

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 3rd June 2024 at 7.00pm in The Parish Room, Throckmorton

Present: Cllrs Boocock, Davis, Wallace and Cllr Tucker (arrived later due to attending another meeting)
Cllr McCorrie was co-opted during the meeting.

In attendance: Julie White, Parish Clerk, County Cllr Boatright-Greene and District Cllr Tucker

The Chairman opened the meeting.

1. Apologies: Apologies were received from Cllrs Amoroso, Rolls and Hodgkiss.

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

David McCorrie was present as his co-option was an agenda item but he did not address the Parish Council at this time and the meeting was not adjourned.

3. Minutes:

- 3.1 The minutes of the Annual Parish meeting on 13th May 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.
- 3.2 The minutes of the draft minutes of the Bishampton Annual Parish meeting on 15th April were received.
- 3.3 The minutes of the draft minutes of the Throckmorton Annual Parish meeting on 18th April were received.

4. District and County Councillors' reports.

County Councillor report:

Cllr Boatright-Greene gave a brief report as there are no announcements due to being in the pre-election period.

He has a meeting soon to try and resolve the state of Long Lane in Throckmorton.

The Drains Team are still doing a good job.

The District and County Councils are looking to coordinate an approach to cut back the hedgerows to improve visibility.

District Councillor report:

Cllr Liz Tucker spoke about outstanding planning applications including the Planning Appeal for the outline application for up to 3 self-build dwellings off Main Street. She has not been able to get in touch with the Planning Officer to establish why no decision has been made on this application which has prompted the applicant to go through the Appeal system.

SWDPR – No further documents have been added to the planning inspectorate base since 17th May. Cllr Liz Tucker has contacted Planning Policy regarding strategic gaps and she was informed that the recommendation is that all 3 strategic gaps in our area should be abandoned, which is concerning.

Cllr Tucker is looking into the planning conditions of Watersedge as residents are unhappy with the number of events which appear to contravene the planning conditions. The Clerk was asked to contact the planning department for clarification of the planning conditions.

5. To consider co-opting David McCorrie – David's information and eligibility form had been previously circulated to the Parish Council and David made a brief introduction to the Council. Cllr Boocock then proposed that David McCorrie is co-opted onto the Parish Council. Seconded by Cllr Davis. All in favour. Cllr McCorrie signed his Declaration and joined the meeting.

6. Progress reports - for information and discussion:

- 6.1. Unauthorised gate in the fence at The Dolphin – Cllr Hodgkiss has emailed the Clerk and advised that the materials are now available and he will hopefully make repairs to the gate this week.
- 6.2. Community bus service – Cllr Boocock confirmed that the response to the survey has been poor. It was agreed that there would be one final push via Facebook, the website and via an article in the next newsletter. If the response is still poor, then the idea may need to be dropped. All in favour. Cllr Liz Tucker said that should the idea be dropped, there could still be an option for a Ring and Ride service rather than a regular scheduled service. She also suggested that the PC could consider trying to set up a voluntary lift service.
- 6.3. Update on creating a multi-agency forum. Cllr Boocock said that he had met with Cllr Rolls and they had identified some contacts to email from local groups. He asked Council if they would approve a one-off fee to book a meeting room at the Villages Hall for group representatives to meet up to establish if there was any appetite to create the forum or not. All were in favour of funding the room if required.
- 6.4. Cllrs Boocock and Davis circulated the list of minor issues raised in the play areas and how they are going to be rectified. A quote for the repairs to the grass in the goalmouths has been obtained for £100 and it was noted that the area would need to recover for 3 weeks. Therefore, it was agreed that the repairs to the goal mouth grass should be carried out in the Autumn. A further quote will be sought. Cllr Boocock proposed that a sum of up to £100 is authorised for the repairs to the goal mouth. All in favour.
- 6.5. Update regarding the solar farm - the Clerk confirmed that she had heard off Infinis who confirmed that the opening of the footpath across the solar farm has been delayed despite previously giving a re-opening date of June 1st. A new date for the re-opening of the footpath and a date for an Open Day has yet to be confirmed by Infinis. The queries from the PC regarding the legal agreement for distribution of the funds have been with their legal team for several months, the Community Relations Manager from Infinis has said that she will chase them up.

Cllr Charles Tucker arrived from another meeting at 19.54

- 6.6. The price for a dog poo bin had been confirmed as £537.24 comprising of £350 for the bin, £21.14 for fitting, admin charge of £89.54 and an annual fee to empty the bin weekly of £76.56. Cllr Liz Tucker had obtained a price of £175 for a litter bin plus the same fitting charge and emptying charge and an admin charge of approximately £55 making a total of around £327.70. A discussion took place over where bins are located currently and the fact that bagged dog waste can be placed in a litter bin and does not need a separate receptacle. Cllr McCorrie offered to chat to local dog walkers to ascertain where they felt that a dog bin would be beneficial in the area of the church. It was also suggested that a bin could be moved from the Villages Hall as there is both a dog waste bin and 2 litter bins there. The Clerk will speak to the person who originally requested the dog poo bin at the Church, to confirm that should the PC decide to have a litter bin instead of a specific dog waste bin installed, that they would be happy with this.

