

BISHAMPTON AND THROCKMORTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 8th January at 7.00pm held in The Ockenden Suite, Bishampton Villages Hall

Present: Cllrs Boocock (Chair), Davis, Giel, 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, Hodgkiss 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. **Cllr Wallace declared an interest in Item 7 – Planning application W/23/02541/HP as he lives close to the property. He took no part in the discussion of this item.**

d) Written requests for the council to grant a dispensation (S33 of the Localism Act 2011). **None**

Adjournment for Public Question Time

There were 3 members of the public present. The meeting was adjourned whilst members of the public addressed the Parish Council about the following:

The tenants of Housemartins conveyed their apprehension about the uncertainty surrounding the potential sale of the flat. The Chairman assured them that they would be kept informed of any developments and expressed understanding of their predicament. In the event of a decision to sell the flat, the tenants requested additional time to vacate beyond the mandatory notice period. The Chairman stated that this is a matter that the Parish Council would be willing to consider.

3. Minutes: Cllr Tucker asked that in Item 6.2 – Memorial Bench in the Nature Reserve - the words 'at no cost to the Council' were added. With this amendment, it was proposed by Cllr Boocock and seconded by Cllr Davis that the minutes of the meeting on 4th December were a true and accurate record. All in favour. The Chairman signed the minutes.

4. District and County Councillors' reports.

District Councillor Report:

- SWDP – Cllr Tucker gave a brief update on the SWDP stating that it is very unlikely that the Examination in Public will take place in February.
- Planning – the application for consideration tonight is not significant and Cllr Tucker could see no grounds for objection.

There were no questions for District Cllr Tucker.

County Councillor report:

- County Councillor Boatright said Highways are prioritising the ongoing flooding challenges and as a result other issues are accumulating. Drainage is a priority and Cllr Boatright asked that any issues are reported to the County Council online.
- Hereford & Worcester Fire & Rescue Service have launched a consultation which closes on 4th March. Cllr Boatright explained the options being considered in the consultation and urged people to complete it. Cllr Boocock confirmed that details of the consultation will be on the PC's website.

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- The 2024/25 budget shows that there is going to be a likely increase of 4.99% to try and address a budget gap of £20.4m.

Cllr Boatright was asked if there has been any update on contacting the landowner re the flooding at Hill Furze Road. He confirmed that the recent flooding has been very challenging, and the priority has been main routes. Cllr Boatright confirmed that once things have settled down, he will certainly be following up the flooding which effectively cuts Bishampton off. A discussion then took place over the responsibility of landowners when water runs off their land, Cllr Tucker confirmed that landowners can be found accountable.

A resident then asked Cllr Boatright if the gully opposite Nightingale Close is blocked. Councillor Tucker said that she would check out if this has been cleared.

5. Progress Reports for Information and Discussion

- 5.1. **Responsibility for block paved area by Junior Play Area at Bishampton Villages Hall** - The Clerk had heard from a member of the Villages Hall Committee who said that they think the area is their responsibility, but confirmation is awaited.
- 5.2. **Footpath 557(b) maintenance** It was agreed that the Lengthsman would complete the previously agreed two strims and then the Footpath Warden would take over the maintenance of this footpath. If necessary, the Lengthsman may be called upon to carry out further maintenance to ensure the upkeep of the footpath.

6. Items for consideration/approval

- 6.1. **Bish Bosh Bash Committee** - None of the attending Councillors were willing to join the Bish Bosh Bash Committee. The Clerk will reach out to the Councillors who sent their apologies to see if any of them can support.
- 6.2. **Internal Auditor** - It was proposed by Cllr Boocock that Bill Robinson is appointed as the 2024/25 internal auditor. The Clerk confirmed that his charges are £25 per hour plus 45p per mile travel. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Tucker. All were in favour.
- 6.3. **Multi-forum community group** - The item concerning the implementation of a multi-forum community group was deferred until Cllr Rolls is back in March.
- 6.4. **Visibility Fence** - Cllr Tucker said that he has spoken to a local contractor and a price in the region of £40 has been quoted to flail cut the shrubbery on the visibility fence in Throckmorton. Therefore, Cllr Tucker proposed that up to £50 is agreed to get the work carried out. Seconded by Cllr Geil. All in favour.
- 6.5. **Infinis draft Deed of Contribution and constitution** - Cllr Tucker reported that he has liaised with Cllrs Davis and Hodgkiss, who are the other members of the working group. They unanimously agree that they are unhappy with how the emphasis has shifted. Previously, it was agreed that the money would be transferred to the PC and the PC would decide how the money would be distributed, with the involvement of a community group. This now seems to have changed with the PC expected to hold the money, but Infinis will decide how it is spent. Everyone was in favour of contacting Infinis expressing dissatisfaction at this change. Cllr Tucker to draft some details and forward to the Clerk so that a response can be sent to Infinis.
- 6.6. **Public Consultation re Housemartins** - The cost of a parish poll, estimated at around £1500, was deemed too expensive. In the previous meeting, the suggestion of a leaflet drop, followed by a public meeting, where both sides of the debate are presented with a subsequent ballot, was considered. All were in favour of this approach. The possibility of accommodating votes for those unable to attend the public meeting was discussed but was felt difficult to facilitate. The following actions were agreed upon: (i) Councillor Boocock will draft a leaflet to be emailed to all Cllrs for approval (ii) A meeting will be scheduled for a weekday in February for the public presentation and ballot. All in favour.

