

BISHAMPTON & THROCKMORTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Bishampton Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 20th March 2023

There were 21 members of the public present, including District Councillor Tucker, County Councillor Boatright, Parish Councillors Boocock (Chair), Davies, Rolls, Tucker, Wood

In attendance: Julie White, Parish Clerk taking the minutes.

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Annual Parish meeting for Bishampton. He also offered apologies that the meeting is a little earlier than usual and thanked everyone for turning out. The timing is due to the forthcoming local and parish elections, which introduce some slight restrictions on the council.

The Chair reminded everyone that whilst the Parish Council is hosting the meeting, it is not a council meeting but a meeting for parishioners to raise, discuss and share views, thoughts and ideas concerning our village, our community and environment and to ask questions or make suggestions to the council team about any improvements that can be made.

The Chairman then pointed out the parish council members and District Councillor Tucker, County Councillor Boatright and Julie White, Parish Clerk.

Apologies were received from Eric Jones, Pat Smith, Sue Ellis, Liz Poulter, Fil Amoroso, Malcolm Argyle and PC Martin Kennedy.

2. To Approve the minutes of the Bishampton 2022 Annual Parish Meeting

The draft minutes were on the website and copies of the minutes were distributed around the room. Everyone was in favour of the minutes being signed as a true and accurate record.

3. Chairman's Report – A review of the past year -key themes

- *PERSONNEL – we welcomed our new clerk at the start of the year and Julie is now doing an exemplary job running the day-to-day business of the council. We also brought the council numbers back up to full quota welcoming Cllr Deborah Rolls to the team.*
- *GRANTS AND DONATIONS - those made this year include those for: -*

- *The History Society*
- *Bishampton Tiddlers for updated play equipment*
- *Gardening Club for jubilee planting and funding for new planters*
- *The Bish, Bosh Bash committee toward this year's event*

... and normal Christmas and similar events.

- *PLANNING has been a busy area, and with Wychavon not achieving their 5-year land supply – developers are pushing to challenge the normal planning rules. Despite this we have had some success in opposing several inappropriate proposals, including for land off Main Street and land off Broad Lane.*
- *The final consultation on the SWDPR and Throckmorton New Town saw the Parish council again working closely with neighbouring parishes – finally producing a thorough 43-page report highly critical of the Throckmorton proposals. Like other groups in staunch opposition – we now*

await the formal legal review by the Planning Inspectorate who will decide the soundness or otherwise of the plans.

- *TENANCIES - We had hoped for a quieter year for the tenancies but with Gina and Marc resigning the Dolphin lease less than halfway to term, and the 11th hour withdrawal of our first selected replacement, this proved not to be the case.*

After losing almost two months and with the hospitality sector facing massive new challenges – we faced the very real prospect of long-term closure of the Dolphin and being unable to meet our loan commitments. At this point we were approached by the Ounce team – and were delighted to ultimately agree terms which enabled them to get the pub open again in time for Christmas.

- *FINANCE - With loss of rents and costs of changing tenancies, financially the year has been difficult – and with rising costs we have again had to make a small increase to the precept – despite only setting a break-even budget. We hate to increase the load on households but realistically have no other option.*
- *COMMUNICATIONS, We continue to build our communications, provisions Website, Social Media, Newsletters, Noticeboards and community Views boxes and recently our information provision has been rewarded with the LGA FOUNDATION level Award.*

Some other Work in progress items include:

- *The Community bus project – currently seeking further pledges toward our target*
- *New residents “Welcome Packs” for people moving into the villages*
- *Further work at the Nature reserve – including over 100 new saplings being provided through the National Forest -*
- *A new beneficial relationship with Pershore College for the management and improvement of Shorthorn Wood*

I can't end without expressing our collective thanks to the many people who contribute both to council and community:

- *The council team, your councillors who volunteer their time and energies*
- *Our clerk who tirelessly runs the day-to-day business of the council and keeps us all informed and in order*
- *Our Lengthsman*
- *Our DISTRICT and COUNTY councillors for their support of the parishes,*

But I would also like to thank the many volunteers who support our facilities and amenities,

- *Our footpaths warden Phil Poulter and his team,*
- *The teams here at the Villages Hall and at Throckmorton Parish rooms,*
- *all those who lead and contribute to organisations, clubs and societies,*

and also to the many who contribute by supporting others and simply being good neighbours and friends.

Village life is something to be treasured - especially in these challenging times so on everyone's behalf a big and sincere thank you to everyone who contributes to it.

Thank you!

