out of the ground near the Brookfield play area. These and other minor problems had been reported to the Police and repair work initiated.
- 55.2 The Riverside clock had been repaired.
- 55.3 The Clerk had attended the quarterly YZone management committee meeting at which it was noted that due to the increased income from external hirings the forecast deficit for the facility had been turned into a surplus which could alleviate the need for a sizeable further increase in the Parish contribution in the next financial year.
- 55.4 Cllr Parkinson-MacLachlan would attend the Annual County Service at Winchester Cathedral on Sunday 12 July 2015.
- 55.5 Following recommendations made in recent play areas safety inspection reports, the Clerk had obtained additional information and safety signage for the play areas and open spaces and would erect these in due course.
- 55.6 Despite supporting professional external opinion, EBC had refused the planning application to fell the damaged Beech tree adjacent to St Mary's Church and had instead recommended the tree be crown reduced by 2m from branch tips and pruned to clear the Church by up to 3m back to suitable growth points. After discussion, it was thought appropriate to comply with this decision and the Clerk would inform the PCC and arrange for completion of the necessary works.
- 55.7 The Clerk and Assistant Clerk would undertake the annual safety inspection of headstones in the Cemetery later in the week and take any necessary follow up action.

56. May 2015 press release

- 56.1 It was agreed that mention would be made of the appointments determined, the Foundation level award under the Local Council Award Scheme and the now functioning Riverside clock.

Action: Clerk

57. Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting

- 57.1 The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Tuesday 23 June 2015 at 7.30pm in the Parish Office, Riverside, Bishopstoke.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the Meeting at 9.30pm.