**Minutes of the Bishampton Annual Parish Meeting held onMonday 14th May 2018 at 7.45pm in the Bishampton and Villages Hall**

**Members present:** Cllr Hodgkins (Chair), Cllrs Davidson, Burnham, Argyle\*\*, Merrett and Tucker\*

**in attendance:** Clerk, C.Cllr Tucker, & 23 members of the public.

\*Arrived at 8.00pm,

\*\*Left meeting at 8.15pm,

1. **Apologies:** Cllrs Beever(W), Blears(H).
2. **Minutes of last year’s Annual Parish Meeting held on 8th May 2017 were approved.**
3. **Report from the Chairman of the Parish Council.**

Cllr Hodgkins welcomed members of the public, and introduced Cllr Davidson and Cllr Burnham.

The clerk qualified in the Certificate of Local Council Administration in January 2018 and the Parish Council have since adopted the General Power of Competence.

1. During last year leaseholders or tenants of Dolphin, Shop and Post Office, and the flat have all changed. Please support the local businesses.
2. No increase in precept content of Council Tax again from the PC held now since 2008!! Worcestershire CC increase only.
3. Solar Powered VAS on order together with larger pole post thanks to SMH Fleet Services Ltd. Traffic is still a major concern, in the last 2 years there have been over 10 accidents on Abberton Rd. A meeting with WCC Highways staff on 14th May was positive with the officer stating he will organise data collection tapes and present a report to the parish council. The creation of a 20mph zone was discussed.
4. Jubilee Walk signs refurbish and updated.
5. Meeting with Andy Tenney Vale Green Energy at Rotherdale Farm update ( Phase 1 of new glasshouse starting Autumn 2018 to be operational by April 2019,it will produce 20 tonnes of tomatoes a day, 365 days a year). It is hoped 130 people will be employed, drivers of vehicles will all be trained, vehicles will all have commercial axles and be governed, internal roads for the Bio-digester are planned visitors are welcome.
6. Monthly ‘Bishampton and Throckmorton Cares’ Coffee morning events take place, held in the Dolphin Inn. Thanks to the Dolphin CIC for their support, all are welcome to attend.
7. Speedwatch is continuing in Bishampton, with 1-1.5% of drivers travelling too fast. Monitoring was not supported by West Mercia Police in Throckmorton due to the average speed of traffic through the village being too high.
8. GDPR, No data will be passed on by members of the council. Training sessions will be attended by councillors and the clerk will issue consent forms and data privacy notices once approved.
9. Surveys have been issued to the parish to gather opinions of parishioners.
10. The accounts for 2017/18 are currently being audited but current account balance is £81,413. This includes reserves for items such as maintenance and legal costs. The figures are declared on a monthly basis and appear on the monthly minutes and annual statement.

Cllr Hodgkins thanked Gordon Kingston, Derek Ruskin, Bev and Brenda Eades, all the litter pick volunteers for their support during the last year. A retiement gift was presented to Mr Donald Cheetham and he was thanked by all present for his commitment to the Parish Council over the last 14 years.

Shorthorn Wood update – Charles Tucker

Wychavon purchased the wood and it was leased to Bishampton and Throckmorton Parish Council for 50 years on 8th December 2018.

The site is for quiet enjoyment of local residents and is used by walkers, dog walkers and horse riders,.

A good group of volunteers have been created and working parties have started. A Management Plan is to be created as per the terms of the lease before December 2018. Monthly activities are planned for volunteers including work parties and nature walks. One of the hedgerows leading the wood has been identified as a high quality habitat for the Brown Hairstreak butterfly. Cllr Tucker thanked Gordon Kingston for his recent assistance.

**4. Report from the County & District Councillor.**

Wychavon District Council did not increase their portion of the council tax, saving funds by merging management posts with Malvern Hills DC.

There have been new appointments at senior management level at Worcestershire County Council following an intense period of change. A separate organisation is planned to run Childrens’ Services work going forward and an extra £10 million has been budgeted for this area.

A press release issued today states that Mr Bruce of Ridgeway Park Farm has been given a sentence of 26 months for the unpermitted waste site in Tilesford. Further action to be taken by the Environment Agency.

The district was ranked third in the ‘Halifax Rural Quality of Life’ survey for 2018, but social mobility causes concern for C.Cllr Tucker.

Changes have been made to the New Homes Bonus system with parish councils having to apply for funding rather than it being allocated each year.

The PACT programme is still in operation and councillors will meet with Officer Paul Brown twice a year. He is supported by 2 PCSOs.

Bottom ash from the Hartlebury incinerator is brought to the Lower Moor site and ferrous metals are removed by contractors twice a year.

5. Presentation from Pershore Volunteer Centre

Cllr Davidson gave a presentation as a trustee of Pershore Volunteer Centre based at Market Place in Pershore. The centre runs the Community Transport Centre with registered drivers assisting over 500 users. The centre relies on grants and donations.

The Centre runs fortnightly luncheon meetings which is a subsidised social activity at the St Andrew’s Community Centre in Pershore.

The centre also helps match organisations with volunteers. The office is open office hours Monday to Friday and more information can be found at [www.pershorevolunteers.org.uk](http://www.pershorevolunteers.org.uk) . Call 01386 554299.

