

**MINUTES OF THE BISHOP'S HULL ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD
AT THE FRANK BOND CENTRE, BISHOP'S HULL,
ON THURSDAY 20th MAY, 2010**

13 members of the public attended. Mr Burgess was in the Chair.

1. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 23rd April 2009 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

2. Bishop's Hull Charity

Mrs Mapletoft, former Clerk to the Bishop's Hull Charity, spoke about the winding up arrangements. Cheques had been presented to several local bodies, including St Margaret's Hospice and the Abbeyfield. The total amount disposed of was £6531.34. Past records of the Charity were being kept by Mrs Mapletoft prior to going to the Somerset Records Office after they had moved to their new offices in the Autumn.

Mrs Mapletoft thanked the Council for the kind gift of a bouquet of flowers she had received last year, and she in turn was thanked for her years of work for the Charity.

3. Parish Council Accounts

The Clerk to the Parish Council presented the Statement of the Council's Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2010 (appendix A to the signed copy of these minutes).

The Clerk explained the accounts and then invited questions. There were none.

3. Report from the Local Action Team

The Chairman welcomed Nick Mott, the Chairman of the Local Action Team (LAT). He reported on the large agenda of local issues, and explained what the LAT did, who was on it, how often it met, and its finances. The main projects for the last year had been Speedwatch, which had been very effective in reducing speeding through the village, although Heron Drive was still causing some problems. Work with village youth was ongoing, including paintballing, and a recent mountain biking trip to Haldon Hill in Exeter, which it was hoped to repeat. The PCSO, Simon Parry, had organised that. LAT members also helped out with the Youth Group, and the Village Events Group with occasions like the Party in the Park.

More volunteers were always welcome. Activities were reported in the village newsletter and on the website, and any ideas for ongoing themes were welcomed.

Mr Mott was thanked for his report.

4. Parish Tree Warden's Report

Mrs Rose Humphreys, the Parish Tree Warden, was unable to attend so the Clerk read out her report.

She commented that spring had been very late this year – between 6 -8 weeks later than normal. The oak leaves were only just beginning to show now. Trees planted along the Silk Mills Road were doing very well, and would need thinning in due course. The trees along the top footpath in the playing field were also in good condition and were being well-maintained by the Trust. Some thinning of the bottom hedge by the cricket pitch had been done and this had opened out the view. Some mature walnut trees at the back of Bakers Close had been felled – unfortunately there had not been any protection orders on them.

5. Chairman's Report

Mr Burgess presented his report, a copy of which is Appendix B to the signed copy of these minutes. He commented that the last year had been busy and not a little out of the ordinary. It had been overshadowed by the Persimmon Homes application to build on fields to the west of Bishop's Hull Road. He updated the meeting on the current position with regard to the application and the S106 agreement.

A Parish Meeting had been held for the first time in living memory, called by 8 electors. There was some concern that people had unknowingly signed a petition calling for a Parish Poll without realising what they were asking for – the cost of a Parish Poll would have been in the region of £2,000.

The Taunton Core Strategy contained reference to a plot adjacent to the Persimmon land, with provision for a total of 485 dwellings on both plots without any apparent improvement to local roads. This gave cause for concern and would be closely monitored.

Various small projects had been completed this year including the restoration of the cobbled path at Netherclay, a dropped kerb on Shutewater Hill, and a new bench near Haydon Close.

The Parish Council had also been involved with the work of the LAT and PACT. This had included an emphasis on reducing anti-social behaviour in the village.

Mr Burgess thanked the members of the Parish Council and District and County Councillors for their support, also SCC and TDBC officers.

6. Other matters

Cllr Morrell gave an update on the situation in Heron Drive with regard to parking and speeding. He had held meetings with Taunton Deane BC and with Somerset CC officers to try to move things on. There were also issues at Richmond Park with parking. The issue of permits for residents was being investigated.

With regard to the Persimmon application, Cllr Morrell was concerned that due to administrative errors the application may be deemed to be unlawful. He was pursuing this possibility actively via the Ombudsman and the Law

Society. If the planning certificate was to be issued, it would be in the coming week.

With regard to smaller sites for development included in the Core Strategy, there was to be a corporate scrutiny meeting at Blackbrook Pavilion next week – Cllr Morrell said he was encouraging as many people to turn up for that as possible. He was also launching a Taunton-wide group to oppose the new housing proposals.

There being no other issues, the meeting closed at 7.35 p.m.

CHAIRMAN