

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 8th April at 7.00pm held in Throckmorton Parish Room

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

In attendance: County Cllr Boatright, District Cllr Tucker and Carolyn Morris (Acting Clerk)

The chairman opened the meeting at 19:00.

1. Apologies: Apologies were received from Cllr 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 no members of the public present.
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3. Minutes: Cllr Boocock proposed that the minutes of the previous meeting were a true and accurate record. All were in favour. The Chair signed the minutes.

4. District and County Councillors' reports.

County Councillor Report:

- Cllr Boatright spoke about the pressures on the county council highways and maintenance teams in the light of such heavy rainfall over the last few months. Clearing drains and gullies had become a priority which had pushed some other highways issues back. He urged residents seeing any flooding problems to report them as soon as possible so they could be included on the system.
- The current Fire Services Spending Review was mentioned with regards to removing some appliances and merging services in the local area. Cllr Boatright said that because some criteria had changed during the review, there were calls for it to be declared null and void because some people had already given opinions which would then be discounted.
- It was reported that the County Council portion of the council tax had risen 4.99% which included the adult social care levy. Cllr Boatright said he didn't vote for the budget as it he felt didn't agree with, amongst other things, amounts set aside for end of life care.
- Cllr Boatright reported that the school system is still in limbo, as considerations are still underway to change the three-tier (middle school) system to two tier. Some schools don't want to do it and with an uncertain future, schools are struggling with recruitment and future planning.
- Cllr Boatright said he and his colleagues were pursuing a share of the £8billion pledged by Rishi Sunak to tackle potholes and would continue to do so. If he's successful, the money can be used also to tackle footpaths, so the team will keep trying.
- Worcestershire County Council Head of Child Services is moving to Herefordshire and a new head of department is being sought.
- County Council meetings are still being held outside of County Hall where the problems with RAAC concrete have not yet been resolved.
- Severn Trent had set up traffic lights in Station Road that day which should actually have been set up in another Station Road in another town. Cllr Boatright had made his feelings known.

The chairman thanked Cllr Boatright and also passed on thanks for the installation of handrails at the bottom of Babylon Lane in Bishampton.

District Councillor report:

- Cllr Tucker mentioned latest planning applications and outcomes, notably the drive at Sunnybank in Bishampton, to be discussed later in the meeting.
- It was reported that a pre-application has been received by Wychavon for the installation of a battery system at Bishampton Energy Park.
- There was still no information about the plans for three self-build houses at the south end of Main Street.
- Wychavon's portion of the council tax was raised by 2% this year after six years of it being frozen.
- Wychavon was 50 years old on April 1st and the leader of the council had tried to visit every parish.
- All parishes are being encouraged to have their own neighbourhood plan, said Cllr Tucker, although it was noted that there are risks in developing any plan before the SWDPR has been completed.
- Elections are being held on May 2 for Police Commissioner.
- There is a new out of hours contact number for WDC (on the main phone line) but it is only to be used in emergencies.

The chairman thanked Cllr Tucker and there were no further questions.

5. Progress Reports for Information and Discussion

- 5.1. Unauthorised Gate in the fence at The Dolphin – No further progress to report.
- 5.2. Community Bus Service – Cllr Boocock reported there had been two meetings with the with Community Transport Specialist (Madaline Summer) and with representative from Pershore Volunteer Centre. It seems that a six-month trial (one or two days a week bookable service to Pershore and back with a few hours in town) could be arranged for approx £1750 or £3500 respectively – and there was potential to obtain support funding to cover a significant portion of that cost. There were also plans to liaise with Hill and Moor and Wyre Piddle with a view to sharing the service and costs. The next step would be to get some evidence of need and support and it was agreed that promotion around the villages, at the parish meetings, in the newsletter and on social media was important to the scheme's success.
- 5.3. Update on considering the creation of a multi-agency forum – Deferred.

