

BISHAMPTON AND THROCKMORTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 2nd September 2024 at 7.00pm at The Parish Room, Throckmorton

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

In attendance: District Cllr Tucker and Julie White, Parish Clerk

The Chairman opened the meeting.

1. Apologies: Apologies were received from Cllrs Davis and Rolls. County Councillor Boatright-Greene also sent his apologies

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

There were 3 members of the public present.

- A resident suggested that the PC should purchase new Christmas tree lights.
- A resident asked for a copy of the accounts. He is interested in the Reserves. Clerk to liaise.
- A resident asked for an update on the phone mast. He was advised that it is understood that it should be erected early next year.
- A representative from the Bishampton, Abberton & Throckmorton Villages Hall Trust (BATVHT) addressed the Parish Council. He reported that the income from BATVH covers the day to day running costs, but capital expenditure, often unexpected, means that reserves are being depleted. Whilst there is no immediate crisis, he can foresee that in a few years' time, the Trust may struggle to cover expenditure outside of the everyday running costs. He stressed the importance of BATVHT maintaining a reserve fund, suggested at £10,000, to cover capital expenditure. He emphasised that securing grants is becoming increasingly difficult and as a result, he proposed that the PC acts as a last resort, topping up the Capital Fund to £10,000 annually, if all other options are exhausted.

3. Minutes: The minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 8th July were proposed by Cllr Tucker 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 was not present, but sent in the following report:

Bishampton and Throckmorton report

Road Closures: big one on the Throckmorton to Bishampton Road from Sep 23, 8:30 AM - Sep 27, 4:35 PM. Highways repair so will cause disruption. Full details of diversion can be found here: [Roadworks and live updates | Worcestershire County Council](#)

Pershore Education System

The consultation on the change from the three tier to two tier system is re-opening this week with schools affected holding meetings for parents. Public consultation has re-opened and all the details can be found here. You have until 29th September to reply.

[Pershore education planning area review 2024 | Worcestershire County Council](#)

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Highways

Currently in discussion about the state of Long Lane. It is clearly getting worse and highways are looking at options. What is clear is several areas need a full resurfacing. Will apply some pressure to get this prioritised.

Flood alleviation and future planning

The council has started a review of the flooding and the current plans to alleviate future flooding episodes. Given last year and our situation in the division I was keen to be on the panel and it starts this month. Anything you would like to raise about what you would like to see about localised flooding management, please let me know as I am keen to get resident's views into the task group.

Cllr Tucker noted that the flood alleviation measures in Throckmorton are effective, with no new flooding sites identified since 2007. When flooding does occur, it subsides quickly, but extra signage would be advantageous.

Cllr Hodgkiss commented that there is a flooding problem where the brook intersects Long Lane.

Cllr Boocock remarked that during the last flooding event, all three access routes to and from the Parish were flooded, stressing the importance of ensuring that at least one route remains accessible.

Cllr Hodgkiss said that there is pollution event in the Piddle because of a failed septic tank. It was noted that this is not a County Council matter, but the Clerk will make Cllr Boatright-Greene aware.

District Councillor report:

Cllr Liz Tucker discussed recent planning decisions, noting that the appeal for the land southwest of Babylon Lane (W/22/02754/OUT), which involved an outline application for the construction of three dwellings, was dismissed. The reasoning behind the dismissal was interesting. Cllr Tucker also mentioned the current planning application for Maple Cottage.

The District Council is to be briefed on the changes to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and Cllr Tucker has also signed up to a Local Government Association briefing on the same subject.

The Council and Government are pushing for parishes to have a Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) but Cllr Tucker wants to find out why having one would be beneficial.

Wychavon District Council has arranged for the Local Government Association to conduct a peer review, aimed at providing insights and guidance for potential improvements.

