

# BISHAMPTON AND THROCKMORTON PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2022 at 7.00pm at The Ockenden Suite, Bishampton Villages Hall

**Present:** Cllrs Boocock (Chair), Hodgkiss, Poulter, Rolls, Tucker and Wood

**In attendance:** County Cllr Boatright, District Cllr Tucker and Carolyn Morris, Clerk

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. He officially expressed condolences on behalf of the Parish Council to Cllr Amoroso for her recent bereavement and best wishes to Cllrs Argyle and Davis, undergoing hospital treatment.

He also welcomed the temporary clerk, standing in to take minutes in the absence of the Parish Clerk

1. **Apologies:** Cllrs Amoroso, Argyle, Davis.

2. **Declarations of Interest:**

- Register of Interests: Councillors are reminded of the need to update their register of interests.
- To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in items on the agenda and their nature. **None**
- To declare any Other Disclosable Interests in items on the agenda and their nature **None**.
- Written requests for the council to grant a dispensation (S33 of the Localism Act 2011). **None**

Adjournment for Public Question Time
No members of the public attended the meeting.

3. **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting on 7th November were proposed as a true and accurate record by Cllr Boocock. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Poulter. All in favour. The Chairman signed the minutes.

4. **District and County Councillors' reports**

County Councillor report:

Cllr Boatright gave the following report:

The highways department (along with the County Council in general) is struggling with finances and Cllr Boatright warned that attention to highways matters was likely to get worse. He expressed his opinion that a lack of investment by incremental council tax rises had seen Worcestershire fall behind in standards in highways and other areas.

Cllr Boatright said that a crisis had also been identified in the administration of emergency care for young people within the care system. He urged anyone experiencing any issues in this area to contact him.

Former MP Peter Luff had send information relating to the airfield and it was proposed that there could be an application to classify the site as an ancient monument, following the excavations by Time Team, revealing Bronze Age settlement. Cllr Boatright asked for this to be an item for the AGENDA for January, so he (Holder of an Archaeology PhD himself!) could gather some research and make a case. Councillors thanked him and agreed.

It was noted that work was happening to improve the footpaths in Green Leys and although the roadway had been requested as a priority, it was decided that, while the road remained on the to do list, to be grateful for small mercies.

It was also noted that the culvert work in Babylon Lane wasn't fully finished and was awaiting a handrail.

District Councillor report:

District Councillor Tucker gave the following report:

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Planning: Re the site at Main Street, Cllr Tucker said that all the planning inspector's objections to the previous application were still relevant to both new applications which have been put forward for the site.

## 5. Finance

- 5.1. The bank reconciliation had been previously circulated and was received and accepted.
- 5.2. The Payments & Receipts list had been previously circulated was received and accepted. Payments were approved (appended to the minutes). Seconded by Cllr Poulter. All in favour.  
It was noted that it was a rare occasion when those with authority to sign off the accounts were away at the same time, and therefore the council unanimously agreed to grant Cllr Davis (previously planned as an extra signatory) and the chairman authority to become signatories so that there would always be enough people to do so (chair to act as signatory in emergency situations).
- 5.3. The draft budget showed a difference in predicted spending vs income of £22,500. The chairman explained that to raise this sum, and break even, would mean a 7% increase in the parish council share of the council tax (from £21,000) – equating to an extra £3.56 per year on a Band D property. While there was concern for increasing the council tax in a time of difficulty, there was also concern that the parish council had costs ahead and was using up and not replacing reserves. It was noted that the item would be on the agenda in January, when the PC would determine the precept, so councillors had time to absorb the figures and decide how much to charge. The budget was approved unanimously in the meantime.
- 5.4. The council voted to approve opening a new Lloyds interest account to house the current Dolphin deposit, as recommended by the PC solicitors.

## 6. Progress Reports – for information and discussion

Item	Description	Responsible
a)	<p><b>Solar Farm meeting</b> – Cllrs Tucker and Wood reported that there had been a positive meeting with solicitors regarding an agreement for spending an annual grant given by the solar farm company for local projects. Cllr Tucker asked the parish council to formally agree to inform the solicitors to say that Bishampton parish should be a main beneficiary of the fund (as it housed the solar farm) but applications should also be considered from Abberton and Church Lench Parish which also bordered/overlooked the site. This was agreed and the solicitor will send a copy of the agreement to the clerk for final agreement.</p> <p>There were several suggestions for spending the income. It was noted that the fund would be for 'enduring' rather than 'transient' benefit.</p> <p>The PC also agreed to set up an advisory committee, comprising councillors and members of the public, specifically to study grant applications and report back to the parish council for a decision.</p> <p>Members thanked the working party for their work.</p>	CT/MD/CW
b)	<p><b>Strimming the verges at Shorthorn Wood</b> - Cllr Tucker obtained a quote from a recommended contractor which was within the budget so it was agreed to proceed as soon as the time was appropriate</p>	CT
c)	<p><b>SWDPR updates</b> – The council noted a PC public meeting planned for Thursday 8th December and all members were encouraged to attend. Cllr Boocock said that a strong case was being compiled by a barrister employed by the group of neighbouring parishes and the meeting would allow the PC to explain this and let people know how they could voice their opinion. Leaflets had been distributed and signs erected around the parish to let people know.</p>	EP