4. Brief Reports from the County and District Councillor

County Councillor Boatright gave the following report:

- The County Council have raised their portion of council tax by 4.94%.
- Potholes have been particularly bad due to weather conditions. The Council have opted to patch the holes this winter and they will be fixed properly once the weather is drier.
- A new autism school is to be built to take the pressure off mainstream schools.
- Residents are allowed to place bunting across the road and fix it to County Council infrastructure for the Coronation celebrations, but the bunting must be at least 5m above the height of the road surface.

The County Councillor was thanked for the removal of the fence on the cycle path opposite Travis Perkins.

District Councillor Tucker gave the following report:

- Councillor Tucker spoke about planning saying that there have been 23 planning applications, some of which have been controversial. The Planning Department is now shared with Malvern Hills District Council who are running it and they don't have as much local understanding as there was before the merger. Also, there are regular changes of personnel which is concerning.
- Cllr Tucker spoke about the SWDPR and commended the work of the joint parish councils. The consultation finished at the end of December and the responses are still being worked through to categorise the comments. The earliest that it will be submitted to the inspector is going to be May.
- The lack of a 5-year land supply has made it easier for developers to get planning applications passed.
- Wychavon District Council will not increase its portion of Council Tax for the 6th year running.

5. Parish Paths Warden's Report:

Phil Poulter read out the following report:

The footpath volunteer group has continued to clear vegetation from around stiles, gates and gaps throughout the year. There are some issues with regard to farmers/landowners not reinstating footpaths after cultivation practices resulting in some rights of way being partially blocked or difficult to navigate. WCC Countryside Services are aware of these problems and did say they would be 'running a bit of a campaign on this sort of thing this year' and I know they have contacted one of the land agents involved. We are still waiting for the replacement finger waymarker posts in Throckmorton and opposite The Larches on Hill Furze Road. The gate opposite The Larches giving access to the footpath (BP598) towards Throckmorton cannot be opened; this has been logged on WCC website. (The proposed solar panel installation on Larches land will not impede this footpath.) The Parish Footpath Noticeboard which was a casualty of last year's winter storms has now been re-erected. An old ditch crossing has been replaced on BP-543, which crosses the solar farm to the east of Badgers' Walk, the new bridge being 90cm wide rather than the usual 60cm. A second ditch crossing on BP-516, the northern perimeter of the solar farm, has also been widened to 90cm. These 2 wider ditch crossings will enable these paths to be wheelchair accessible in the future. Thanks to Robert and Linda Tarver for their support in storage and transport of materials for these 2 jobs and John Mujinga from Infinis for his support with re-alignment of BP-543. The ditch crossing on BP-514, the path towards Rous Lench, had to be re-seated after it was lifted in the January floods. Additionally a gate was re-positioned on the footbridge which leads off BP514 towards Abberton. Following the barn fire at Nightingale Farm in December 2021 the footpath across the farmyard was blocked until the new barn had been constructed in 2022. Footpaths BP-532 and 533 which go south from Babylon Lane behind Nightingale Fields, across the farmyard and behind the houses south of Nightingale Farm have now been made more accessible by clearing vegetation and putting up new waymarker signs. It is possible to circumnavigate the village from several starting points 'off road' except for the stretch from the end of Gunnings Lane to

the corner of Abberton Road. These activities that keep our footpath network open can only happen with the support of the volunteers who regularly help me, so thank you Bob T, John G, Russ J and Tim C. Finally thank you to various people who have reported issues they come across during their walks around the parish. Please contact me directly or via Julie White, clerk to the Parish Council.

6. Reports from Bishampton organisations

Reports were received from the following organisations. All reports are appended to these minutes.

- **Bishampton and Village Hall Trust (BATVHT).** Bev Churchill, Chair of BATVHT, read out a report.
- **Police SNT.** Submitted by PC Kennedy and read out by The Clerk
- **Bishampton Village Store.** Submitted by Paul Blackburn and read out by The Clerk
- **Throckmorton Parish Rooms** submitted by Peter Chatterton
- **Neighbourhood Watch** submitted by Clare Elwell
- **Bishampton Relief in Need Charity (BRINC)** submitted by Eric Jones
- **Stoneland Charity** submitted by Sue Ellis
- **Community Speedwatch** submitted by Clare Elwell

7. Open Session

A resident commented that she thinks that Ounce@The Dolphin are doing a brilliant job. She asked if the Parish Council would consider putting a sturdier roof on the area at the back to turn it into an orangery. Chairman Boocock said that this is something that the Ounce team would have to speak to the Parish Council about, but in principle there would be no objection providing that funding or grants were available.

