

## BISHAMPTON AND THROCKMORTON PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December at 7.00pm held in The Parish Room, Throckmorton

**Present:** Cllrs Boocock (Chair), Davis, Giel, Hodgkiss, Tucker and Wallace

**In attendance:** County Cllr Boatright, District Cllr Tucker and Julie White, Clerk

The chairman opened the meeting.

**1. Apologies:** Apologies were received from Cllrs Amoroso and Rolls

#### **2. Declarations of Interest:**

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

#### Adjournment for Public Question Time

There were 2 members of the public present. The meeting was adjourned whilst members of the public addressed the Parish Council about the following:

- Paul Blackburn, the current shop tenant, asked the Parish Council if they could aim for a handover date for the shop of 22<sup>nd</sup> January. The Chairman confirmed that the Parish Council cannot commit to this proposed date.
- A resident made the following comments:
  - (i) The Throckmorton Christmas tree has been delivered, but due to persistent rain, the installation of the lights has been delayed.
  - (ii) The flail cutting of the visibility fence is not on the agenda. Cllr Tucker confirmed that he has been unable to get hold of Steve Smith. Once a price is obtained, the item will be back on the agenda.
  - (iii) Regarding the visibility fence in Throckmorton - the land between the 2 fences is in the worst state it has ever been. The resident requested that Highways take action against the landowner.

**3. Minutes:** It was proposed by Cllr Boocock and seconded by Cllr Wallace that the minutes of the meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> November were a true and accurate record. All in favour. The Chairman signed the minutes.

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

##### *County Councillor report:*

Cllr Boatright confirmed that the winter conditions are proving challenging, with saturation levels beyond the norm resulting in road closures. He emphasised the importance of adhering to road closure signs and exercising common sense. The fire service has been very busy rescuing vehicles stranded in fords, underlining the need for caution during these adverse weather conditions. Cllr Boatright confirmed that a multi-agency committee is being formed.

In response to road closure signs on Long Lane being left for 7 days despite the road being passable, Councillor Boatright recommended the use of One.Network as a helpful tool to track the locations where utility companies are working. If unauthorised signage is left in place, companies can face fines. Residents are encouraged to report such incidents to Highways, and

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a dedicated link for reporting can be found on BaTPC.org.uk

### *District Councillor report:*

- **Planning** – Cllr Tucker outlined the current applications for consideration at tonight's meeting but didn't feel that they are contentious. Re the outstanding application W/22/02070/OUT - outline application for 3 self-build dwellings at Land at (OS9890 5087) Main Street – there is no update.
- **Affordable Housing** – There has been a debate re the backlog of affordable housing. Wychavon District Council has allocated funds in the next budget to try and alleviate the issue. With a waiting list of over 3000 consisting mainly of older people looking to downsize, if there were more houses available this would free up larger properties.
- **SWDPR** – a meeting of the 4 parishes recently took place. The examination hearings are expected to start in February.

### 5. Progress Reports for Information and Discussion

- 5.1. **Update on community bus service** The Clerk has been in touch with Madeleine Sumner of Worcestershire County Council via email and she has offered to meet with representatives of the Parish Council. It was agreed that the Clerk should try and set up a meeting in the new year.

### 6. Items for consideration/approval

- 6.1. **To consider appointing Eddie Rolls as Tree Officer** - It was agreed that Eddie Rolls has the full support of the Council to take on this role and therefore it was proposed by Cllr Tucker and seconded by Cllr Boocock that Eddie Rolls is appointed as the PC's Tree Officer. All in favour.
- 6.2. **To approve siting a memorial bench in the Nature Reserve for Fausto Amoroso** – A short discussion took place. It was noted how much Fausto had done, not only for the Nature Reserve but for Bishampton in general. The Chairman proposed that The Worcestershire Wildlife Trust installs the bench at no cost to the Parish Council as per the details previously circulated. Seconded by Cllr Hodgkiss. All in favour.
- 6.3. **To consider adding Footpath 557b to the grass cutting contract** – It was noted that there would be a cost of £30 plus VAT per cut to cut this footpath which would have quite a financial impact. Before committing funds, the Clerk was tasked with speaking to the Footpaths Warden to assess the footpath's usage, and the Chairman said that he would personally inspect the footpath.
- 6.4. **To consider a quote for jet washing and repairing block paving in the play area** – The Chairman stated that the responsibility of the block paved area needs clarifying before this item can be progressed.
- 6.5. **To consider options for Public Consultation regarding a proposal to sell the flat and reduce the PWLB loan obligations** - Councillor Boocock said that both he and the Clerk believe it would be prudent to delay any action on this matter until after Christmas for the best public response. The Chairman sought the Council's input on the preferred method for conducting the consultation - whether through a public meeting or a vote. The logistics, such as the process of voting and its monitoring, were deliberated. The Clerk was tasked with asking Wychavon District Council of potential costs associated with conducting a Parish Poll. To be discussed at the next meeting.
- 6.6. **To approve 2024 meeting dates** – The dates for the Parish Council meetings had been previously circulated and Cllr Hodgkiss proposed that these dates are accepted. The dates for the Parish Assemblies are still to be finalised.
- 6.7. **To consider if there are any objections from the PC for the Pinvin Road Cycle Race to be held on March 24<sup>th</sup> 2024** – after discussion it was agreed that the Parish Council would not raise any objections to this race but would ask that the outriders are appropriately briefed on the nature of the country lanes. All in favour.

