

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at 7.00pm, held in The Parish Rooms, Throckmorton

**Present:** Cllrs Boocock (Chair), Davis, Tucker, Venters and Amoroso.

**In attendance:** County Cllr Boatright-Greene, District Cllr Tucker and Acting Clerk Carolyn Morris.

**1. Apologies:** Apologies were received from Cllrs Hodgkiss, Wallace, Rolls and McCorrie.

### **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.
- c) To declare any Other Disclosable Interests in items on the agenda and their nature.
- d) Written requests for the council to grant a dispensation (S33 of the Localism Act 2011).

### Adjournment for Public Question Time

One member of the public was present but had no issues to raise.

**3. Minutes:** The minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> December were proposed by Cllr Boocock as a true and accurate record. Cllr Davis seconded the proposal. All were in favour. The Chairman signed the minutes.

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

#### *County Councillor Report:*

- Cllr Boatright-Greene confirmed that a two-tier system will be introduced for all council maintained schools by September 2027 – i.e. all first schools will become primary schools. He said Pershore High School was due to have some restructuring by then to allow for the changes. It was also noted that Academy run schools can choose their age ranges, so will be deciding whether to go along with the policy.
- The Government is considering plans to remove the district council tier from local government from 2027, merging councils to work as a single unitary authority, which would mean Wychavon District Council would no longer exist as a separate entity. At present, only 29% of the population live in an area with a separate district and county. Cllr Boatright-Greene said the idea was to make cost savings on buildings and staff but he had concerns about small rural areas losing out amongst the workings of a larger council. This may mean that local elections being suspended in May before a changeover. It was noted that the changes could mean that more powers were devolved to Parish Councils to be dealt with at a local level.
- The recent floods were discussed. Cllr Boatright-Greene praised parish lengthsman for their work keeping waterways as clear as possible but said he believed that the time had come for next steps – for bigger and wider waterways to cope with increased flooding.
- Cllr Boatright-Greene confirmed that the phone mast was running with a generator. Following some discussions with the phone company, it seems the contractors can only complete the roadworks for the power supply at the beginning of March.  
There were no questions.

#### *District Councillor report:*

- Cllr Tucker spoke about Wychavon District Council's South Worcestershire Development Plan Review, which includes the policy to develop large areas of land in Throckmorton and Bishampton. A date has been set for a hearing by Secretary of State-appointed Planning Inspectors to conduct an Examination into the soundness and legal compliance of the Plan. Responses to the plan are being gathered and Cllr Boocock and Tucker said they were due to attend a joint meeting with

other local affected parish councillors on Sunday.  
There were no questions.

## 5. Progress Reports for Information and Discussion

- 5.1. Any updates re the solar farm Community Fund: The PC working group is putting together a response to Infinis in order to finalise an agreement for grant money which has not been forthcoming despite the site being in operation for a year. CT/MH/MD
- 5.2. Outside tap and Junior Play Area Sign at Bishampton Villages Hall: The sign is installed. The tap is scheduled to be fitted within the week. MD/CV
- 5.3. To discuss the cleaning of the war memorial and whether there are grants available: Cllr Davis explained that the War Memorial Trust would only provide a grant for a renovation, not just for cleaning. He had contacted members of the (dormant) History Society and he was in the process of gathering quotes and advice from contractors. MD
- 5.4. Shorthorn Wood – Management plan & Stewardship grant: In order to get the Stewardship grant for £1,500, a management plan had to be submitted by the end of the year. Cllr Tucker will oversee this and plans will include work on thinning the woodland to preserve the most specialist trees, as well as tackling ash dieback issues.  
Cllr Tucker also asked the council to approve expenditure on strimming the pathways in the wood (estimated £350-£400). This was agreed provided this could be met from the Shorthorn budget and grant income. CT
- 5.5. Updated LCAS Award structure and criteria: Changes to the LCAS award criteria will require a few additional policies being adopted before the next assessment, at which time our award should change from “Quality” to a new category “Silver”. Cllr Boocock to arrange. JGB
- 5.6. Phone Mast update: Following from Cllr Boatright-Greene’s comments, Cllr Boocock reported that the household nearest the generator are concerned about the noise and how long it will be there. Pressure should be maintained on the operators to ensure timescales are minimised JGB

## 6. Items for consideration/approval

- 6.1. A Bishampton calendar and competition, proceeds to the village coffers/fete. DR
  - 6.2. Availability/rental of a unit next to the pub for a community project DR
  - 6.3. Allotment possibilities for village residents DR
- 6.1-6.3 taken together: In the light of the fact that Cllr Rolls was absent and would be absent for February’s meeting, it was agreed to defer the three matters she raised until March.
- 6.4. Biodiversity Policy CT/ FA: This will form part of the criteria mentioned in 5.5. Cllrs Tucker and Amoroso to review and amend the draft policy for the next meeting.