A resident asked if the Parish Council thinks that turning the pub into a steakhouse was beneficial to the community? The Chair pointed out that Ounce are the tenants and they were made aware from the outset that The Dolphin is a community pub though legally as landlords, the council have limited influence over the running of the business, provided that they operate within the terms of the tenancy agreement. Importantly the Pub is open again and the council can meet the loan repayments.

A resident said that whilst people miss the quiz and the coffee mornings at The Dolphin, the pub is always busy now and was not previously supported sufficiently by the village and he is supportive of Ounce.

The Chairman pointed out that the Parish Council is hoping to speak to The Manager at The Dolphin about reinstating the coffee mornings and asked people to remember that they have only been at The Dolphin for a few months so are still getting established.

A resident reminded villagers that the original rentals were intended to make the properties self-supporting with payments covering the loans without contribution from the precept. Once the loans are paid off the parish council will have a good income stream and the properties will become an asset of the village. People who only used the pub previously for a couple of drinks a week did not make it viable, and everyone should consider themselves lucky that there is a successful tenant there. A resident agreed that the business is successful and can run it as they see fit, but they will only do what fits with their brand. He would be hesitant of funds going to extend the pub.

A resident asked when the new phone mast is likely to be installed? It was queried if the land is not suitable and it was queried if it could be sited at the village hall and therefore generate an income stream. The Clerk was asked to make enquiries about what's happening.

A resident referred to last year's minutes regarding the rules requiring 3 quotes from contractors. The Chair said that the Financial Regulations were subsequently amended so that multiple quotes are no longer always necessary.

The Chair read out an email from a resident which asked if the solar farm could put solar panels on the pub and the shop. He had responded to the email pointing out that the question had been asked, but the company that are used to install the panels do not work on roof mounted solar schemes, but it was noted that once the income from the solar farm reaches the community, it could be used to fund solar panels if we wished. The Chair had also pointed out that the Parish Council had not supported the solar farm planning application as the resident suggested in the email. The way that the funding from the solar farm is expected to be managed was explained.

It was queried from last year's minutes, what the outcome was in identifying the series of holes in the road surface of Broad Lane which had been excavated and then filled in. The chair said that they had been identified as core samples and he would dig out the explanation and put it on the website.

Chairman Graham Boocock then asked for a show of hands on the following:

Who looks at the Facebook site? Most people put their hands up.

Who looks at the PC website? Over 50% said that they did.

Who looks at the Planning Log which is on the PC website? – 0% (although there was confusion over the PC's planning log and the Wychavon planning log)

Who looks at the VAS data? – 0%

Who looks at the events calendar? – 0%

How many look at the newsletter which is distributed to each household? – 100%

The Chairman asked people to consider what else they would find useful on the PC website and to let him know.

The Chairman thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting at 20.22

Signed

.....
Chair

.....
Date

March 2023:

In March we have seen a slight increase in business burglary's/thefts, the solar farm off Broad Lane Bishampton has been targeted 4 times between the 6th -8th March. The suspects are targeting the cables at the back of the solar panels. Our rural crimes team has been in contact with the victims and completed site visits, I have emailed all our local response officer's to make them aware and the incidents were added to our local briefing page. I have also sent out a NHM bulletin around these incidents and continue to patrol the area in the evenings.

February seems to be a fairly normal month with general crimes been recorded. 18 crimes in total for the entire month reported in Pinvin, Wyre Piddle, Lower Moor, Throckmorton and Bishampton. No real patterns or spikes to report.

January: Again this month seems to be a fairly normal with no major patters or spikes in crimes. There were 16 crimes recorded across Pinvin, Wyre Piddle, Lower Moor, Throckmorton and Bishampton. Four theft's from motor vehicle's but they were spread out over Pinvin and Wyre piddle.

Local intelligence: We believe that local offenders are using the roads around Throckmorton and Bishampton as a cut through to avoid ANPR camera's over the last 4 months we have recovered 3 stolen cars in the area.

We have had a series of criminal damages in the surrounding villages involving catapults and ball bearing, due to the locations and distance's travelled it maybe that the suspects are using a vehicle/s. We are asking all residents to be vigilant and report and suspicious activity.

Over the next few months we are going to start using Neighbourhood Matters as our main way of communicating with the community. We will still be using other social media but NHM allows us to be more targeted In our communications, to speak to residents confidentially and for them to respond impartially without anyone seeing their responses. We will also be using the platform to complete surveys, crime prevention advise and advertise any events or surgeries we have organised. If we could try and push / advertise NHM in the local community that would be a great support to us.

