

BISHAMPTON AND THROCKMORTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 5th February at 7.00pm held in The Parish Room, Throckmorton

Present: Cllrs Boocock (Chair), Davis, 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, Geil 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 4 members of the public present. The meeting was adjourned whilst members of the public addressed the Parish Council about the following:

A resident presented the Parish Council with the new plaque for the tree bench in Bishampton. There is no cost to the Parish Council and thanks were extended to both Rodney Hodgkins and Brian Moran.

Re the replacement mast, an update was given with the conclusion being that we are no clearer on when the problem will be resolved, the only certainty is the increase in EE costs from March. It was also suggested that the signal gets wiped out entirely by the solar farm. The Clerk was asked to approach the planning department to establish if there have been any secondary or amended applications. Thanks were extended to Rodney Hodgkins on behalf of the community and the parish council for all his work.

A resident asked if there was any update on the potential selling of the flat. The resident stated that the opportunity for the sale was enabled by changing interest rates and could save the council £60,000, though these conditions may change again. It was explained that a leaflet and public meeting are already planned and expected in the next few weeks. The Chair said that he would provide a formal full response to the resident.

Two residents thanked Cllr Tucker for arranging to have the visibility fence in Throckmorton flailed. The residents offered to tidy up what the tractor couldn't do in preparation for painting. The Parish Council thanked them and accepted their kind offer.

A resident mentioned the white line 12 inches from the kerb denoting a cycle path in Pershore. In the dark the line looks like the kerb. Cllr Boatright confirmed that it is national policy to have a white line to denote a joint cycle lane/footpath.

3. Minutes: Cllr Boocock proposed that the minutes were a true and accurate record. Seconded by Cllr Davis. All were in favour. The Chair signed the minutes.

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4. District and County Councillors' reports.

• *County Councillor Report:*

- There will be lots of roadworks taking place across the region over the forthcoming weeks. Cllr Boatright advised that people check on one.network for updates.
- The County Council is looking to increase fines to contractors to encourage compliance with work permits and speed up work.
- Cllr Boatright thanked Barry Barnes for attending the recent meeting to explore the flooding issues in the parish. He will speak to Wychavon District Council about drainage options. The matter of funding will be raised with the Environment Agency.
- The Lengthsman scheme is expected to continue with a small uplift in funding.
- The budget will be set next week with a 4.99% increase expected to be approved.

Questions were invited:

Cllr Boocock thanked Cllr Boatright for his support re the flooding issues.

Cllr Boatright was asked about the Electoral Review which he confirmed was still out to consultation. Cllr Boatright said that he would appreciate a parish response and hoped that support would be given to the draft recommendation to keep the Pershore division unchanged, including Bishampton & Throckmorton, Hill & Moor, Pinvin and Wyre Piddle.

Following recent flooding, Cllr Hodgkiss asked if there was any work happening on the culvert in Long Lane. Cllr Boatright said that the issue is a combination of factors beyond the council's control and he will raise it with the Environment Agency. Cllr Liz Tucker said that the water levels rise and fall very quickly.

• *District Councillor report:*

- Cllr Tucker said Wychavon District Council is recommending a Council Tax increase of £5 due to a fall in reserves.
- The Communities team is organising a free Community Engagement event on 28th March.
- There is debris in the ditch from Bishampton to Throckmorton.
- SWDPR –the inspector has declared the transport assessment as inadequate so no date will be confirmed for the Examination in Public until a revised document is issued. Also, any documents more than 2 years old may be considered out of date and will need revision.
- Planning
 - (i) the appeal for the proposed development in Babylon Lane has been lodged.
 - (ii) There is a new application at Orchard View Cottages in Bishampton. Cllr Tucker is trying to establish how access to the back garden will be gained.

There were no questions.

5. Progress Reports for Information and Discussion

- 5.1. **Update on Public Consultation re proposal to sell Housemartins** – The Chair explained that preparation of the leaflet had been delayed due to personal matters but should be complete within the next few weeks. Once this is distributed, a public meeting will be held.

6. Items for consideration/approval

- 6.1. It was agreed that the date of the Bishampton Annual Parish Assembly should be held on 15th April and the Throckmorton Annual Parish Assembly should be 18th April. All in favour.
- 6.2. Cllr Amoroso has been liaising with PC Lane about the possibility of holding a crime prevention event. The Clerk outlined the details and Cllr Boocock proposed that initially the event is held at a coffee morning in the near future and then a larger standalone event may be considered later in the year. All in favour.

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- 6.3. The Parish Council has been notified of an unauthorised gate that has been cut into a PC owned fence at The Dolphin. Photographs have been circulated to show the damage and it was noted that the wire currently remains intact to prevent access through the new gate. The Chair explained that the underlying issue concerns a claim of an easement, which would confer a legal right to use the gate in perpetuity. This claim is disputed by the Parish Council.

After discussion, it was agreed that the fence be restored and protected from further damage. The Clerk was asked to record the damage to property with the authorities and to send a letter to the neighbour regarding the Council's actions. All were in favour of this course of action.

7. Planning

- 7.1. The following **Planning Decision** was noted:

Application	Address	Proposal	Decision
W/23/02369/HP	Kirrin House, 2 Nighingale Fields, Bishampton	Erection of single-storey rear extension	Approved

- 7.2. The following **Planning Applications** were considered:

Application	Address	Proposal	
W/22/02754/OUT Appeal	Land at OS98692131, Babylon Lane, Bishampton	Outline application with all matters reserved except for access for the construction of 3 no dwellings.	It was noted that the PC's previous objection will automatically be forwarded to the inspector. Additional comments will also be forwarded.
W/23/02542/HP	8 Orchard View Cottages, Main Street, Bishampton	Two storey rear extension and single storey rear extension with new front porch and bay window	Comment – the precedent is recognised but concern is raised over the proximity to the neighbouring property and the potential of the neighbouring property being overlooked from the side window.