## 7. Planning

- 7.1. The following **Planning Decision** was noted:
  - W/24/02183/HP Moat House, Main Street, Bishampton - Approved
  - W/24/01348/HP Noons Orchard, Main Street Bishampton – Approved

7.2. There were no new applications to be considered

## 8. Properties

- 8.1. Shop
  - (i) Update on contribution to roof and progress of works: Invoice from shop awaited.
- 8.2. Housemartins
  - (i) Update on garage door repair: Complete; invoice showing VAT element requested from Johnsons
  - (ii) Update on repair to oil tank enclosure: Completed for £70.
  - (ii) To note Johnsons’ inspection report and follow-on actions: New CO alarm and replacement

door handle have been procured for the tenants; painting of a radiator had been requested at £150 – PC to look for further alternatives but approval was given for spending up to that sum.

- 8.3. Note communications to Johnsons concerning VAT retention: The chairman stressed how the PC had repeatedly asked for invoices from Johnsons so VAT could be reclaimed and costs reduced, but it had been very difficult to get the agents to do so.

**9. Finance**

- 9.1. The December bank reconciliation was received
- 9.2. To receive the current list of payments and receipts and approve payments - Approved
- 9.3. To receive Q3 monitoring report and forecast - Noted
- 9.4. To note Tax base notification and effect on precept set – the PC will not be increasing its precept.
- 9.5. To note the precept requirement submitted to Wychavon –The PC’s Precept request was confirmed for submission.

**10. To note items of correspondence** and the following items were highlighted

- The state of the defibrillator by the shop had been raised by a resident who was concerned there was some dampness inside the housing. It was agreed to monitor and look into some material (eg silica gel to put into it to make sure it was kept in good condition.
- A member of BMCR had written to inform the council of the British Masters Cycle Race which was due to pass through the villages in April. Two dates were suggested and the PC decided to ask the organisers to avoid Easter weekend.

**11. Clerk’s Report: Training opportunities were noted for newer councillors.**

**12. Update from the Staffing Working Group re Clerk vacancy:**

- 12.1.Note vacancy re-advertised with Multiple County associations: Noted
- 12.2.To summarise applications received and interview arrangements: Two applications had been received. Members to look at arrangements once the deadline for applications had passed.

**13. Councillors’ reports and items for future agenda:**

Village Hall Updates - Village hall grant for handrail near rear doors to be considered at next meeting; tree near gates to be removed for safety reasons. Grant to be considered and the planting of a new tree in the grounds was suggested.

**14. Date of next meeting:**

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on:

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2025, at 7:00pm in the Ockenden Suite, Bishampton Villages Hall

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.49pm

Signed .....

# BISHAMPTON AND THROCKMORTON PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council: Julie White, Box Tree Cottage, Worcestershire, WR7 4PE



## Bishampton & Throckmorton Parish Council - January Payments

Bank Balances - 31st December

Amount Interest

Lloyds Deposit	40,102.90	30.74
Lloyds Current (01289157)	11,213.16	
Lloyds Ounce Deposit	6,634.84	5.09
<b>Total</b>	<b>57,950.90</b>	

Authority to pay	Description	Nett Amount	VAT	Total	Cost code	Invoice No
PWLB	Pub Loan	10632.95	0	10632.95	21	n/a
Jeremy Moore	Lengthsman	160.00	0.00	160.00	31	n/a
Carolyn Morris	Deputy Clerk	65.16	0.00	65.16	1	0045
Ionos	webhosting	10.00	2.00	12.00	9	203045422133
Ionos	website content management	9	1.8	10.80	9	203445742141
Smartcut	grasscutting	306.18	61.24	367.42	25	24548
Tony Dew	Repair Oil tank enclosure	70.00	0.00	70.00	23	n/a
Throckmorton Village Char	Room Hire 2024	75.00	0.00	75.00	6	n/a
Smartcut	Xmas Trees	85.00	17.00	102.00	9	24475
Ounce	Carols	83.33	16.67	100.00	9	n/a
Parish Magazine Printing	Newsletter	113.25	0.00	113.25	3	12592
Reimburse Cllr Boocock	Gifts for volunteers	22.00	0.00	22.00	37	n/a
Johnsons [retained]	Garage Repair	255.00	51.00	306.00	23	42226
BATVHT	Bishampton Room Hire	42.90	0.00	42.90	6	0816
		<b>11,929.77</b>	<b>149.71</b>	<b>12,079.48</b>		