Again I'm very sorry for not being there in person this evening,

Martin

PC 21151 Martin KENNEDY

Police Officer | Evesham SNT Town South and Rural west | West Mercia Police

Evesham Police station, Abbey Road, Evesham, Worcestershire, WR11 4SS

Mobile:07811 973548 **Ext.** 7744119

Parish Path Warden's Report for Bishampton and Throckmorton Parish, March/April 2023 from Phillip Poulter.

The footpath volunteer group have continued to clear vegetation from around stiles, gates and gaps throughout the year.

There are some issues with regard to farmers/landowners not reinstating footpaths after cultivation practices resulting in some rights of way being partially blocked or difficult to navigate. WCC Countryside Services are aware of these problems and did say they would be 'running a bit of a campaign on this sort of thing this year' and I know they have contacted one of the land agents involved.

We are still waiting for the replacement finger waymarker posts in Throckmorton and opposite

The Larches on Hill Furze Road. The gate opposite The Larches giving access to the footpath (BP598) towards Throckmorton cannot be opened; this has been logged on WCC website. (The proposed solar panel installation on Larches land will not impede this footpath.)

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THE STONELAND AND VILLAGE HALL CHARITY

The Trustees of the Stoneland and Village Hall Charity continue to meet regularly. A disbursement this year has been given to the Villages Hall of £500 to help with the purchase of external CCTV.

Signed by: *Susan Ellis*

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

Bishampton & Throckmorton Neighbourhood Watch

The official website for neighbourhood watch is 'Our watch'

- Members can log on to www.ourwatch.org.uk click **join us** and search using their postcode. Select **Bishampton & Throckmorton** and complete the joining details.
- Facebook users can also search to follow Bishampton & Throckmorton NW for alerts.
- Villagers also have the option of joining a WhatsApp group by texting or calling 07947017183 to be added or email: bishamptonnw@gmail.com
- In an emergency or crime in progress always use 999
- Otherwise use 101 or report online <https://www.westmercia.police.uk/ro/report/>
- You can report a crime, a road traffic incident, domestic abuse, a missing person, antisocial behaviour, fraud bribery or corruption, lost/stolen vehicles, lost found property, civil disputes, war crime and hate crime 24/7 via this method.
- To upload dash camera footage search online West Mercia operation snap or use : <https://www.westmercia.police.uk//police-forces/west-mercia-police/areas/west-mercia/campaigns/campaigns/2019/operation-snap/>

Throckmorton Parish Room for the year ending 31st Dec 2022

We had eighty bookings throughout the year in 2022, 30% of those were people or groups outside of the local area which included Bands for rehearsals, Cycling clubs, Businesses' that work from home and use the room for meetings, and first aid courses. Most of the other were local fitness classes, committee meetings and Birthday parties.

The income from letting was £1824 and the cost of upkeep of the Hall was £2,114 giving us a loss of £290. The hire cost has been £8 per hour ever since The hall opening, but we have increased this to £10 per hour, from January 1st 2023 due to the massive increase in electricity cost, where our 2022 electricity cost was £580 for the year, based on our new tariff for 2023 using the same usage as in 2022 this would be £1,850 a 340% increase. I have been Monitoring the usage over February and March when we have had high usage users and it looks ok, but will keep a check where possible for the coming months.

The only maintenance in 2022 was replacing the outside light by the front door, although there is a problem with at least one fluorescent lamp in the Hall, but as they are no longer being made we will have to look at replacement with LEDS and because some are maintained lamps with will be expensive.

Work for this year will be re painting the exterior.

Peter Chatterton

Bishampton Relief in Need Charity.
Report for the Year 31 Mar 2022– 30 Mar 2023
Presented at the Annual Parish Meeting on Monday 20th March
2023

The Bishampton Relief in Need Charity operates in accordance with the provisions of the Charities Act, 1960. The object of the Charity is to relieve either generally or individually persons who are resident in the Parish of Bishampton who are in conditions of need, hardship or distress. The Charity is administered by five trustees. There is one ex-officio trustee who is currently the Rev Canon Sarah Dangerfield, two nominative trustees (nominated by the Parish Council), and two co-optative trustees (co-opted by the other trustees).