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7. Planning

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

Application	Address	Proposal	PC's Comments
W/23/0254/HP	Hampton House, Abberton Road, Bishampton	Two car, single storey garage to front garden of property.	No Objection

7.2. No planning decisions had been received.

8. Properties

- 8.1. Housemartins mould issue – The Chairman reported that he had spoken to the tenants about applying the mould treatment as discussed at the last meeting. The tenants who were present at the meeting, were invited to speak. The tenant said that after initially agreeing to the suggestion, they now had reservations. They said that they were concerned about the health and safety aspect of applying the chemical due to the height and the possibility of the chemical running down the walls potentially spreading the mould. The tenants said that they are happy to leave the mould untreated for the time being until the future of the flat was decided.
- 8.2. The insurance work on the cracked wall on the outbuilding at The Dolphin has been completed. It had been suggested that a price should be obtained to repoint the rest of the wall to prevent water ingress. The Chairman suggested that this work is not classed as a priority but is added to a programme of outstanding work. Everyone was in favour of this approach.

9. Finance

- 9.1. The bank reconciliation for December was received and approved.
- 9.2. The list of December 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 Wallace. All in favour.
- 9.3. The third quarter monitoring report had been previously circulated. Cllr Tucker proposed that this is accepted, seconded by Cllr Boocock. All in favour.
- 9.4. The reduction in the tax base was noted from £411.45 to £407.55 – this is a calculated figure used to translate our precept to the amount paid by households. This is the 2nd consecutive year that the tax base figure has fallen. The reduction in this figure means that even with an unchanged precept there would be a 1% uplift in the tax burden.
- 9.5. The updated draft of the 2024-25 budget had been circulated. After discussion, Cllr Tucker proposed accepting the budget figure of £23,700.51 with a corresponding precept of £23,700. This equates to an annual increase per household of £3.47 for a Band D property, with 52p of this increase attributed to the reduction in the tax base. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Davis. All were in favour.

10. To note items of correspondence

The list of correspondence had been circulated and was noted. The clerk highlighted the following items of correspondence:

- 10.57 – Wychavon District Council – consultation on draft design codes.
- 10.60 – Parkinson Wright – the certified deeds for BATVH were ready for collection

11. Clerk's report - The clerk said that she will be contacting Madeleine Sumner from Worcestershire County Council over the next few weeks to arrange a meeting concerning the feasibility of providing a local bus service.

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12. Councillors' reports and any items for future agenda

- Regarding the flooding in Hill Furze Road, although Highways were trying to contact the landowner, Cllr Wallace suggested that the Parish Council should write to landowner to ask them to clean out their ditches. This was agreed.
- Cllr Boocock gave an update on the SWDPR, reporting that the group met recently and it is thought unlikely that the Hearing in Public will take place any earlier than the summer, though this is not confirmed. The legal specialists at the meeting suggested that funds beyond those already committed may be required. The possibility of crowd funding is being explored and it is hoped to enlist the support of other parish councils beyond the 4 immediately impacted.

13. Date of next meeting:

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on:

Monday 5th February 2024, The Parish Room, Throckmorton 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 the public interest, following which members of the public will be asked to withdraw. Proposed by Cllr Boocock and seconded by Cllr Davis. All in favour.

15. Bishampton Stores – change of tenancy

- 15.1. The Heads of Terms prepared by Cllr Wallace had been previously circulated to all Cllrs. It was agreed that the opening times would be not before 7am and no later than 7.30pm. The two items highlighted in red would be queried with the solicitor. All voted in favour of accepting these terms. The Chairman informed the council that Paul Blackburn had sent an email over the weekend to say that the original couple wouldn't be taking over the tenancy until they can move closer as they are struggling with the commute. It is now proposed that the extended family takes on the lease for the time being and Paul will continue working in the shop for a couple of days a week. Following discussion, it was agreed that clarity is needed on who intends to take on the lease. Once established, the Parish Council will then organise an interview with this person and arrange the necessary searches and references and the PC will then need to formally approve the new lessee at a meeting. All this must be done before a new lease can be drawn up.
- 15.2. The email had been circulated but was no longer relevant due to the change in circumstances mentioned in item 15.1.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 20.45

Signed

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Bishampton & Throckmorton Parish Council - January Payments

Bank Balances at 1st January 2024	Amount	Interest
Lloyds Deposit	32,751.02	39.88
Lloyds Current (01289157)	12,401.67	
Lloyds Ounce Deposit	6,556.74	7.46
Totals	51,709.43	

Authority to pay	Description	Nett Amount	VAT	Total	Cost code	Invoice No
J White	Salary	776.40	0.00	776.40	1	n/a
J White	monthly allowance	17.50	0.00	17.50	2	n/a
J White	mileage	4.50	0.00	4.50	2	n/a
Smartcut	grounds maintenance	306.18	61.24	367.42	25	21542
Carl Brassington	Lengthsman Duties	140.00	0.00	140.00	31	n/a
PWLB	Dolphin loan	10632.95	0.00	10632.95	21	DD
CTS	Housemartins Fire alarm service	58.80	11.76	70.56	23	23585
Throckmorton Parish Room	PC Meetings 2023	62.50	0.00	62.50	6	029/23
BATVHC	Room Hire	42.00	0.00	42.00	6	BATVHT 0706
Ionos	webhosting	10.00	2.00	12.00	9	DD
Ionos	website content management	7.00	1.40	8.40	9	DD
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