

**MINUTES OF BISHOP'S HULL ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD AT THE  
FRANK BOND CENTRE, BISHOP'S HULL,  
ON THURSDAY 19<sup>th</sup> APRIL, 2018**

Fourteen 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 20<sup>th</sup> April 2017 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 was unable to attend and submitted the attached report.

**3. To receive the Police Report**

PCSO Wearmouth, PCSO Phimister and PC Gear were unable to attend and submitted the attached report.

**4. To receive the report from the Bishops Hull Flower Show**

Amanda Gallacher representative of the Bishops Hull Flower Show was present. She advised that the Flower show will be held on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> August. Ahead of the Flower Show the annual scarecrow competition will take place along with the hanging basket competition. In addition, a Flower show social event will be held on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> June.

**5. To receive the report from the Bishops Hull Badgers toddler group**

Tilda Gibbs representative from the Bishops Hull Badgers group was present. She advised that a total of 50-60 different families have attended the group. They have a group of volunteers who help each week. She thanked the Parish Council for the grant of £500 and advised some purchases have been made including a messy table. The group is continuing to thrive and new friendships have been made by families attending the group.

**6. To receive the report from the Rev Phil Hughes**

Rev Hughes advised that church attendance figures are rising. Many events are held at the Church including the monthly coffee mornings and family events. The latest pancake party had attendance of 100 people. Work is progressing within the Church to install a toilet and kitchen facilities, plans are currently being drawn up by the architects and it is hoped the work will be carried out and completed by Christmas.

**7. To receive report from representatives from Bishops Hull Hub regarding progress in providing a new hall**

Richard Holland representative from the Hub was present. He advised planning permission has been submitted and a target decision date of 14<sup>th</sup> May has been set. To date no objections have been received. Quantity surveyors have been instructed, along with a local contractor to produce costings for the project. The Hub has ringfenced funds of £248,000.00 and a donated fund of £15,000.00 towards the project. Fund raising is well underway, the recent Easter egg hunt raised £500. A village open day is planned for 16<sup>th</sup> June and an autumn ball is anticipated. The Community Council for Somerset are assisting the Hub with grant applications.

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

Nobody from the Trust attended, the attached report was read out by Mike Leach.

**9. To receive the Parish Council Chairman's Report**

The Chairman read the attached report:

**10. HAVE YOUR SAY**

No items were raised

Meeting closed at 7.40pm

Attached:

1. Tree Wardens report
2. Police report
3. BHVH&PF Trust report
4. Chairman's report

## Tree Warden report 2018

The woodland in Bishops Hull has continues to thrive. It is often well used By people outside of the village, this can create a parking problem. However, the area seems well respected and there doesn't seem to be a huge litter problem that bedevils the rest of Taunton.

There is a certain amount of problems with the bluebells planted, they appeared last year spindly and overwhelmed by long grass. If this is a continuing problem it might be as well to consult either of the local experts Lady Fitzgerald at Watchet or Lady Skelmersdale who lives in the village.

There has been judicious pruning of several trees in the village which I applaud because trees do need natural pruning and it is better to do this rather than they shed limbs, which is nature's way of doing it.

I am aware of the dangers of not having taking action – my Monterey Cyprus are due for their 5-year pruning as they are subject to wind rock. One of the trees fell on the house so I am especially aware of what is essential to do.

However, many good specimens through injudicious procedures have been lost to Bishops Hull including 3 cedars all of which proved to be an unnecessary sacrifice. Three trees were pruned at Eagle House, this was managed efficiently at the right time of year. However, when I tried to obtain prior information from the authority a phone call and an email were ignored. The same authority failed to invoke the Hedgerow Protection Act when the new estate was built and ignored any requests for them to do so. I would suggest it requires a great deal of tenacity to get support that is necessary to preserve the most important specimens.

My attempts to make a survey of the more exotic trees in Bishops Hull was not a success and I had a scant response. However, I wish to thank Laetitia and Rose Humphreys and others who took the time and trouble to respond.

There are many fine specimens of trees remaining in Bishops Hull, some are protected and some are not. Nevertheless, there is a giant redwood, a *Quercus ilex* at 69 Bishops Hull Road. The specimen there is one of the best you will see anywhere as it gets more water than trees in the Mediterranean. Adjacent is a Turkey Oak, American origin, one of the largest trees in Taunton and opposite the tallest *Trachycarpus* palm in the area. There is also mimosa, eucalyptus and numerous other trees that need labelling as specimens worth preserving. What emerged at Eagle House was a specimen of Luscombe Oak which is a hybrid unique to the South West of England. We are fortunate to be custodians of such a tree. Bishops Hull has a proud record of tree planting, however the upper village to a certain extent has lost out. We were once promised a coppice where the junction from the new estate lies, this failed to materialise. But it is important especially in the upper village that lack of tree planting is addressed as it helps raise the water table and trees of course are essential for offsetting carbon dioxide. I also feel that any specimen of a protected tree that is removed for whatever reason should be replanted with the same specimen. I think we all agree that clean air and climate change are important. Bishops hull is playing its part but as always there is more to do. Anyone with any queries please feel free to contact me at:

R71parker@aol.com

## **Police Report 2018**

Unfortunately, neither myself and Tony are able to attend as I am working during the day and Tony is on a rest day. However please find listed below a brief summary of police issues for Bishops Hull in the last twelve months.