Presently, the trustees are:

Rev Sarah Dangerfield	01386861669
Mrs Mary Averis	01386462323
Mrs Janis Hodgkins	01386462430
Mr Eric Jones	01386462265
Mrs Elizabeth Kelly	01386463593

Mr Jones and Mrs Hodgkins are nominative trustees and Mrs Averis and Mrs Kelly are co-optative trustees. The nominative trustees serve for a period of four years and the co-optative trustees serve for five years.

The trustees are able to make grants of money or to provide or pay for items, services or facilities calculated to reduce the need, hardship or distress of such persons as qualify. This may be done by way of donations or subscriptions to institutions or organisations which provide or which undertake in return to provide such items, services or facilities for such persons. The trustees may not apply any part of the income directly in relief of **rates, taxes or other public funds**.

All proceedings of the Charity remain strictly confidential. It is open to anyone who qualifies to apply to the trustees for assistance. The Charity's income is derived from the letting of land in Broad Lane which is held by the Charity. It is currently let as paddocks. The letting of the property is done for us by Fisher German through the very kind assistance of Mr Christian Sanders. Once again, the trustees are most grateful for the help and assistance they receive from Fisher German and Mr Christian Sanders in managing the leases of the property for us.

As was the case last year, there have been no requests for assistance from the Charity.

In order to do its work, the BRINC trustees need to know if anyone in the village is in need of help. If anyone should know of a villager who may be in need of help in such circumstances as are described in the charitable purposes of this deed, they should contact any one of the trustees who can bring it to the body of trustees for consideration so that if we are able to help, we can do so. All matters are considered with the utmost discretion and remain strictly confidential.

Eric Jones
Correspondent for the Bishampton Relief in Need Charity

Report for Bishampton, Abberton and Throckmorton Villages Hall Trust

BATVHT held their AGM on Monday 7th March. Business was duly concluded with the re-election of eight of the nine previous Trustees thereby aiding us in continuity, team work, mutual support and cooperation between ourselves, the Parish Council and the rest of our community. We are all volunteers who take on this responsibility which at times can be quite a mind field, for example, Health and Safety Law, Insurance, Liability etc, but we do it for the benefit of the community. Our main aim is to focus on a Village Hall that is welcoming and provides a local facility for us all to use and enjoy. However at the time of writing the roles of the newly elected Trustees are in discussion.

During last year we had reports of vandalism in the play areas. With consultation with the Parish Council CCTV was installed to try and discourage anti-social behaviour. We are grateful to the PC for money towards this and to the Stonelands Trust who also donated. We also had an unexpected reduction in our insurance premium due to this added security measure.

The hall floor has been a major cause for concern. The work, as most of you are aware, did not go according to plan. The company involved came back several times to try and rectify the problems and are still due to return again. Thank you everyone for your patience and understanding.

This coming year we already have some plans. Live and Local productions, Mikron, Movie nights and lots more. Look out for other hirers events such as the fete by Bish Bash Bosh. Look out for our clubs events and to see what classes are here. There is something for everyone.

This year we will be having new carpet on the stairs and in the front entrance area. This should look particularly welcoming.

Unfortunately we do have a major problem with Ash Dieback in the grounds of the village hall. Five Ash trees will have to be taken down and also the poplar tree will be pollarded. The costs for this will be around £5,000.

All in all the running costs for 2023 will be high with the above projects and the rise in the running costs of the hall the Treasurer will be keeping a firm eye on the accounts.

With the 2023 budget in mind there is little room to be complacent. We need the hall to be used. Funds from events and funds from it being hired out is what keeps the hall going financially. Please support us. As the VH committee is small we need help. If you can organize a one off event, have an idea about a club or need to hold a 'bit of a do' then please contact us. We are reluctant to put up the hire rates. But if we have to we will have not alternative but to do so.

I would like to thank all the members of the Parish Council for all their hard work and especially Liz who has been our liaison between us.

A special Thank You to the Village Hall Committee. You are a great team and as the song says 'we will survive'.

Bev Churchill
Chair of BATVHT

Bishampton Village Store Report March 2023

The last year has seen a reduction in turnover after easing out of lockdown , particularly with the Royal Mail strikes which affected us at the most important time of year in the Post Office.

Generally speaking the shop, cafe and Post office are well used and in order to promote that usage we have recently adopted new suppliers that give us access to a wider range of products than we've had in my 3 years here (ps. This is pretty much my 3rd anniversary now!)

I want to thank all those who continue to use us no matter how little they purchase. I would also like to thank the Parish Council for their support this year in particular.

There are challenges ahead with inflation, shortage of supplies and changes to banking and mail. I feel that Bishampton Village Store can ride this with the support of the village and those in the surrounding area.