7. Items to resolve/consider:

- 7.1. The merits of using a projector to display plans etc at meetings were discussed. Cllr Wallace proposed that a budget of up to £160 excluding VAT is approved to purchase a suitable projector. Seconded by Cllr Tucker. 4 votes in favour and 1 vote against.
- 7.2. The item on the owl box was deferred until details are obtained from Cllr Amoroso.
- 7.3. Cllr Davis agreed to be the PC representative on the Bishampton Villages Hall committee. All were in favour.
- 7.4. The draft annual Action Plan had been previously circulated. Cllr Tucker asked that the production of a Management Plan for Shorthorn Wood is included. With this addition, Cllr Boocock proposed that the Action Plan is adopted. Seconded by Cllr Tucker. All in favour. Cllr Tucker will forward to Cllr Boocock the necessary wording regarding the Management Plan for inclusion in the Plan as soon as possible.
- 7.5. The criteria for identifying Police priorities had been previously circulated. It was agreed that car theft from properties would be an identified priority. All in favour.

Cllr Boocock said that the Community Engagement Police Van had recently been in Bishampton to give out crime prevention information. It was suggested that they could be invited to attend the Bish Bosh Bash event.

8. Planning

- 8.1. There were no new planning applications to consider but the appeal for W/22/02070/OUT – Outline application for up to 3 self-build dwellings off Main Street, Bishampton (All matters reserved except for access) was discussed. It was agreed that Cllrs Boocock and Tucker would prepare some additional comments to be forwarded to the Inspector. The comments which had been previously submitted would automatically be forwarded to the Inspector.
- 8.2. There were no planning decisions.

9. Properties

- 9.1. It was noted that there had been no increase in rent at Housemartins since October 2022. The Letting Agent provided some suggested increase figures, lower than the market value. After discussion, it was agreed that Housemartins rent should be increased by the lowest recommended figure which would equate to a 9% increase. This decision took into consideration the ongoing issues at the flat requiring rectification, plus the stress that the tenants faced due to the potential sale of the flat. Cllr Tucker proposed the 9% increase which was seconded by Cllr Davis. 4 votes in favour and 1 abstention.

10. Finance

- 10.1. The Internal Audit report had been previously circulated. The Chair was pleased to highlight that it was very positive and included some commendatory remarks.
- 10.2. The date for the Exercise of Public Rights were confirmed as June 10th – 19th July. All in favour.
- 10.3. The Annual Governance Statement had been circulated in advance of the meeting. Cllr Boocock read through all the statements contained within the document. Cllr Tucker proposed that these are approved. Seconded by Cllr Davis. All in favour. The Chair and the Clerk signed the Annual Governance Statement.
- 10.4. The Statement of Accounts had been circulated in advance of the meeting. Cllr Tucker proposed that Statement of Accounts was approved. Seconded by Cllr Davis. All in favour. The Chair signed the document which had been previously signed by the Responsible Finance Officer.
- 10.5. The May bank reconciliation was received. All in favour.
- 10.6. The list of current payments and last month's receipts were approved en bloc. Proposed by Cllr Boocock and seconded by Cllr Davis. All in favour.

11. To note items of correspondence

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

- BATVHC – price increase of 10% for room rental
- Neighbourhood Watch – still looking for someone to take it over
- Footpaths Officer – work on footbridge behind The Dolphin should be carried out in July
- Resident – complaint over noisy bank holiday event at The Dolphin
- The Bishampton phone mast should be erected in July/August
- Westcotec – still issues with Vehicle Activation Signs

12. Clerk's Report

The Clerk reminded Councillors that the next Parish Newsletter is shortly to be produced so any items for inclusion are to be forwarded as soon as possible.

The Clerk mentioned the outstanding Biodiversity Policy and suggested adopting a basic one which can be added to.

13. Councillors’ reports and any items for future agenda

At last month’s meeting, Cllr Tucker raised the matter of funds sitting in a deactivated account for a now disbanded group called the 4 Parishes Archaeological Group (4PAG). Cllr Tucker is looking to move the funds to another account, possibly the Parish Council account. In consultation with Cllr Boatright-Greene, Cllr Tucker is now suggesting that the money (approximately £630) is used to mount an exhibition showcasing the interesting archaeology in our area. The Parish Council agreed in principle that the money could be paid into the PC’s account and ringfenced to specifically produce an exhibition, on the proviso that

- it doesn’t go against any winding up clause in the constitution
- the other parties from Pinvin, Lower Moor and Wyre Piddle give their consent
- CALC confirm that there are no issues with this course of action.

This matter will be placed on the next agenda.

Cllr Tucker reported that the 1st burn of charcoal was partially successful and the 2nd burn will take place next week. It is hoped that the charcoal produced can be sold in the local shop to parishioners.

14. Date of next meeting: Monday 8th July in the Ockenden Suite, Bishampton Villages Hall at 7.00pm

The meeting closed at 21.24

Signed

Bishampton & Throckmorton Parish Council - June Payments

	Amount	Interest
Lloyds Deposit	24,908.41	26.59
Lloyds Current (01289157)	26,852.25	
Lloyds Ounce Deposit	6,591.84	7.04
Total	58,352.50	

Bank Balances - 31st May 2024

Authority to pay	Description	Nett Amount	VAT	Total	Cost code	Invoice No
PWLB	Shop loan	5299.28	0	5299.28	20	DD
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	30.15	0.00	30.15	2	n/a
Worcs CALC	Annual Subscription	491.36	87.16	578.52	5	9415
Smartcut	grounds maintenance	306.18	61.24	367.42	25	22420
Carl Brassington	Lengthsman Duties	160.00	0.00	160.00	31	n/a
W J Robinson	Internal Audit	289.60	0.00	289.60	4	BaTPC001
Ionos	webhosting	10.00	2.00	12.00	9	DD
Ionos	website content management	7.00	1.40	8.40	9	DD
		2,088.19	151.80	2,239.99		