

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BISHOP'S HULL PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE FRANK BOND CENTRE ON THURSDAY, 15th DECEMBER 2011**

**Present:** Mr R Porter (Chairman)  
Mrs J Beaumont  
Mr T Catherall  
Mr G Everett  
Mr J Hamer  
Mr D Jorgensen  
Mr N Roper  
Mr N Stuart-Thorn  
Mr M Summers

Also Present: - Cllr Alan Paul (SCC), PCSO Simon Parry, Ken Burgess (Parish Path Liaison Officer) and two members of the public.

**'Have Your Say'** - John Lenthall again raised the question of the need for kerbing along the eastern side of Bishops Hull Road between Waterfield Drive and Wellington Road and between Waterfield Drive and the footway to the village.

Nigel Start-Thorn - residents at Shutewater had raised the issue of a generator working continuously at the 'orchard' end of the Persimmon housing site.

Local policing – John Lenthall raised the issue of the behaviour of drivers at the Bishops Hull Crossroads, in particular cars entering Bishops Hull Road from Wellington Road.

PCSO Parry reported that it had been a relatively busy period, but there were no 'concerning trends'. Since he reported six weeks ago, there had been 80 phone calls to the police and 25 recorded crimes. As bike barriers were no longer in place at the end of Mountway Lane / Mountway Close, the local footway was being used by a scooter at night.

John Lenthall said cars were still speeding on Bishop's Hull Road. The Speedwatch team's results indicated 10% of cars were speeding. Improved traffic calming was to be carried out in connection with the Persimmon development. There would be no consultation process but County Highways would endeavour to notify the Parish Council in sufficient time for them to notify occupiers of houses affected by any new humps or other features.

**E2373 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Mrs, Kelly, Cllr Ian Morrell (TDBC), Cllr Justine Baker (TDBC), Clerk Mrs Sue Watts.

**E2374 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2011 were signed as a correct record.

**E2375 MATTERS ARISING**

E2358 – Upcott speed limit – the Clerk had been in correspondence with Mrs Drew who had sent a further letter to Ian Titcombe at County Highways.

E2360 – bus service funding of £223,000 (50% of full amount due) has now been paid by Persimmon to County Highways. The Clerk had written to ask what happens now.

E2357 – Footbridge over the River Tone - Mr Hamer had checked on the Land Registry web site and confirmed that the ownership of the bridge was not registered and therefore there was no record of who owns it.

**E2376 UPDATES**

**Mountway Road Bus Gate** – Various papers had been circulated including the views of Cllr Alan Paul. Mr Everett had written to SCC in a private capacity, asking them to show some consideration to the wishes of local

residents. He had received a reply stating that SCC were to introduce cameras operating all the time, and they would review the situation after 6 months. In the light of this, SCC had invited him to withdraw his objection. Cllr Paul who had received a similar request, reported that the final vote in the residents' survey was 67% of respondents favoured part time use of the bus gate operation and 32% full time use. As Cllr Paul's survey evidenced local support for part time operation, it was agreed that the Chairman should write to County Highways expressing disappointment at their stance towards objectors and requesting a full review of the bus gate operation now, not in 6 months. There was also concern that there had been insufficient consultation time for the Parish Council to lodge a formal view.

**War Memorial Repairs** – The Clerk had obtained a verbal estimate of £1,800 and a second (written) estimate of almost £4,000. A third quote was being obtained.

**Village School** - Three appeals had now been successful. The Chairman thought that, in view of the significantly changed situation re pupil numbers, SCC ought to reconsider the allocation of the Section 106 Education Contribution. At present, the full contribution of £481,461 is earmarked for secondary education provision at The Castle School, i.e., nothing at all for Bishop's Hull Primary School.

**E2377**

#### **CORRESPONDENCE**

Items of note which were not covered on the agenda included:-

- Winter road maintenance leaflet from SCC. It was felt that the No 3 bus route through the village should be pre-salted. Agreed that the Clerk write to SCC.
- Letter from SCC saying that, for the 2012/13 financial year, broken/cracked paving slabs in this parish would be replaced like for like and not with tarmac.
- Letter from HMRC who are seeking to penalise the Parish Council £400 for late submission of the Employer Annual Return. An initial appeal has been turned aside but it was agreed to proceed to the next stage of appeal – referring to the Clerk being adamant that the submission was submitted online in April, that there should be allowance made for any human error and that no reminder notice had been sent until the demand for a penalty. The Chairman would continue the action with HMRC.