1 account of ASB  
17 accounts of theft  
11 accounts of criminal damage  
7 accounts of burglary  
16 accounts of harassment

Recently within the Taunton area, there have been a number of thefts from motor vehicles. Therefore, I would like to remind all parishioners to ensure them vehicles are locked and all valuables removed. In addition, I would like to stress that particularly within this lovely warm weather, that if anybody opens them windows within their house that they make sure they close if they go out or particularly if they go to the back garden that they make sure the front windows are closed.

Regards

Graham Phimister  
Police Community Support Officer 8715

## **Bishops Hull Village Hall & Playing Fields Trust**

### **REPORT ON NEW SPORTS PAVILION**

After many years of discussion and delay, the Trust moved ahead with planning and the appointment of the builders – Wrencon Ltd.

The design of the new building was limited by funding to a stand-alone pavilion to the side of the existing pavilion. This meant that we would be VAT free and would not have had to build over the main sewer which would also have added to the cost.

The plans are in two phases: first the new build, and second the refurbishment and extension of the existing. With this, we will provide a social area, meeting room, kitchen and new accessible toilets.

Building work got underway on the 12th February 2018, which pretty much coincided with the rainy season accompanied by snow!! Work was also hampered by the need to build a larger than expected retaining wall behind the build. As well as slowing the project, this has added about £18K to the cost.

Work has been progressing in spite of the weather, and at present we are about a week behind schedule. A lot of work has taken place with a good deal of the block work completed. Good weather will allow for some catch up, and hopefully all will be completed on time – early/mid July.

We are currently moving into phase two – the existing pavilion. We have had plans drawn and this week submitted to TDBC for planning permission. The estimated cost of phase two is £100K.

We applied to the Parish Council for some of the CIL money, and whilst we appreciated the grant of £17K, we were disappointed that it fell well short of the £48K applied for. We hope we will be looked upon more favourably when the next amount of CIL money is available in the autumn.

In the meantime, we are applying for grants wherever we can, with a view to completing the projects and providing the new constructions and a sustainable future for the field where many activities take place.

## **Annual Parish meeting - Thursday 19 April 2018 - Chairman's Report**

Welcome to the annual Parish Meeting I can't start this report without mentioning the sad loss of our Chairman of many years Rod Porter who died in December. His contributions to the Council meetings will be missed, as will be his knowledge of Council procedures and of historic decisions.

Thanks for the presentations and updates received this evening, the flower show is the senior of the trio and continues to be the summer focus of the village.

We have heard from two of the three charitable trust operating in the village; last year there was only two. The progress made by both this year is remarkable, the new pavilion is well on its way to completion, this time last year it had not received planning. The Hub trust last year had only just formed, now it has charitable status, submitted planning for the hub and have achieved promises for half of the funding required to fully complete the village facility.

Other notable achievements in the village is the continued success of the Community News distributed by a team of 33 volunteers to over 1600 households every month. The village web site continues under the management of Jill Coldicott the 'hits' are numbers over 1000 per week. [Check with John]

The Parish Council Face book page is seeing more use for the sharing of information, requests for help and queries. It is now being used more and more to provide reactive information to parishioners most recently the school closures, roads flooding, updates the milk and bread availability in the village shop as well as promoting village events and groups.

It has grown by 100 users over the year and last time I looked it was up to 222.

We mustn't forget the other groups operating, working parties that help to keep the community woodland in good shape, the allotments, the footpath walkers all who keep the parish functioning as a village community.

Darren our street cleaner has continued to provide an excellent service over the past year with a total of over 400 miles of pavements cleaned in the last year, in addition he has cooperated with the DLO in clearing leaves and has distributed and spread grit and salt during the 'Beast from the East' bad weather events.

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 and supporting the village trusts.

Jeremy Taylor joined us last year and more recently Tony Taylor they are already making significant contributions.

The other plus that has occurred this year is our very active John Hunt, without who's support it would be impossible for me to continue in this role, election to Somerset County Council and his influence in that role is already being reflected in activity in the parish and beyond.

We are lucky in this parish to have the continued support of two active District Councillors Ian and Julia and we are shortly to meet our newly appointed Village Agent Sally Mitchell who I am sure will be an asset.

Just to finish I would like to run through a list of organisations and activities that the council has contributed towards this year

Dog bin emptying

Allotment charges and Maintenance – we have only paid rent to SCC and water bills

Open day for Hub and others

War memorial plaque replacement

Parish Remembrance Day wreath

Bench maintenance

Flower show

St Margret's Hospice

Bishop Hull Badgers  
Overgrown vegetation removal  
Hedge laying at Netherclay  
And committed to supporting the foot bridge repairs  
All for less than £1.90 per month for a band D house

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.

Mike Leach  
Chairman