8. Properties

- 8.1. Housemartins boiler. It was noted that there was a callout to the boiler on 18th January which was cancelled the following day as the problem had disappeared. The Clerk to contact a local heating engineer to arrange a boiler service. All were in favour.
- 8.2. Dolphin boiler.
- The Clerk confirmed that the boiler has recently had its annual service.
 - An engineer was recently called out by the Manager of The Dolphin as there was no heating downstairs in the restaurant. A temporary fix was implemented resulting in the restaurant heating and the flat running on the same circuit. Plans are in place for the engineer to return to carry out a permanent fix. The Chairman will speak to the engineer to establish the exact nature of the issue and determine if the repair is the PC's or the tenant's responsibility.

9. Finance

- 9.1. The bank reconciliation for January was received and approved. All in favour.
- 9.2. The list of January 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 Hodgkiss. All in favour.

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9.3. A document prepared by the Chairman with an explanation on the 2024/25 precept had been previously circulated for review. Everyone was happy with the document and approved its publication on the website.

10. To note items of correspondence

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

- 10.1 – Cllr Amoroso had sent in formal confirmation that the block paved area at BATVH is the responsibility of the Village Hall.
- 10.22 – Cllr Rolls has offered to be the PC representative on the Bish Bosh Bash Committee.

11. Clerk's report –

- The RoSPA annual inspection of the play areas has been booked for March.
- Cllr Amoroso has informed the Clerk that she is unable to continue as the PC representative on the BATVH Committee. The Clerk asked if any other Councillors would be prepared to take over the role, but no-one present was willing. The Clerk will contact the other PC members who are not present at the meeting to see if any of them would be prepared to join this committee.

12. Councillors' reports and any items for future agenda

- The Chair reported that the Quality Award certificate had recently been presented to The Chair and The Clerk at The Dolphin.
- The Throckmorton VAS is dropping power and resetting the date to 1/1/1970 every few days. The unit is still under guarantee and Westcotec will be attending site to repair.
- Age UK Herefordshire and Worcestershire is offering eligible people a free home energy review which can include energy-saving equipment being provided. Details are on the PC's website – www.batpc.org.uk
- Cllr Tucker reported debris in the ditch in Throckmorton which could run down to the trash screen. The Clerk confirmed that the Lengthsman checks the trash screen weekly and is aware of the situation and is keeping an eye on it.
- Cllr Tucker said that Brian Young has successfully completed his chainsaw training.
- Cllr Wallace said that wheelie bins are left out for the week are causing difficulties. It was agreed that this will be mentioned in the forthcoming newsletter.
- Cllr Hodgkiss reported that there are a couple of new residents in Tilesford. He will liaise directly with Cllr Amoroso regarding issuing a Welcome Pack.
- Cllr Davis asked for any updates re a possible bus service. Cllr Tucker confirmed that money is still available from Wychavon District Council. Possible options are still being explored.

13. Date of next meeting:

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on:

Monday 4th March 2024, The Ockenden Suite, Bishampton Villages 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 the public interest, following which members of the public will be asked to withdraw. Proposed by Cllr Boocock and seconded by Cllr Tucker. All in favour.

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15. Bishampton Stores – change of tenancy

The council was updated on the meeting with the prospective new shop tenant, and the outcome was very positive and those present at this meeting were very happy to recommend that a new lease is issued. The lease will be in the name of a Limited company. It was proposed by Cllr Boocock and seconded by Cllr Davis that the new lease is offered to the applicant. All were in favour of this proposal.

It was confirmed that guarantors for each director have been requested, along with other references. Additionally, the PC was informed that the new tenants have asked for a 10-year renewing lease. The council prefer to avoid granting a right of renewal as this binds the decisions of a future council in 10 years' time, though there should be no objection to renewal if no issues arise. The clerk will seek advice from the solicitor on this matter.

Due to the urgency of issuing the new lease, Cllr Boocock proposed that the Clerk is given delegated authority to progress the lease with the solicitors. Seconded by Cllr Tucker. All in favour. The Clerk will keep all Cllrs informed of progress.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 21.29

Signed

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Bishampton & Throckmorton Parish Council - February Payments

Bank Balances as at 1st February	Amount	Interest
Lloyds Deposit	32,784.85	33.83
Lloyds Current (01289157)	4,587.47	
Lloyds Ounce Deposit	6,563.51	6.77
Total	43,935.83	

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	28.35	0.00	28.35	2	n/a
Smartcut	grounds maintenance	306.18	61.24	367.42	25	21682
Smartcut	Christmas Tree	85.00	17.00	102.00	9	21606
Ounce	Xmas Mulled Wine	25.00	5.00	30.00	9	January
Cllr Boocock	Reimburse - Xmas gifts	14.73	0	14.73	9	receipt
Carl Brassington	Lengthsman Duties	200.00	0.00	200.00	31	n/a
Britania	Boiler service - Dolphin flat	110.00	22.00	132.00	24	2798
Ionos	webhosting	10.00	2.00	12.00	9	DD
Ionos	website content management	7.00	1.40	8.40	9	DD
		1,580.16	108.64	1,688.80		