

# BISHAMPTON AND THROCKMORTON PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 8th July 2024 at 7.00pm at Bishampton Villages Hall

**Present:** Cllrs Boocock (Chair), Amoroso, Hodgkiss, McCorrie, Tucker and Wallace

**In attendance:** County Cllr Boatright-Greene and District Cllr Tucker (both arrived later due to attending another meeting) and Julie White, Parish Clerk

The Chairman opened the meeting.

**1. Apologies:** Apologies were received from Cllrs Davis 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

A member of the public addressed the Parish Council about the increasing number of events taking place at Watersedge which disturb the residents of Bishampton Fields. A recent event that featured loud music until midnight resulted in a resident reporting the matter to the Enforcement Department at Wychavon District Council. There is concern that such activities are increasing, potentially leading to more disturbances. The matter was significant enough that a meeting was held with the organisers, who have assured residents that it will not happen again. In light of this assurance, the residents of Bishampton Fields are willing to monitor the situation and see if matters improve before taking further action.

**3. Minutes:** The minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> June were proposed by Cllr Boocock as a true and accurate record. Cllr McCorrie seconded the proposal. All were in favour. The Chairman signed the minutes.

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

#### *County Councillor report:*

Cllr Boatright-Greene reported that there is to be another consultation regarding schools moving from 3 tier to 2 tier entry. If it goes ahead, the current plan is for it to start in September 2027.

Cllr Boatright-Greene gave an update on some new appointments at the County Council. County Hall is now completely vacated of staff due to the RAAC issue.

#### *District Councillor report:*

Cllr Liz Tucker said that the new Planning Chief at Wychavon is proving to be very effective, with many outstanding issues being resolved.

A brief update on the SWDPR was given.

### 5. Progress reports - for information and discussion:

- 5.1. Unauthorised gate in the fence at The Dolphin – Cllr Hodgkiss confirmed that the securing of the unauthorised gate is now complete. The repair will be monitored, and further rectification will be made if necessary.
- 5.2. Community bus service – Cllr Boocock confirmed that the response to the survey is still poor. The matter will be revisited at the September meeting.

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- 5.3. Cllr Boocock went through the outstanding issues highlighted in the playground inspection reports. Remedial actions are progressing well. A quote for repairs to the rubber on the Roller Balance beam is expected soon. A further quote has been obtained to repair the grass in the goal mouth areas. It was agreed that the quote from Smartcut to seed the area is preferable and they will be asked to go ahead with the work after the summer.
- 5.4. The PCC has suggested a location for a new bin at St James Church, specifically indicating a preference for a dog waste bin rather than a litter bin. Councillor McCorrie conducted a survey of local dog walkers, who proposed that the most beneficial location for a new dog waste bin would be at the junction of Church End and Main Street, opposite Church Lane. After discussion, it was decided to invite Phil Childs, the Street Scene and Amenities Officer from Wychavon District Council, to assess both the suggested sites for suitability. All councillors felt that most benefit would be obtained by re-siting either a dog waste bin or a litter bin from Bishampton Villages Hall to the junction of Church End and Main Road if that option is possible.
- 5.5. Due to a discount opportunity, Cllr Boocock has purchased a projector with an option to return the item. Cllr Boocock demonstrated the projector to the Council, and all considered that this would be a useful tool at meetings and agreed that the PC would reimburse Cllr Boocock next month.
- 5.6. Update regarding the solar farm – The Clerk received the following update from Infinis:  
*Infinis are working to finalise the details and are keen to get funds to the community as soon as we can. Colette can provide a further update on this and the Open Day on her return.*  
*Construction is still underway and due to continue for a number of months and as such, the footpath remains closed. We are working with the contractor to finalise dates for the remaining works and to open the footpath as soon as practically possible.*
- The Clerk was asked to write formally to Infinis expressing concern that the constitution and agreement are still not in place despite several reminders. As generation started at the solar farm in January, confirmation that the fund will be available from January 2025 was also sought.

### 6. Items to resolve/consider:

- 6.1. Cllr Amoroso requested CIL funding of £178.33 plus VAT for an owl box to put up in the Nature Reserve. An owl box was one of the recommendations in the Worcestershire Wildlife report that was carried out in 2020. It has also been suggested by Tom Ward, Project Delivery Officer from The Heart of England Forest. The box would be installed by volunteers under Tom Ward's supervision. Cllr Amoroso made the proposal to purchase the owl box, which was seconded by Cllr Boocock. All were in favour.
- Discussion then took place over the pond which is blocked so water does not flow into the ditch. The Clerk will put Cllr Amoroso in touch with a pond expert to see if he can advise.
- 6.2. Cllr Tucker reported that David Molloy has been advising on work in Shorthorn Wood. Mr. Molloy is a part-time employee of Natural England and is also in the process of setting up as an independent consultant. He can prepare a grant application on behalf of the Parish Council which will cover his fee, therefore allowing a Management Plan to be prepared at no cost to the Council. Cllr Tucker emphasised that a Management Plan is necessary for Shorthorn Wood to demonstrate sustainable management practices and is crucial from a husbandry and forestry perspective. It will also enable the Parish Council to apply for Countryside Stewardship, providing funding to protect and improve the Wood. After discussion, Cllr Tucker proposed that, in principle, David Molloy is retained for the preparation of the Management Plan, subject to an agreed scope to be set out and considered at the next meeting. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Amoroso, all were in favour.
- 6.3. Cllr Tucker recapped about the four parishes archaeology group (4PAG) which worked closely with the County Council Archaeology Service and held exhibitions in 2003 and 2004. The group is now inactive and the bank has closed the account. Cllr Tucker proposed that the remaining funds are transferred to the Parish Council's bank account and ringfenced for an exhibition around the 4 parishes. It was noted that CALC has confirmed that this course of action is acceptable, and it does not conflict with the group's constitution. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Hodgkiss. All in favour.