6. Items to resolve/consider

- 6.1. Public meeting and vote re a proposal to sell the flat above the shop.
 - (i) Debrief following the meeting and to note the results of the public vote: The chairman reported that it was a difficult public meeting, largely down to IT issue with projectors which prevented the display of the PC figures. There was a large attendance and the chairman added that it was soon apparent that there was a strong lobby to retain the flat whatever the financial saving. The poll results from both the meeting and online were as follows: From 166 valid votes (4 disallowed due to non-residency), 11 (6.6%) were in favour of selling and 155 (93.4%) were in favour of retaining. Results were published on the website, social media and noticeboards. Cllr Wallace expressed his concern that the people voting were not in possession of all the facts, thanks in no small part to the technical breakdown which made it difficult to display the argument for a financial benefit to the parish in the short term.
 - (ii) Review of the proposal in light of the public meeting and vote: The chairman proposed that there be no further action regarding the sale of the shop at this time. There was concern expressed that those who voted may not have fully understood all the issues involved, which might mean the council was not actually doing the best for the parish, but it was agreed that the amount of people who voted and the overwhelming outcome of the vote gave a strong indication of village opinion which should not be ignored. Cllr Davis seconded the proposal and it was carried with

one abstention.

- 6.2. To consider a grant application from BATVHC for urgent tree work:
Further problems with ash dieback had been identified at the village hall and trees had been urgently removed along the west boundary in cooperation with the neighbour who was sharing the cost. The council agreed to give a £200 grant towards the costs, which was an amount remaining in the budget for such costs the last financial year. Although such grants would not normally be given retrospectively, it was noted that there was provision for this to happen when the matter was urgent.
- 6.3. To consider undertaking a survey for Great Crested Newts at the Nature Reserve:
The council agreed to fund a survey (£150) to establish the presence of newts in the reserve. Because there are (rare and protected) Great Crested Newts in another pond nearby, it could be that protection would need to be put in place for a corridor between the waterways.
- 6.4. To note the resignation of Cllr Giel: The chairman explained that Cllr Geil felt unable to support the community following the decision over the flat. He was asked to reconsider but reaffirmed his decision. He officially resigned on March 28th and WDC has been notified.
- 6.5. To receive the annual RoSPA playground inspection reports: The chairman and clerk were delegated to look into the few items which were pointed out to address.

7. Planning.

- 7.1. The following planning applications were considered:
W/24/00462/HP Sunnybank Cottage, Main Street, Bishampton - Removal of gravel surface finish to driveway and replacement with permeable self-draining block paving.
Members expressed a preference for the gravel drive in terms of appearance suitable for a listed building. There was concern for drainage because of the slope of the paving, which would mean water would run off it before it could soak away. A suggestion of a drain leading to a soakaway in the verge was suggested if the block paving was to be approved. Comment to be submitted
- 7.2. To receive the following planning decisions, plus any received after publishing the agenda:
 - (i) W/23/02542/HP – 8 Orchard View Cottages, Main Street – **Approved**
 - (ii) Appeal A: App/H1840/W/23/3327533 – The Cottages, Broad Lane – **Dismissed**
 - (iii) Appeal B: App/H1840/Y/23/3327534 – The Cottages, Broad Lane – **Dismissed**
 - (iv) Black Barn House – conversion of stable to annex - **Approved**

8. Properties

- 8.1. Shop tenancy change – update on lease: After initial agreement for the handover, there were some queries regarding the lease and siting a new compressor in the wall of the building, something which would need planning permission which the PC could not provide. The chairman reported that it seemed these issues had been ironed out and a date for signing was now set for April 28th.

9. Finance

- 9.1. To receive the bank reconciliation for March. It was also noted that a payment had been made after the end of the financial year. If auditors advise it should be included, then the figures may be adjusted accordingly. Noted and approved.
- 9.2. To receive the 2023/24 end of year monitoring report: Councillors approved the monitoring report, subject to some minor adjustment (as above) to be finalised by the clerk and chairman.
- 9.3. To receive the current list of payments and receipts and approve payments. Approved.
- 9.4. To consider the reallocation of some unspent funds from 2023/24 budget to 2024/25 reserves.
Approved – clerk to make the transfer once all figures finalised.

