

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BISHOP'S HULL PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE  
FRANK BOND CENTRE ON THURSDAY, 4<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2010**

**Present:** Mr K Burgess (in the Chair)  
Mrs J Beaumont  
Mrs C Bulbeck  
Mr G Everett  
Mrs W Lewis  
Mr R Porter  
Mr N Roper  
Mr E Rose

Cllr Ian Morrell (TDBC), PCSO Parry, David Jorgensen and Cllr Alan Paul (SCC) were also in attendance.

**E2228 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs Ravenhill, Mr Summers, Mrs Kelly and Cllr Nigel Stuart Thorn (TDBC).

**E2229 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2010 were signed as a correct record.

**E2230 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

**E2218 – Longrun Meadow** –The Clerk reported that someone from Project Taunton would attend the December meeting. Mr Porter said that there was a meeting of the Friends of Longrun Meadow the following Monday, and he was intending to attend. Others were welcome.

**E2223 – Planning** – it was noted that the following applications had been approved:-

**05/10/0022 – Change of use from hotel to Financial, Professional and Business at Rumwell Manor Hotel;**

**05/10/0025 – Replacement of driveway and associated landscaping to grounds at Rumwell Manor Hotel;**

The following applications had been refused:-

**05/10/0026 – Conversion of public house to 4 flats, extension to first floor and two storey extension to rear to create a further 2 flats at the Royal Crown, Wellington New Road;**

**05/10/006 – Erection of shed at 6 Mountway Road. Retention of work already undertaken**

**E2231 PACT**

PCSO Simon Parry was welcomed to the meeting. He gave figures relating to Bishop's Hull since the 1<sup>st</sup> July. A full breakdown of these figures is attached as Appendix A to these minutes. The main concern continued to be anti-social behaviour and this would remain the PACT priority. The summer had been quieter than last year, at least part of which may be attributable to the increase in Youth activities in the parish, organised by PCSO Parry. There was some evidence of cannabis use around the pavilion, and this was being monitored.

PCSO Parry reported on a new procedure, which the Police were introducing, called 'Have Your Say'. It was intended that these meeting would be held four-monthly at the Police Station and anyone could go along and voice their concerns. Some members expressed the view that they would like to have been consulted about this, and the Parish Council should have been, given that they were already participating in PACT, which

was working well. It was difficult to see the reason for setting up something new. The Clerk was asked to write to the Police and express their concerns. Dates for the 'Have Your Say' meetings were scheduled for 7<sup>th</sup> January, 13<sup>th</sup> May and 7<sup>th</sup> September all at 7.00 p.m. PACT would next be on the Parish Council agenda for April 2011.

**E2232**

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

The following correspondence and emails had been received:-

- 1) Email from Tim Pope, the butcher, about customer parking outside the shops, and the possibility of erecting a sign on the main road to the Post office and Stores, butchers and hotel. It was felt that these matters were the responsibility of the individual shop owners to organize and pay for, but the Clerk was asked to check about planning permission and what the rules were about putting up signs.
- 2) Letter to SCC 25<sup>th</sup> September about work starting at the cross roads - noted
- 3) Email from Paul Tucker (SCC) about Tytherleigh Bridge – repair works were being scheduled.
- 4) Email from Lisa Redston about Rural Funding – noted that Bishops Hull did not qualify to receive this.
- 5) Letter from Taunton Deane about the executive decision-making options. The choice is either a Leader and a Cabinet Office (TDBC preferred option) or an Elected Mayor and a Cabinet Executive. Members had no strong views.
- 6) Letter from Taunton Deane about the Remembrance Day Service. No one expressed a wish to attend. The Clerk reported that the vicar had asked if any members would be attending the service at the parish church

**E2233**

### **VILLAGE WEBSITE**

Mr. Jorgensen was welcomed to the meeting. He reported that he had done quite a lot of work on the site recently and updated it. Some menus had been moved around and there were now more photographs, also he was not altogether happy with the photo handling software and would be changing it, hopefully at no cost He had also done a sweep around local organisations, asking them to update their pages. In respect of costs, he would be collecting around £120 worth of advertising income, which would more than cover the costs of running the site.