6. Reports from Village Organisations.

Parish Paths Warden - Report to AGM of Parish Council : May 2018

Work across the ROW network continues as in previous years. The Rights of Way Action Group (RAG) volunteers have given sterling service again with stiles, gates, footbridges, way mark and finger posts being been repaired or replaced where time and budget has permitted. The support of Worcestershire County Council’s Countryside Department is much valued with the provision of replacement materials and new metal gates. The sections below follow the pattern of previous years:

1. WCC Countryside Department and Parish Council Liaison.

* 1. Good communication continues with both County and Parish.
  2. The PPW encourages others to use the following link to the WCC interactive ROW map gis.worcestershire.gov.uk/website/Countryside
  3. Due to a very wet winter Badgers Lane and many other ROW have been difficult to use in the past winter.
  4. Two ROW roadside fingerposts were replaced.
  5. All the Jubilee Walk Plaques were replaced by the PC. Repairs/renewals carried out by Rodney Hodgkins, David Miller, Phil Poulter and Bev Eades and walk Leaflet updated by Nicky Merrett. (signage/arrows now being improved). Plans are being discussed for a “Grand Opening”.
  6. The bridleway gates on Jubilee Walk receive constant adjustment to ensure ease of operation. Discussions are ongoing with WCC and the landowner about possible replacement.
  7. All walkers are asked to notify the PPW when waymarking is in need of replacement.
  8. Articles have been provided about the ROW and Strollers in local magazines.

2. Bishampton RAG.

2.1 The Group continues to carry out improvements and repairs.

2.2 Strimming priorities of the ROW near the village, are now being supplemented through PC funding of Smartcut maintenance of more key routes.

2.3 Further strips of “non-slip” surface material have been installed on footbridges.

2.4 The PPW again wishes to put on record thanks for the assistance provided by the RAG.

3. Liaison with Landowners and Walkers

3.1 Most Farmers and landowners around the Parishes continue to be helpful, however more liaison is being attempted! In the main there is great willingness to support the maintenance of the ROW network including on occasion, the removal of stiles/obstructions. Continuing attempts are made to get stiles replaced with gates wherever possible.

3.2 The usual problems remain - particularly ploughing to field margins, over ROW and a few cases of impeding wire.

3.3 Dog fouling of ROW has improved somewhat after some years of publicity from the PC.

3.4 Agreement has been reached to improve accessibility up the very steepest part of Bishampton Bank on the northern edge of the Vale Golf course by installing 12-15 more steps up through the wood.

3.5 Bishampton Strollers and the Tuesday Walking Group continue to operate successfully and offer residents opportunities to walk in the immediate and local countryside with interesting talks on buildings, history and culture.

**K.Gordon Kingston. May 2018.**

Two circular dog walks with only one stile are being created from Bishampton.

**Bishampton Village Hall Report**

**Parish Council AGM 14 May 2018**

The Trustees of Bishampton Village Hall would like to acknowledge and thank the Parish Council for the help and support they have given to us over the last year and would like to add an added appreciation of all the hard work they do for our village especially as in all probability they are more likely to be sorting out problems. But despite this the Parish Council Team remain steadfast, appear to keep calm and continue to support us all. After all, there are a lot of interconnected groups in the village and it is the cooperation and mutual support between us all that confirms what a great job the PCTB do and that Bishampton Village is the place nobody wants to leave, or if they do they come back. And it all stems from the top – so thank you PCTB (this means with respect - Parish Council Team Bishampton.

The Village Hall would like to take the opportunity to announce that we have been successfully awarded £7,284 from The Big Lottery Fund. We are further happy to announce that the money is being used to replace all the lighting within the hall to LED. This work will be carried out during the Spring Bank holiday week by a local contractor that we have used for several years.

We are once again very thankful for the people who administer the Stonelands Trust. We were once again awarded £405 which was originally to be used towards lighting but in due of the award from The Big Lottery Fund, and after discussion with the administrators of the Trust we will now use this money towards the purchase of a projector. We believe, after discussion with users of the hall that a projector will be something that will be useful.

We do however have to report that one of the Trustees will be leaving us. Mark Haynes is stepping down as Treasurer after committing seven years of wonderful work and support to the Village Hall Trustees. We will certainly miss him and have put the word around that we do need a Treasurer. Please come to our AGM on Monday 25th June and if, in the meantime anyone here is interested please ask myself, Chris, Mike or Sue if you would like to come on board as a Trustee.

**Bev Churchill - Chairman**

**THE STONELAND AND VILLAGE HALL CHARITY REPORT FOR BISHAMPTON**

**REPORT OF ACTIVITIES from April 2017 - March 2018**

The Stoneland and Village Hall Charity continues to meet regularly and the current Trustees are Jennie Dickinson, Sue Ellis, Eric Jones, Mike Holden and Sarah Kingston.

Disbursements this year have been made to the Villages Hall of £440 for maintenance and upkeep.

Signed by:

Sue Ellis on behalf of the Trustees of the Stoneland and Village Hall Charity.

10th May 2018

Dolphin Inn CIC- A brief report was given stating an increase in sales of food and drink, an improved till system is enabling informed alterations to the drinks and menu available. New take away menus and bar menu to come soon. WiFi in now in the pub.

Themed nights occur each month as does the parish council’s ‘Bishampton and Throckmorton Cares’ event.

Throckmorton Parish Traffic Group

Clare Elwell reported on the meeting with Kieran Hemstock of Worcestershire County Council Highways Department on 14th May regarding traffic calming at the northern end of Bishampton, through the bends and into Abberton Road. As stated above (3c), a report will be issued but measures such as reinstating bollards, altering signage and cutting back some vegetation were discussed.

7.Open session:

Don Cheetham thanked the Parish Council for his gift.

A question was raised about the repair to damage footways near the building developments in Bishampton, namely the Firs and West of Malvern View. C.Cllr Tucker offered to investigate any obligations that the developers have for such repairs and report back to the Parish Council.

A parishioner asked about the safety of the Abberton turning, Cllr Hodgkins reported on the meeting with k.Hemstock that took place on 14th May regarding Highways issues. The road junction question is not within the parish.

The meeting closed at approx. 8.45 pm.

Signed………………………………………………… …………………………..

Chair Date