10. Correspondence:

Correspondence had been circulated. The following was noted:

10.1. Cost of printing of Parish Magazine to rise by 5%, (approx. £5.50 per issue)

11. Clerk's report:

- King's Portrait: When the clerk saw that portraits of the King were being given to local authorities free of charge, she applied and has received a portrait (637mm x 507mm) in a sustainably-sourced oak frame. The council agreed to ponder the siting of it at the upcoming public meetings – likely at one of the village halls.
- Neighbourhood Watch: Clare Elwell has been the local Neighbourhood Watch coordinator for some time and would like to step down. Emails are now directly sent out from the police and the job involves some small updates and liaison with local officers. It was agreed to raise this at the parish meetings to try to find a replacement, when Clare would also be officially thanked for all her work.
- Lengthsman Scheme: The Lengthsman Scheme is going digital and there will be an online parish dashboard where clerks can submit invoices and see their spending against their grant balance.
- Infinis – There had been no response, apart from acknowledgement, to the PC's comments on the Deed of Contribution and no response as yet to the clerk's email regarding an update on progress, reports of mobile phone signals dying when in the vicinity of the farm and reports of a recent fire. Clerk to pursue.

12. Councillors' reports and items for future agenda:

- Cllr Tucker gave an update on Shorthorn Wood maintenance, some of which had been stalled by the wet weather. Charcoal burning is due to start in early May; 350 trees had been planted in the hedgerows thanks to a donation from the Woodland Trust; five bird boxes have been erected. Cllr Tucker requested that the unspent 23-24 SHW budget be held in reserve for training
- Cllr Hodgkiss said he had been liaising with Cllr Liz Tucker about the potholes at the entrance to Tilesford Park and Willow Bank. Investigations are underway to see where the highway stops and the private road begins.
- It was noted that there was still an issue with some brown bins in Bishampton causing a traffic hazard by their placement at the very edge of the road.

13. Date of next meeting:

13.1. The next meeting of the Parish Council will be the Annual Parish Council Meeting which will be held on Monday 13th May at 7pm in The Ockenden Suite, Bishampton Villages Hall

13.2. The Annual Parish Meetings will be held on

(i) Bishampton – 15th April 2024 – Bishampton Villages Hall at 7pm

(ii) Throckmorton – 18th April 2024 – Throckmorton Parish Room at 7pm

The chairman thanked all for attending and the meeting closed at 20:46.

Carolyn Morris

Acting Parish Clerk

12th April 2024

BISHAMPTON AND THROCKMORTON PARISH COUNCIL

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



Bishampton & Throckmorton Parish Council - April Payments

Bank Balances - 1st April 2024	Amount	Interest
Lloyds Deposit	24,856.15	35.10
Lloyds Current (01289157)	14,821.84	
Lloyds Ounce Deposit	6,578.01	7.25
Total	46,256.00	

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	36.45	0.00	36.45	2	n/a
J White reimburse	Outstanding Employer NI from M9	47.88	0.00	47.88	1a	n/a
J White expenses	Parking at Solicitors & pens for public meetin	6.34	0.66	7.00	2.00	n/a
Smartcut	grounds maintenance	306.18	61.24	367.42	25	21953
Carl Brassington	Lengthsman Duties	180.00	0.00	180.00	31	n/a
St James PCC fete	Bish Bosh Bash Grant	500.00	0.00	500.00	30	n/a
Parish Magazine Printing	Spring newsletter	109.38	0.00	109.38	3	11470
RoSPA	Playground Inspections	172.00	34.40	206.40	26	77905
BATVHT	Room Hire	48.00	0.00	48.00	6	736
C Morris	Locum Clerk	65.16	0.00	65.16	1	n/a
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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