

BISHAMPTON AND THROCKMORTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 7th October 2024 at 7.00pm in The Ockenden Suite at Bishampton Villages Hall

Present: Cllrs Boocock (Chair), Amoroso, Davis, Hodgkiss, McCorrie (arrived at 19:14), Tucker and Wallace. Cllr Venters joined the meeting following his co-option.

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

The Chairman opened the meeting.

1. **Apologies:** Apologies were received from Cllr Rolls

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. Cllr Amoroso declared an interest in item 7.3 - the maintenance of footpath 557b – as she lives adjacent to it.
- Written requests for the council to grant a dispensation (S33 of the Localism Act 2011). **None**

Adjournment for Public Question Time

There were 5 members of the public present.

- A resident objected to the suggested siting of a new dog waste bin by her property and outlined the reasons for her concerns.
- The shop tenants shared their proposals for altering the store, which include installing a roller shutter at the rear of the shop for greater security, putting in another external cooler next to the existing one and removing the café area to create more space for stock.

3. **Minutes:** The minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 2nd September were proposed by Cllr Boocock 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:

- A task and finish group has been established to address small local flooding projects, with a focus on highlighting areas that the Environment Agency will not assist with. The group aims to make local parishes more sustainable and is liaising with the District Council about funding allocations for these small initiatives. Cllr Boatright-Greene asked that any specific issues are reported to him, as a list of projects is currently being compiled.
- A cycle event is due to take place on 13th October in Hill Furze Road.
- Throckmorton Road is due to close, subject to weather conditions, between 6–10 January for kerbing and verge works.
- Drainage – if water starts backing up, please report to Worcester County Council and tell Cllr Boatright-Greene as soon as possible.
- If there are any faded white line road markings identified, please let Cllr Boatright-Greene know as he may have access to some funding.
- The consultation for the education system changes from three tier to two tier has now concluded. If Cabinet approves the changes, they will not take place until at least 2027.
- There will be a decision in November as to whether County Hall can re-open.
- Cllr Boatright-Greene has met with NHS Adult Mental Health services with a view to working with GP services.
- County Council boundaries are to remain unchanged.

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Questions were then invited:

Cllr Charles Tucker said that in 2009 all properties which flooded in 2007 were documented and this would be a good starting point for the flooding task group. Cllr Boatright-Greene hasn't gone through all the paperwork that he has yet, but he will check if he has this documentation.

Cllr Boocock said that he reported the eroding tarmac on the road from Bishampton to Throckmorton on September 4th and was given reference numbers 60811 and 60812. Nothing further has been heard and when full of water there is no indication of how deep the ruts are and they are very dangerous. Cllr Boatright-Greene said that he is trying to get more money from the budget to tackle this sort of issue, as funding is difficult for this category of road which doesn't meet the 'best in county' criteria.

District Councillor report:

- Cllr Liz Tucker gave an update on the 3 planning applications still awaiting a decision.
- SWDPR - The Inspectorate has written to Wychavon District Council stating that if doesn't provide all outstanding information by the end of the year, the plan will be thrown out. Cllr Liz Tucker, together with Cllr Charles Tucker and Cllr Dan Boatright-Greene are to meet with the Head of Planning to get some answers as to why the deadlines keep being missed.
- The road sweeping contractors are having recruitment issues and therefore road sweeping personnel are being deployed to refuse collection, meaning that road sweeping is being neglected. All villages are entitled to 4 road sweeps per year, to be carried out within 28 days of request, and kerb weeds should be sprayed annually.
- The verge has corroded towards Upton Snodsbury Road and is very dangerous when filled with water as the ruts are very deep.

There were no questions for Cllr Tucker.

5. To consider co-opting a new councillor onto the Parish Council

Two candidates applied for the vacant parish councillor position. Their applications had been previously circulated for members to examine. The Chair provided an overview of the information submitted by both, noting that each candidate presented as a viable option. Following a period of deliberation, a vote was held, which Chris Venters won by majority. Therefore, Cllr Boocock proposed that Chris Venters is co-opted onto the Parish Council. Seconded by Cllr Hodgkiss. All in favour. Chris signed his Declaration of Office and joined the meeting.

6. Progress reports - for information and discussion:

- 6.1. NALC had been consulted for legal advice on Infinis' draft contract for contributions from the solar farm. Their response was that the situation required negotiation and NALC Legal is not resourced to do that. They felt that the agreement was unusually complex, giving the solar company a lot of say over the contributions that they make. The Clerk obtained a copy of an agreement between another PC and solar company, which was significantly simpler than the draft currently under consideration. Additionally, a Parish Council in the Southwest with an agreement with Aura has been approached to share their agreement; however, no response has been received yet. Cllr Boocock proposed that a local resident with legal expertise, who has previously indicated willingness, reviews the draft agreement and provides a professional opinion. All were in favour of this course of action.