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Cllr Amoroso left the meeting.

- 6.4. It was noted that our Lengthsman, Carl Brassington, has now retired from the role and a replacement needs to be found. A candidate has been identified, but his LANTRA training has expired. He is on a waiting list of 3 but WCC refuses to run the course for less than 10 participants. County Councillor Boatright-Greene agreed to try and expedite the process. The Clerk was asked to advertise the position with CALC. Thanks were extended to Carl for his exemplary work during his time with our Parish.
- 6.5. It was agreed that no further action would be taken regarding the noise issues at Watersedge at this time. All in favour.

## 7. Planning

- 7.1. **W/24/00992/LB – Church Farm House, Abberton Road, Bishampton – Amendments to semi basement room to mitigate ingress of water issues. No Comment**
- 7.2. There were no planning decisions.  
It was noted that application W/22/01107/HP – Manor Farm, Main Street, Bishampton - replacement render was **withdrawn**.

## 8. Properties

- 8.1. The Inspection Report for Housemartins was noted. The quotes for the mould issues are still awaited. Cllr Wallace to speak to his contact about a quote for the work. Cllr McCorrie proposed that the Clerk is given delegated powers to spend up to £1000 plus VAT to get the necessary work completed. Seconded by Cllr Boocock. 7 votes in favour and 1 abstention.  
The Clerk was asked to instruct an electrician to rectify the issue with the shower switch as soon as possible.  
It was noted that Plumber Jon Clarke has issued a couple of invoices to the Parish Council for work carried out at The Dolphin. These invoices have been passed over to Ounce, as payment is their responsibility under the terms of the lease. Also, an invoice has been received from Richard Parry which needs the work to be itemised so it can be established who is responsible for payment. The Clerk to chase Richard Parry again in this regard.

## 9. Finance

- 9.1. The June bank reconciliation was received. All in favour.
- 9.2. The list of current payments and last month's receipts were approved en bloc. Proposed by Cllr Boocock and seconded by Cllr Hodgkiss. All in favour.
- 9.3. The first quarter monitoring report had been previously circulated and was received.

## 10. To note items of correspondence

The list of correspondence was noted and the following items were highlighted:

- Wychavon District Council – SWDP Rural Transport and Village Facilities survey
- OPCC – Survey (Cllr Hodgkiss to complete)
- Westcotec – Update on repairs to VAS speed signs

## 11. Clerk's Report

The Clerk asked if the Coffee Morning in August should go ahead due to it being a bank holiday. It was also noted that it clashes with the Pershore Plum Festival. It was agreed that the Clerk would see how many Cllrs are available to help on the day and a decision would be made based on availability.

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

- Cllr Hodgkiss reported that Tilesford Park Road did have right of access but is now shut at the entrance to the Airfield. Cllr Boatright-Greene will investigate the matter.

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- Cllr Hodgkiss reported that Long Lane is increasingly being used as a racetrack. He was advised that if he can get a pattern of when this occurs and a description of the vehicles, the Police will take action.
- Cllr Hodgkiss advised that the septic tank at Bucklands has failed, the Environment Agency is aware.
- Cllr Wallace reported that there is a tree sapling close to the flat which may require removal. Cllr Boocock to take a look.

**13. Date of next meeting:** Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September in The Parish Room, Throckmorton at 7.00pm

The meeting closed at 21.46

Signed .....

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## Bishampton & Throckmorton Parish Council - July Payments

Bank Balances - 30th June 2024

Amount Interest

Lloyds Deposit	24,936.80	28.39
Lloyds Current (01289157)	22,640.51	
Lloyds Ounce Deposit	6,599.35	7.51
<b>Total</b>	<b>54,176.66</b>	

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	30.60	0.00	30.60	2	n/a
J White	Expenses - Postage (Land Reg, large envelope and book of 2nd class stamps)	17.05	0.00	17.05	3	n/a
Smartcut	grounds maintenance	306.18	61.24	367.42	25	22753
Carl Brassington	Lengthsman Duties	140.00	0.00	140.00	31	n/a
Parish Magazine printing	Newsletter	113.25	0.00	113.25	3	11862
PWLB	Pub loan	10632.95	0.00	10632.95	21	DD
BATVH	Room Hire	35.00	0.00	35.00	6	BATVHT0759
Ionos	webhosting	10.00	2.00	12.00	9	DD
Ionos	website content management	7.00	1.40	8.40	9	DD
		<b>12,085.93</b>	<b>64.64</b>	<b>12,150.57</b>		