5. Progress reports - for information and discussion:

- 5.1. Community Bus Service – Response has remained inadequate to justify the proposed scheme. The Council will continue to explore other options with Madeleine Sumner of Worcestershire County Council.
- 5.2. The outstanding issues raised in the playground inspection reports have all been addressed and an updated copy of the Action Plan has been made available to Cllrs. The rubber on the Roller Balance Beam cannot be replaced and the entire roller would need to be replaced which would be expensive. It was agreed that the wear on the rubber will be monitored for the time being with a view to replacing for an alternative piece of equipment in the future. Cllr McCorrie suggested that a sign is put up directing people to the junior play area as it is not immediately obvious. The Clerk to obtain a price for the sign.
- 5.3. The Clerk has met with Phil Childs, Street Scene and Amenities Officer at Wychavon District Council re a new dog waste bin. It was noted that the litter bins are of an older design and cannot be relocated, but the dog waste bin at the end of the public footpath by the Villages Hall in Broad Lane can be moved to another location. Mr Childs was happy with the PC's preferred location at the junction of Main Street and Church End but recommended that the immediate neighbours are consulted. It was proposed by Cllr McCorrie and seconded by Cllr Hodgkiss that, subject to the immediate neighbours raising no objections, the dog waste bin would be moved from Broad Lane to Church End. All in favour. Cllr Boocock to contact the residents concerned.

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- 5.4. Following the comments from the PC, the revised draft Deed of Contribution and draft Constitution have finally been received from Infinis. Cllr Tucker was encouraged that the Parish Council's points seem to have been considered, but he feels a more thorough review of the documents is necessary before providing further comments. Cllr Boocock has reviewed the draft Deed of Contribution and raised several queries, particularly regarding the lack of clarity on costs and Infinis retaining a final veto. It was agreed that the document should be reviewed by a legal professional before the Parish Council signs anything. All in favour.
- 5.5. Ringfencing 4PAG funds within a Parish Council account – Cllr Tucker has not had time to progress this matter any further but has all the information he needs and will be transferring the money to a PC account soon.
- 5.6. Update of Lengthsman vacancy – There have been 2 expressions of interest and applications are expected from both soon.
- 5.7. The item re the formation of a multi-forum agency was deferred as Cllr Rolls was not present.

6. Items to resolve/consider:

- 6.1. David Molloy has sent through his written proposal for Shorthorn Wood which addressed the concerns that were raised at the last meeting. He confirmed that he would not charge for the Woodland Management Plan (WMP) in the unlikely event that it failed to achieve approval. He also explained about any on-going costs. The Parish Council was happy and Cllr Tucker proposed that the Mr Molloy's proposal is accepted. Seconded by Cllr Amoroso. All in favour.
- 6.2. Cllr Boocock proposed that the Parish Online annual subscription is renewed following the 12-month trial period. He explained that the digital mapping software is now used to map planning applications and boundaries, display maps on the website, log locations of bins, grit bins, mowing areas, culverts etc and is proving to be a very useful tool. Seconded by Cllr McCorrie. All in favour.
- 6.3. Cllr Boocock thanked the BATVHT representative for addressing the PC in the public forum and stated how important the Villages Hall is to the community and said that the PC will continue to support it wherever possible. He pointed out that grant applications are always considered from BATVHT, although it was noted that no grant application was received in relation to the recent extensive electrical work. The PC will continue to work with BATVHT to identify any external funding opportunities. However, transferring significant funds from the public purse which the PC is responsible for, to a fund which is outside of the PC's control without a specific purpose is not how council finances work. Therefore, Cllr Boocock proposed that in the next few months when the new budget for 2025-26 is discussed, the PC will consider either increasing the current Grants/Donations budget or ring-fencing a reserve for capital costs to either Village Hall. All agreed that this was the best way forward.

Cllr Charles Tucker left the meeting at 20.28 during item 6.3

7. Planning

- 7.1. The following Planning Decisions were noted:
 - **Appeal – W/22/02754/OUT** – Land to southwest of Babylon Lane, Bishampton – outline application for the construction of 3 dwellings. **Appeal Dismissed**
 - **W/24/00992/LB** – Church Farm House, Bishampton – **Approved**
 - **Appeal – W/22/02070/OUT** – Land to East of Main Street, Bishampton – outline application for up to 3 self-build homes. **Appeal Dismissed**
- 7.2. **W/24/01630/HP – Maple Cottage, Hill Furze Road, Bishampton** – proposed first floor rear extension and single storey side and rear extensions and conversion of existing garage to a bedroom. The PC agreed to make **No Comment** on this application.

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8. Properties

- 8.1. (i) A quote has been accepted to address the mould issue and work is due to be undertaken in October to fit in with the tenant's request. A contractor has also been asked to clear out the guttering. A date for this is still to be determined.
- (ii) The tenant has reported that the shower switch is now working fine and now longer requires an electrician. This matter has been passed over to Johnsons for them to ascertain if an electrician should still attend.
- (iii) Cllr Boocock advised that the sapling has been cut down and some stump killer will shortly be applied.