**E2378**

#### **FINANCIAL MATTERS**

The Flower Show had requested the sum of £160 towards the use of the hall. In the past the Parish Council had paid for their insurance. It was agreed to pay the sum.

**E2379**

#### **CHEQUES AUTHORISED**

S Watts – November Salary £436.67, expenses £23.48 = £460.15

R Dezille – November Salary £312.00

British Legion (Poppy Appeal) - £50.00

S Watts – December Salary £436.67, expenses £135.92 = £572.59

R Dezille – December Salary £312.00

HMRC third quarter - £561.48

Frank Bond Trust (room hire) - £175.50

It was noted that there were likely to be surplus funds remaining at the end of the current financial year, and councillors were reminded to submit details of any projects they wanted to propose, together with costings, to the Clerk.

**E2380**

### **COMMUNITY WOODLAND/FOOTPATHS**

Mr Burgess reported that he had attended a meeting with Somerset Wildlife Trust and TDBC and matters discussed included the installation of benches in the community woodland. In future, such issues would be discussed between all three parties. He had no doubts about co-operation between the parties. It had been agreed to leave the felled trees in situ. The Ramblers bench had been repaired. The posts from the former notice board had been removed. The Electricity Board have removed a pole and were to put signs up re not fishing too near overhead lines.

Mr Burgess had also met SCC Rights of Way Officer Sally Vickery with regard to the footpath through the Persimmon development (T3/18). He considered that (i) there should be a barrier where it joined Bishop's Hull Road, and (ii) the stile at the western end of the path should be replaced with a kissing gate plus some action to raise the ground level there. It was agreed to write to Sally Vickery in support of these proposals.

**E2381**

### **PLANNING**

**05/11/0040 – renewal of temporary permission for portable building at 6 Wellington Road - granted**

**05/11/0041 – BBQ shelter to rear of 52 Stonegallows - granted**

**05/11/0042 - Demolition of dwelling and erection of 4 new ones at The Croft, Stonegallows – the Parish Council had objected to this on the grounds of highway safety.**

**05/11/0048 - Creation of 2 dwellings in farm buildings at Roughmoor Farm – the Panel were supportive subject to safeguards with regard to flood prevention and provision for wildlife.**

**E2382**

### **LOCAL CONSULTATION ON SECTION 106 CONTRIBUTIONS**

Discussion centred on the report prepared by Mr Hamer and distributed ahead of the meeting.

It was agreed that:

- 1) A preliminary exploratory meeting should be held with the Chairman and the Booking Secretary of Bishop's Hull Village Hall and Playing Fields Trust
- 2) Separate meetings be arranged to firmly establish (a) the Post Office's position on re-establishing a local service and (b) whether there were any on-going plans for a community shop
- 3) A Steering Group be set up with representation being initially sought from the Parish Council, the Trust, the Church and the Frank Bond Centre.
- 4) A survey of existing meeting rooms and their usage be undertaken. It was important to clearly identify whether there was a need for another community hall in the village and, if not, what change to the Section 106 agreement could be achieved.

It was also agreed to defer the following until a Steering Group was in place:

i) Making residents aware through the Community News of the Section 106 contributions becoming available for local facilities.

ii) Considering whether assistance should be sought from the Community Council for Somerset and, if so, how this would be funded.

**E2383 ESTIMATES for 2012/13 and PRECEPT**

It was agreed that the precept for 2012/13 should remain at £22,000 and the Chairman signed the appropriate form.

Budget estimates for 2012/13 were discussed and progressed as follows:

Estimated total available funds for 2012/13	£39,000
<u>Less</u> Salaries and overheads	- £12,900
Repairs and TDBC Services	- £ 1,000
Donations	- £ 400
Footpath maintenance and Community Woodland	- £ 700
Contribution to Bishop's Hull Trust	- <u>£ 1,000</u>
Remaining funds available for 2012/13	£23,000

However, a decision on how these remaining funds should be allocated was deferred until further information was to hand on (i) the amount of support requested by local groups and projects, (ii) the cost of repairing and cleaning the war memorial, (iii) future repair of the footbridge over the River Tone, and (iv) the level of SCC/TDBC budget cuts and reduced service levels.

**E2383 SCC COUNTYWIDE PARKING STRATEGY**

Cllr Paul's response to SCC had been circulated and it was agreed that the Parish Council adds its support to this.

**E2384 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2012.

**Note:** Planning Panel members for January – Mrs Beaumont, Mr Hamer and Mr Stuart-Thorn

**CHAIRMAN**