Members agreed that the site was much better, more informative, user-friendly and colourful and thanked Mr. Jorgensen for all his work. However, keeping it up-to-date was an ongoing problem and should be given priority.

It was agreed that the Clerk would give some publicity to the website in her next report to the Community News.

**E2234**

### **FINANCIAL MATTERS**

It was agreed to defer a decision on donating to the Citizens Advice Bureau as their letter referred to the next financial year rather than the current one.

**Half yearly audit** – the Clerk reported that this had been satisfactorily carried out. Mr. Coombs, who was present, was invited to comment. He said that his main concern had been about the Council's decision to repay to the street cleaner the National Insurance contributions that had been wrongly deducted, which he was not sure was allowed, also that he did not have sight of the tables which were used to make the NI calculations. The Clerk said that these could easily be supplied to him and she would do so. Mr. Porter added that he thought the salary calculations should be checked by a second person prior to payment. He offered to do so and this was agreed.

**Mid year statement** – this had been circulated and was noted.

**Overpayment and liability for NI** – the Chairman reported that he had not had a reply from HMRC regarding the over payment of National Insurance and liability for any contributions relating to the previous employment of the Clerk and was now thinking about how this could be resolved, possibly by with-holding due payments in the future.

**E2234**

**CHEQUES AUTHORISED**

S Watts – Clerk’s salary and expenses for October	£416.52
R Dezille – Street Cleaner’s hours	£288.00
HMRC (second quarter)	£590.07
K Burgess (purchase of wildflowers)	£770.88
R Coombs (audit)	£37.50
Taunton Deane DLO – bench maintenance	£444.00

**E2235**

**PERSIMMON UPDATE**

It was reported that Taunton Deane had postponed the meeting of the Planning Committee to consider the reserved matters application that had been planned for the 10<sup>th</sup> November. Work was due to begin on the crossroads at Bishops Hull Road and Wellington Road imminently. The Chairman pointed out that there was a discrepancy in the plans regarding access by cyclists from the Wellington Road, as the ban only applied to motor vehicles. Philip Lowndes had told Cllr Morrell that it might be necessary to issue a new TRO to address this. The main issue was the ‘translocation’ of the hedge bordering Bishop’s Hull Road, which was causing concern to local residents. It was feared that if the hedge was cut back too much it would probably die, but the planners did not appear to be concerned about this.

**E2236**

**PLANNING**

The following applications had been RECEIVED and there were no objections:-

**05/10/027 – Extension of and alterations to conservatory at Hilltop Cottage;**

**05/10/031 – Variation of condition for the addition of Velux windows to the western roof and to introduce a door to the western elevation at Parsonage Farmhouse;**

**05/10/033 – Change of use and installation of 2.4m security fence and agate to provide secure parking from Somerset Accessible Transport at Park and Ride.**

Concerns were raised about development works taking place at Ashwood Timber at Fideoak and the Clerk was asked to find out whether planning permission was in fact required.

**E2237**

**SCC REVIEW OF FUNCTIONS**

A letter had been received from SCC asking whether the Parish Council would like to take over the management of a piece of land at Three Bridges. The Council decided not to.

Cllr Alan Paul was then invited to speak as he had recently attended a Scrutiny meeting at SCC at which discussions about how to manage massive cuts in services had included the proposal to devolve some of the county’s functions to Parish Councils. The cost of these services would then fall on the Parish Council to fund via their precept. As the meeting to set the precept would normally be held in December, Cllr Paul felt he had to raise these issues now, although he had very little information about what was being proposed, or what the costs would be. However, possible suggestions included parking restrictions on residential roads, weed killing and drain clearance, rights of way maintenance, street lighting, the youth service, cutting of grass verges, and bus services.