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### 7. Planning

7.1. To consider the following **planning applications**:

Application	Address	Proposal	PC's Comments
<b>W/23/01895/CU</b>	Land at (OS9830 4901) Throckmorton Road	Retrospective Change of Use from Amenity to Sui Generis (to include the retention of containers, used in association with Throckmorton Gun Club)	<b>No Objection</b>
<b>Appeals - W/22/01901/HP &amp; W/22/01902/LB</b>	The Cottages, Broad Lane, Bishampton	Proposed rear link extension, extensions to existing annex/garaging and construction of new porch – Planning Inspectorate Refs: <b>APP/H1840/Y/23/3327533 and 3327534</b>	The PC's original objections will automatically be forwarded to the Planning Inspector. It was agreed that no further comments are necessary. <b>No further action</b>
<b>W/23/02369/HP</b>	Kirrin House 2 Nightingale Fields, Bishampton	Erection of single-storey rear extension.	<b>No Objection</b>

7.2. No planning decisions had been received.

### 8. Properties

- 8.1. **Housemartins mould issue** - The 3 quotes have been circulated and considering the high costs, the Chairman suggested an alternative approach. He has previously used a product which proved to be effective, and he offered to visit the property and apply the treatment using a telescopic pole. Alternatively, the tenants may wish to handle the treatment themselves if the materials are supplied to them. If the product doesn't prove to be successful, then the PC will reconsider. Cllr Boocock proposed that the suggested course of action is implemented. All in favour. Cllr Boocock will speak to the tenants and purchase the required materials.
- 8.2. **Housemartins boiler** – Cllr Hodgkiss said that a winter mix oil should be available from the oil supplier. However, if the supplier doesn't provide this the additive is available at suppliers such as Screwfix. Cllr Hodgkiss to send a link and further information to the Clerk to pass to the tenants.
- 8.3. **The Dolphin outbuilding crack** – The work seems to be progressing well and it is expected that it will be finished soon. The Clerk will advise when any updates are received.

### 9. Finance

- 9.1. The bank reconciliation for November was received and approved.
- 9.2. The list of November receipts and current payments had been previously circulated. Cllr Boocock proposed that the payments on the list were approved (appended to the minutes). Seconded by Cllr Davis. All in favour.  
  
SWDPR – The Chairman outlined the revised time frame for the SWDP review. It is anticipated that a legal representative, possibly a barrister, will probably be required to present the case. The estimated cost for all Parish Councils involved is approximately £10,000, resulting in a share of £4,000 for Bishampton & Throckmorton Parish Council. Councillor Tucker proposed a commitment of funds up to £4,000, seconded by Councillor Boocock. All were in favour of this proposal.

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The preference is for the release of these funds to be approved at a Full Council meeting. However, if time constraints do not allow for this, Cllr Boocock proposed that the Clerk is granted delegated authority to release the funding at the request of Cllrs Tucker and Boocock stemming from a decision made by the SWDPR joint committee. Cllr Tucker seconded the proposal. All were in favour.

9.3. The draft of the 2024-25 budget had been previously considered. In line with the previous resolution to allocate up to £4,000 for legal representation, it was agreed to initially draw this money from existing reserves and funds would be added to the budget annually to incrementally rebuild these reserves. Councillor Tucker proposed that £500 is added to the 2024/25 budget as a starting point to replenish the legal reserves. With the incorporation of the £500 to the draft budget figures, the budget would stand at £23,700.51 and the precept would be raised to £23,700. Councillor Giel seconded the motion and all Councillors were in favour. The final budget will be presented at the next meeting for confirmation together with the precept figure.