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Item	Description	Responsible
d)	<b>Commemoration of Queen Elizabeth II</b> in Throckmorton and Bishampton. Deferred.	GB/JW
e)	<b>La Serra</b> – draft of communication for approval. Cllr Tucker read a draft of a message to be sent to La Serra as a reminder of the complaints received by residents about smoke nuisance when tomato plants are burned on site. The council approved it and asked for its delivery by a majority vote. Cllr Boocock abstained. Clerk to send.	JW
f)	<b>Green Energy</b> – Possible funding channels – Cllr Rolls was investigating the idea of solar panels on council owned properties which could help reduce energy costs as well as being more environmentally friendly. She reported that there could be a possibility of a parish scheme where a bulk purchase could mean substantial savings (a bit like the parish ‘fuel club’). Councillors thanked her for her work and she agreed to continue looking into the issue. It was suggested that a scheme like this (for the public buildings) might be considered appropriate use for the solar farm grant money. To be added to the next agenda.	DR

## 7. Items for consideration

- 7.1. **Parish Council funding of chainsaw NPTO accredited training courses.** Deferred for discussion at the next meeting.
- 7.2. **To consider the use of CIL finding for 50% of the new Throckmorton VAS sign.** Deferred for discussion at the next meeting.
- 7.3. **Community Bus Scheme.** Cllr Tucker spoke about the proposed ‘dial-a-ride’ type bus scheme being proposed for the area. He asked the parish council to consider pledging a grant. While the members were supportive, they noted that the amount wasn’t in the budget and they did not want to increase costs at a difficult time. After discussion, it was agreed to pledge an amount of £500 and to encourage any neighbouring parishes to do the same. Clerk to Action  
Publicity was considered very important to the success of the scheme, both to inform parishioners of the idea and to encourage people who would use the bus to pledge money as well. Everyone acknowledged it was a particularly difficult time of year for people to donate.
- 7.4. **To consider funding the clerk’s SLCC (Society of Local Council Clerks) annual subscription (£139).** This was agreed.
- 7.5. **To agree meeting dates for next year.** The schedule of meeting dates were agreed, following the usual pattern, apart from:-
  - a) The May meeting To be confirmed following change to guidance resulting from the Coronation bank holiday
  - b) the annual Parish Assemblies which were to be confirmed nearer the time.

## 8. Planning

The following new planning applications were considered.

- 8.1. 3 Self Builds – Land off Main Street 22/02070/OUT  
It was noted that this is an additional application relating to the same piece of land. The PC agreed that the comments relating to the failed planning appeal, and bungalow application were just the same and should be repeated

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### 8.2. The Cottages – Broad Lane 22/01902/HP & 22/01902/LB

The council agreed to object to the Broad Lane plan, in line with objections by the county conservation officer.

### 8.3. Land at Pershore Airfield 21/02478/CU

There was no objection to the amendment relating to a change of use of land at on the airfield.

	Reference	Description	Comment
NEW	22/02070/OUT	Land At (Os 9890 5087), Main Street, Bishampton - Outline application for up to 3 self-build homes. All matters reserved except for access.	Comments by 8th December
NEW	22/01902/HP & 22/01902/LB	The Cottages, Broad Lane, Bishampton - Proposed rear link extension, extension to existing annex/garaging and construction of a new porch	Comments due by 6th December
Amendment	21/02478/CU	Land at (OS9710 4907) Pershore Airfield, Long Lane – Due to revised information being received the registration date of this application has been restarted.	No Objection

### 8.2 - The following decision notices were noted:

Decision	Reference	Description	Comment
Approved	W/22/01142/LB	Orchard Cottage, Main Street, Replacement of 5 windows and one double door (glazed)	No Comment
Approved	22/01975/FUL	Church Farmhouse, Long Lane, Throckmorton - External cladding of existing agricultural buildings	No Objection

### Progress Reports: Properties

Item	Description	Responsible
9.1	Dolphin	
	(i) Ongoing maintenance issues: CO detector being checked - Fire alarm sensor and Wiring in loft – electrician completed.	GB/JW
	(ii) To discuss and agree deposit refund to previous tenants:- It was noted that while some small matters relating to the deposit were waived, a deep clean of the pub for the new tenants cost £400, which should be funded from the deposit and the remaining returned.	GB

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iii) It was noted that the new lease was due to be finalised and signed this week to allow the new tenant to move in fully at the weekend. Everyone was heartily thanked for all their hard work.