Councillors had also received a copy of a letter from the Chief Executive of SCC, Sheila Wheeler, in which she invited parish councils and other organisations to take on responsibility for the provision of some services, at their own expense. She said that this

thinking was encapsulated under the banner of the 'Big Society' proposed by the Coalition government. Where local councils were unable to continue to deliver some services, it was suggested that the local community might take over responsibility. With regard to local issues, it was thought that the speed limit reduction at Stonegallows would probably be processed, although Tytherleigh Bridge repairs were scheduled for next year and might be jeopardised. Cllr Paul said that Comeytrove were interested in taking on parking restrictions, and it was possible that the Heron Drive scheme might not progress unless it was funded by this Council.

Members expressed their grave concern at the proposals to devolve services to parishes, which they would need to fund via increased precepts. The Clerk suggested that as the precept did not usually have to be submitted until late January, it would be possible to delay consideration of the budget for 2011/12 until the January meeting, if that helped. At least more information might be available by then about the scale of the cuts, and the costs of taking on some schemes or services.

In response to a question, Cllr Paul thought that some cuts would take effect before the end of the current financial year (i.e. 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011).

#### **E2238 CLERK'S TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

The Chairman reported that progress was being made towards a new contract for the Clerk and he hoped to bring it to the next meeting for members' approval.

#### **E2239 ONGOING AND OUTSTANDING ISSUES**

The Clerk reported progress on the list of issues drawn up at the previous meeting:--

- Parking in 'Birdland' – Cllr Morrell said that the public meeting would now be held on 10<sup>th</sup> November
- Former URC Chapel – Mr. Summers was not present to update
- Tytherleigh Bridge – already reported
- Old footbridge – all available information had now been sent to English Heritage who would now consider our request for listing this bridge. In the meanwhile, urgent repair work was required, for which this Council may have to pay.
- Dog bins – the Clerk was having trouble getting anyone from Taunton Deane to advise her on suitable sites, and it was looking increasingly unlikely that it would be possible to site one near the entrance to Frethey Lane due to the proximity of the houses. The Clerk had also received a request from Mrs. Venn at Stonegallows for a bin to be provided up there. It was decided, in view of the considerable cost of installing and servicing the bins the Parish Council could not justify such expenditure
- Model Standing Orders – the sub-group had met and reviewed them, and they would be circulated to members for any comments before the next meeting;
- SCC general review of speed limits - this had been proposed but as far as anyone knew had not taken place. The Clerk was asked to find out more information.

#### **E2240 GRIT BOXES**

Berry's Coaches had approached the Clerk earlier this year when the snow was really bad about having a grit box installed near the entrance to their business in Cornishway but this had not been referred to the Council. They had now been back to ask whether the Council was prepared to supply a bin. After discussion it was agreed (by 5 votes to 2) to purchase a bin which should be used by all local businesses in that area, and that it would be sited on Berry's' land (as offered). Should SCC not continue with the service responsibility for getting it refilled would lie with the local businesses.

#### **E2241 REPORTS FROM OTHER BODIES**

Frank Bond Centre – it was anticipated that the Centre would suffer, along with other local bodies, from the cuts, and grants would not be forthcoming. The committee was

actively looking at overheads and fundraising. Membership was up, and a very successful art exhibition had been held. New activities were underway, and the intention was to make this a very active centre, primarily, but not exclusively, for the over-50s. LAT – Mr Porter reported that the AGM had been held on 26<sup>th</sup> October. PCSO Simon Parry was continuing his excellent activities for youth and was currently considering becoming involved with the Tall Ships project. Speedwatch was still very active. The old education premises in Gypsy Lane had been taken over by a church organisation and it was possible that youth activities might be based there in future. VEG – the quiz night had not been that well attended, but a small profit had been made. The next event would be carols by the Church on 20<sup>th</sup> December at 6.30 p.m.

**E2242**

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

WEDNESDAY 15<sup>th</sup> December 2010, at 7.30 p.m.

**E2243**

**ITEMS OF REPORT**

**Wild flowers in Community Woodland** – Mr Burgess reported that 1850 flowers and bulbs had been planted and more would be planted in February. He was thanked for his considerable efforts in this enterprise.

**CHAIRMAN**