### 10. To note items of correspondence

The list of correspondence had been previously circulated. The clerk highlighted the following items of correspondence which had arrived during the afternoon after the publication of the correspondence list.

- Resident - £60,000 of interest would be saved if the flat above the shop is sold and the proceeds used to reduce PWLB loans.
- Resident – No further information on the replacement phone mast. He is chasing the MP.

### 11. Clerk's report

- The Clerk reported that she will be working on a biodiversity policy and will be consulting with Cllrs Tucker and Amoroso for their input regarding Shorthorn Wood and the Nature Reserve. This will be brought to a meeting early in the New Year.

Government guidance states that parish councils must

- (i) Consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity
- (ii) Agree policies and specific objectives based on their consideration
- (iii) Act to deliver their policies and achieve their objectives

Cllr Tucker mentioned that Wychavon District Council is in the process of developing their Biodiversity Policy and he suggested that we align our policy with theirs.

### 12. Councillors' reports and any items for future agenda

- Cllr Tucker informed the Parish Council that he has recently taken delivery of 400 trees for Shorthorn Wood. Given the ongoing thinning process in the wood, he is exploring potential planting locations, including the option of planting them along the track leading to the woods. Additionally, discussions are taking place with Rotherdale Farm to establish coppices in the corners of their fields. While this area is not owned by the Parish Council, it is in close proximity and would significantly benefit local wildlife.
- Cllr Hodgkiss confirmed that the phone signal at Willow Bank House is patchy.

### 13. Date of next meeting:

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on:

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024, The Ockenden Suite, Bishampton Village Hall at 7pm

### 14. Confidential business

To resolve to close the meeting via Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 to discuss matters relating to any of legal/contractual issues that, if discussed in the public arena, could be prejudicial to

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the public interest, following which members of the public will be asked to withdraw. Proposed by Cllr Boocock and seconded by Cllr Hodgkiss. All in favour.

### 15. Bishampton Stores – prospective new tenancy

15.1. Cllrs Boocock, Rolls, Davis and Wallace had met with the potential new tenants and a couple of their family members and a briefing was provided to the Parish Council.

Cllr Wallace proposed, seconded by Cllr Giel, to grant a lease to the couple pending satisfactory searches and references. Cllr Wallace will draft some Heads of Terms to circulate to the Parish Council. These terms will form the basis of a draft lease which the solicitor will be asked to produce with the aim of having it ready for approval at the next Parish Council meeting.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 21.37

Signed .....

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### Bishampton & Throckmorton Parish Council - December Payments

Bank Balances as at 1st December	Amount	Interest
Lloyds Deposit	35,711.14	36.25
Lloyds Current (01289157)	14,490.39	
Lloyds Ounce Deposit	6,549.28	7.22
<b>Totals</b>	<b>56,750.81</b>	

Authority to pay	Description	Nett Amount	VAT	Total	Cost code	Invoice No
J White	Salary	1093.41	0.00	1093.41	1	n/a
HMRC	National Insurance	6.19	0.00	6.19	1a	n/a
J White	monthly allowance	17.50	0.00	17.50	2	n/a
J White	mileage	18.00	0.00	18.00	2	n/a
Smartcut	grounds maintenance	306.18	61.24	367.42	25	21418
Carl Brassington	Lengthsman Duties	150.00	0.00	150.00	31	n/a
PWLB	Shop loan repayment	5299.28	0.00	5299.28	20	DD
Ounce	Coffee Mornings Jul/Aug/Sept/Oct	166.67	33.33	200.00	9	Nov-23
Mark Harrod	Goal nets (pair)	140.95	28.19	169.14	26	55647 (proforma)
SLCC	Annual subscription	148.00	0.00	148.00	5	MEM246371-1
Parish Magazine Printing	Winter newsletter	109.38	0.00	109.38	3	11056
Parkinson Wright Solicitors	Certifying of BATVH deeds	50.00	10.00	60.00	9	Not yet issued
Ionos	webhosting	10.00	2.00	12.00	9	DD
Ionos	website content management	7.00	1.40	8.40	9	DD
		<b>7,522.56</b>	<b>136.16</b>	<b>7,658.72</b>		