- 9.2 Shop  
Councillors were extremely pleased to note that electrical work at the shop had been completed.

## **10. Correspondence for Information** (circulated prior to the meeting).

The list of correspondence was noted. Items included a concern about the footpath to the village hall but it was reported that some repairs had already taken place. A person had written to request bike racks at the pub. It was noted that this was something to discuss with the new landlords and Cllr Boatright kindly said he would help to pay for a cycle rack with part of his council allowance if a suitable agreement/type of equipment could be found. (For next agenda)

## **11. Clerk's report:**

Cllr Boocock announced that the Parish Council had been awarded the Local Government Foundation Award in recognition of its good practice as a parish council. He thanked the clerk for her hard work and support and said that as well as the recognition of the council's work, the award could give the PC discounts on subscriptions etc.

## **12. Councillors' reports and items for future agenda:**

Cllr Hodgkiss reported that he was conducting research and measurements into the size of vehicles using Long Lane. There were no separate items suggested for the next agenda, which hadn't already been covered.

## **13. Date of next meeting: -**

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on: Monday 9th January, in The Parish Room, Throckmorton, at 7.00pm

The meeting closed at 21:40

Carolyn Morris  
Acting Clerk

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## Bishampton & Throckmorton Parish Council - December Payments and November Receipts

Bank Balances as at 30/11/22	Amount	Interest
Lloyds Deposit	14,056.38	1.50
Lloyds Current (01289157)	50,293.82	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>64,350.20</b>	

Gross Income (Nov)		
6,500.00	4.11.22	Dolphin Deposit (Ounce)
30.80	9.11.22	Johnsons - Housemartins
409.69	9.11.22	HMRC - VAT refund
180.00	15.11.22	Worcs CC - Lengthsman
300.00	16.11.22	Shop rent
321.20	24.11.22	Wyre Piddle PC - contribution towards legal counsel and SWDPR leaflets
321.20	24.11.22	Hill & Moor PC contribution towards legal couns eland SWDPR leaflets
562.80	30.11.22	Johnsons
<b>£8,625.69</b>		<b>Total</b>

Authority to pay	Description	Nett Amount	VAT	Total	Cost code	Invoice No
J White	Salary (includes pay rise backdated to April 1st 2022)	1055.04	0.00	1055.04	1	n/a
HMRC	National Insurance	0.96	0.00	0.96	1a	n/a
J White	monthly allowance	17.50	0.00	17.50	2	n/a
J White	mileage (Nov)	32.40	0.00	32.40	2	n/a
J White expenses	Postage and envelope to return postage to Gina and car parking for solicitor visit	3.98	0.07	4.05	2	n/a
J White - reimburse	5 reams of paper and laminating pouches	38.47	7.00	45.47	2	n/a
C Morris	Acting Clerk for December meeting	65.16	0.00	65.16	1	n/a
G & M Driver	Refundable deposit for Dolphin	tbc	0.00	tbc	99	n/a
S Knox	Electrician - Dolphin work	175.00	0.00	175.00		4309
S Knox	Electrician - Bish Stores work	785.00	0.00	785.00		4308
Cllr Boocock	Car parking for 2x solicitor visits	4.00	0.00	4.00	9	n/a
PWLB	Shop loan repayment	5299.28	0.00	5299.28	20	DD
Smartcut	grounds maintenance	266.25	53.25	319.50	25	18864
Smartcut	1 x Christmas Tree (1 donated)	90.00	18.00	108.00	9	18917
Carl Brassington	Lengthsman Duties	225.00	0.00	225.00	31	n/a
Throckmorton Parish Room	Room Hire 2022	60.00	0.00	60.00	6	030/22
Ounce Bar & Kitchen	Deep clean of Dolphin kitchen	400.00	80.00	480.00	24	44866
Ionos	webhosting	7.00	1.40	8.40	9	DD
Ionos	website content management	7.00	1.40	8.40	9	DD
		<b>8,532.04</b>	<b>161.12</b>	<b>8,693.16</b>		