

**MINUTES OF BISHOP'S HULL ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD AT THE  
FRANK BOND CENTRE, BISHOP'S HULL,  
ON THURSDAY 20<sup>th</sup> APRIL, 2017**

Twenty-three members of the public attended. Mr Leach, Chairman of the Parish Council, was in the Chair.

**1. Minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> April 2016 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

**2. To receive the Parish Tree Warden's Report**

Mr Parker - The Parish Tree Warden attended and read the following report:

1. The community woodland - cut branches strewn around carelessly spoil what is otherwise pristine, unlike the last summer there is no sign of the remains of fires or litter, at the moment it is in a very good state and litter free which is something to be proud of. An invasion of couch grass amongst the bluebells is preventing the spread of seeds and bulbs and needs thinning, more wild garlic would be a welcome addition, pollarding continues in the woodland but also along the river bank some trees that do not require this approach have been adversely affected.

2. There are once again requests for tree management this usually falls into two categories those that don't like trees and those with genuine problems. I would like some notification of what is about to take place. There have been 10 major specimens felled in the Bishops Hull Road area, some for dubious reasons. As air quality is often poor in Taunton we need all the trees we can get. - they are precious

3. Lopping. - if trees are lopped it would seem sensible that they continue to look like original specimens. Cedars are very vulnerable and often ended looking nothing like cedars at all. I think over eager tree surgeons should be reminded of this. Top tip if you have eucalyptus don't let it get too big, firstly the round leaves will vanish and if they get too big they collapse as they are not used to the water content of the English climate and over grow their strength. I have begun a survey of rare trees in Bishops Hull- there has been some response but not enough. If anyone is unsure of a specimen I will be happy to identify it. The Persimmon development is very short on trees and in the process, we lost two ponds and several big trees. I hope the Parish Council could ask Persimmon about their tree planting policy. I would, as I said earlier, appreciate more information on what is happening. When my survey is complete I hope to create an illustrated map and guide and perhaps a trail to view rare specimens.

**3. To receive report from representatives from St Peter & St Pauls Church regarding progress in providing a proposed new Village Hall**

Mr Gurr attended as a representative of St Peter and St Pauls Church and advised the following:

The project of a new hall, would now need to move to be a community project. To access the Section 106 funds Taunton Deane Borough Council, have specific requirements. The first being any new building needs to be secular (no connection with the Church). A charitable body needs to be established to run the project, along with Trustees to manage the project long term. As the Church are in a position to offer a lease to a charitable body an Albemarle agreement will not be necessary. To avoid conflict, legal advice has been given that Parish Council members, PCC members and their families are not permitted to be Trustees of the new hall. It is hoped that many people in the Parish will be able to offer a wealth of knowledge on the project from solicitors to builders. A local solicitor has already offered his time free of charge to assist with the project. Two different types of building are being

looked into, one being a modular building and one being steel frame. Estimate of cost to build a new hall are between £250,000 - £260,000 as a guide. He also advised that the site would need to be cleared, and the old hall is available free of charge to anyone who wishes to take it away.

#### **4. To receive report from representatives from Bishops Hull Village Hall & Playing Fields Trust on progress towards providing a new Sports Pavilion**

Nobody from the Trust was able to attend, so Mike Leach gave a verbal update as follows:

The BHVH&PF Trust have submitted plans for a new build on the playing field for planning permission. A copy of these plans is attached. The new building will house, changing rooms and showers. The current building will be refurbished once the new building is in place. The advantage of this being that a new stand-alone building will not attract VAT, additionally facilities can still be used while the new building is built.

#### **5. To receive the Police Report**

PCSO Parry and PC Gear were unable to attend and an annual report was not submitted.

#### **6. To receive the Parish Council Chairman's Report**

The Chairman read the following report:

Welcome to the annual Parish Meeting and my thanks for the presentations and updates received already this evening.

My thanks also go to the members of the council who have supported the Parish with their time attending meetings and dealing with particular responsibilities or sitting on advisory groups. I would like to highlight the service of those that have moved on for a variety of reasons:

Georgina Tomson, Michael Screech and Gordon Everett

And those that that have put themselves forward to replace them

Eddie, Jane and Stuart

And not to forget Rod who stepped down as Chairman last May after many years in that role.

I would like to express my personal appreciation for the hard work and support of the Clerk without whom I would not have be able to carry on as Chairman due to the other calls on my time. Last and by no means least my thanks go to John Hunt, as vice chair, living and working in the parish, he has been the person on the ground dealing with issues I certainly would not have been able to

We are lucky in this parish to have the support of two active District Councillors Ian and Julia. They have helped to promote the parishes views and concerns at TDBC level and have opened doors which we have been unable to do.

Hopefully, after the upcoming election we will have an equally hardworking and committed Somerset County Councillor.

I would also like to thank the many volunteers we are lucky to have in the Parish.

Those who without fail deliver the Community News to every home within the Parish and the volunteer working party which puts in so much hard at work in the Community Woodland.

This year has seen some changes, Facebook went live January 2016 and now has 130 Members with new posts and events uploaded every week. It has now become the most popular way for parishioners to contact the Clerk and has also meant on overall increase in contacts. Making this medium a success is totally due to the efforts and management of the site by John and Helen. It hasn't been without its challenges but it has been a great success in making the council more visible and relevant.

Here are some examples of what we have managed to achieve this year:

- Regular Meetings with DLO to discuss local concerns -overgrown vegetation, uneven paths etc.

- After several attempts a meeting with First Bus to raise concerns about the bus service in Bishops Hull: First Bus and lack of service to Musgrave Park. We are still awaiting a response on options put forward.

And the list could go on but we are running out of time, I could mention traffic light issues, parking problems resolved, paving replaced and the list goes on.

To finish the round up, the council has used funds to replace benches and bins, make grants to local groups such as the flower show and the playing fields trust. So, it has been a busy year; looking to the forthcoming year the only certain thing is continuing change, this will be brought about by the district council merger and, I suspect, the need for the parish council to do more and therefore itself be more efficient and devoting time to the important issues

We are in the enviable position of having significant income from new developments and decisions will be required on how to use and administer that fund.

I would encourage anyone who may find some of these issues and challenges I have mentioned interesting, to think about being a Parish Councillor and if you require any information to contact the Clerk Helen or any of the councillors.

Now it's your turn to ask any questions you would like.

## 7. HAVE YOUR SAY

- a) Concerns were raised regarding the lack of parking space available for residents at Shutewater Close and Farrant Close. Residents have previously been advised by TDBC that they are not permitted to park outside their garages. One resident suggested making the grass area in to parking spaces. She also raised concerns that the yellow lining at Farrant Close will make the parking issues worse. She was advised that this is being carried out to ensure the bus service can still run in this area.

**Action:** The Clerk will contact TDBC housing to see if this can be overcome.

Meeting closed at 7.50pm

Attached:

1. Plan of new Sports Pavilion