9. Finance

- 9.1. The July and August bank reconciliations were received. All in favour.
- 9.2. The list of current payments and last month's receipts had been previously distributed. It was noted that an itemised invoice from R Parry had been received. Part was for payment by The Parish Council and part by the tenant of The Dolphin under the terms of the lease. The Clerk to pass the invoice on to The Dolphin for payment of the outstanding balance. Cllr Boocock proposed that the payments were approved en bloc. Seconded by Cllr Wallace. All in favour.
- 9.3. The payments made under delegated authority in August were approved. Proposed by Cllr Boocock and seconded by Cllr Wallace. All in favour.
- 9.4. The External Audit report was noted with no issues raised. The dates for the Conclusion of the Audit were confirmed as from August 27th to September 24th. All in favour.

10. To note items of correspondence

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

- 10.1 – Electric vehicle charging infrastructure consultation exercise
- 10.12 – Damage caused by large tractor towing an extremely long trailer from Manor Farm on 19th July. The young driver who was trying to turn right out on to Main Street, failed to execute the manoeuvre successfully resulting in damage to the hedges of two properties and to the road surface. The farmer has since agreed that all drivers will be retrained on manoeuvring the longer header trailer. All drivers are instructed that if they do not feel confident, they are not to turn right but turn left instead. A second member of staff is to act as a banksman to instruct the driver when necessary and all drivers have been asked to remain polite and courteous. The residents are happy with these measures and the Clerk was asked to get in touch with the farmer around harvest time next year as a reminder.
- 10.24 – Suggestion from resident to look at replacing the Christmas lights (also raised in the Public Forum). A discussion took place over whether replacing the lights is necessary and Cllr Boocock explained that the lights are routinely inspected when dried and put away and prior to putting them up each year. Whilst some of the connectable runs have some lights out, the vast majority are working and once the trees are decorated there are some strings in reserve. It was felt that a change to LED lights would be beneficial in the future, but replacement was not currently warranted. All in favour.
- 10.44 – WDC – Consultation on the National Planning Policy Framework. The District Council will be commenting, and Cllr Liz Tucker will forward any relevant information to the Parish Council that she gleanes from the briefings that she is attending.

11. Clerk's Report

- The Clerk reported that the batteries in both defibrillators are due for replacement soon. The best price available so far is £269.50 each. There is an amount in the budget to cover this. The Clerk will order 2 new batteries at the end of the month.
- The Clerk reminded the PC that now is the time to start thinking about the budget for 2025/26. If there are any specific items or projects that members would like to see included, they should notify her.

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12. Councillors' reports and any items for future agenda

- Cllr Tucker had previously mentioned that the Throckmorton Village Charity is negotiating to acquire the land adjacent to the Parish Hall to use for events. When this goes through Cllr Tucker will be asking the PC to add the land to the grass cutting schedule.
- It was reported that Smartcut had quoted £45 to trim the visibility fencing in Throckmorton. The Clerk has asked them to go ahead with a one-off trim.
- Very large potholes were noted on the road between Bishampton and Throckmorton on the Shorthorn Wood side and also in Long Lane by Marshalls. The authorities are aware of these.

13. Date of next meeting: Monday 7th October in The Ockenden Suite, Bishampton at 7.00pm

The meeting closed at 21.20

Signed

BISHAMPTON AND THROCKMORTON PARISH COUNCIL

Bishampton & Throckmorton Parish Council - September Payments & August Receipts

Bank Balances - 31st Aug 2024

Amount Interest

Lloyds Deposit	25,987.25	24.69
Lloyds Current (01289157)	16,079.63	
Lloyds Ounce Deposit	6,612.70	6.53
Total	48,679.58	

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
Smartcut	grounds maintenance	306.18	61.24	367.42	25	23473
Parish Online	Mapping annual subscription	72.00	14.4	86.40	9	47UF0110002
PKF	External Audit	315.00	63.00	378.00	4	SB20241059
Tony Dew	Gate repairs in Play Area	100	0.00	100.00	26	n/a
R H Parry	Plumbing and electrical work at The Dolphin	465.00	93.00	558.00	24	38/RHP/24 (part payable by PC and part by tenant)
ICO	Annual Data Protection fee	35.00	0.00	35.00	5	DD
Ionos	webhosting / annual domain	20.00	4.00	24.00	9	DD
Ionos	website content management	9.00	1.80	10.80	9	DD
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