7. Items to resolve/consider:

- 7.1. There were 3 applications for the vacant position of Lengthsman. Each application and references provided had been previously circulated to all members. After discussion, a vote was taken with Jeremy Moore winning the vote by majority. Therefore, Cllr McCorrie proposed that Jeremy Moore is appointed as the Lengthsman with a 3-month probationary period. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Boocock. All in favour.

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- 7.2. A retrospective grant application was received from Bishampton Villages Hall for unexpected electrical costs of £4,800. Cllr Boocock outlined that there is £700 left in the Grants and Donations budget for this year. Alternatively, Cllr Boocock suggested that £1200 of the total was for new facilities ie hand dryers, which would be an improvement to the Village Hall and would qualify for CIL funding. After discussion, Cllr Boocock proposed that the hand dryers are purchased using CIL money. Seconded by Cllr Tucker. All in favour.
- 7.3. Cllr Amoroso asked that footpath 557b is maintained as it is becoming overgrown. Cllr Amoroso obtained a quote from Smartcut Ltd to carry out a one-off flail and strim for £100 or the footpath maintenance could be added to the Parish Council's contract for £40 per month. After discussion, it was proposed by Cllr Boocock that Smartcut Ltd are asked to carry out a one-off flail and strim to get the footpath back to a good condition, then it will be assessed to see if the Lengthsman and Footpaths volunteer can keep on top of the maintenance. Seconded by Cllr Venters. 7 votes in favour. Cllr Amoroso abstained from voting due to the declaration of a personal interest.
- 7.4. Cllr Boocock proposed that the Parish Council funds the mulled wine for the annual Christmas Eve carol singing, up to a cost of £100. Seconded by Cllr Venters. All in favour.
- 7.5. The Village Hall team has provided an estimate of £120 for fitting an external tap to enable power washing of the play equipment. After discussion, Cllr Boocock proposed that the parish council funds a new outside tap at the Villages Hall up to a maximum cost of £150. Seconded by Cllr McCorrie. All in favour. This is subject to agreement on location etc with BATVHT.
- 7.6. Cllr Tucker updated the Parish Council on the damage to the gate at Shorthorn Wood, explaining how the damage occurred. He reported that the gate either needs to be repaired or replaced and expressed a preference for repair, as it is a strong, long-standing gate with heritage value. Members agreed with this approach. Cllr Tucker has obtained a quote of £275 from Steve Cooper, covering removal, straightening in his workshop, and refitting of the gate. Cllr Tucker proposed that the Council accepts this quote, Cllr Amoroso seconded the motion. 7 votes in favour and 1 abstention. The proposal was approved and the fee will be paid out of reserves.
- 7.7. Strong resident opposition to siting a new dog waste bin at the top of Church End – plus further problems reported at the Church and more resident input suggesting little fouling on Church End and Gunnings Lane – led council to agree that the bin should be located at the Church. Further it was explained that a new bin would qualify for CIL funding. Cllr Boocock proposed that a new dog waste bin is acquired for this location and the litter bin by the path at the village hall be removed (subject to confirmation that this would satisfy Wychavon to avoid additional emptying charges). All in favour.

8. Planning

- 8.1. The following Planning Application was noted:
W/24/01714/HP – 9 Tilesford Park, Tilesford – Extension to rear. The PC agreed to make **No Comment** on this application.
- 8.2. There were no planning decisions.

9. Properties

- 9.1. The Parish Council considered the tenant's proposed alterations to the shop. After deliberation, the parish council agreed in principle to support the proposed alterations. This is subject to a full detailed specification and approval of any structural works being provided. The PC agreed that the tenants must confirm any requirement for planning permission with Wychavon District Council and evidence must be provided to the Parish Council as to whether it is required. A decision over a contribution toward funding for the changes to the roof can only be taken when more detail is available.
- 9.2. The Clerk gave the following property updates:
- i. The electrician is scheduled to visit Housemartins this week.
 - ii. The decorators are treating the mould at Housemartins his week, but the installation of the trickle vents has been delayed and there is no date confirmed for this yet.

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- iii. The Clerk confirmed that the rental incentive period expires for Ounce next month and they will be paying full rent.
- iv. The annual fire alarm check for the shop and flat is due next month.

10. Finance

- 10.1. The September bank reconciliation was received. All in favour.
- 10.2. The list of current payments and last month's receipts had been previously distributed. Cllr Boocock proposed that the payments were approved en bloc. Seconded by Cllr Davis. All in favour.
- 10.3. The 6 monthly monitoring report was received. All in favour.

11. To note items of correspondence

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

- 11.20 - David Molloy – confirmation he is now registered with Rural Payments Agency.
- 11.32 - Cllr Boocock – topsoil applied around goal full of stones – Smartcut to rake.
- 11.36 - NALC – new website launched.
- 11.37 - National Grid – tree trimming request. All in favour of granting permission

- 12. The Clerk's resignation was noted with regret. A working group consisting of Cllr Venters, Cllr Davis, Cllr Amoroso, Cllr Boocock and the Clerk was proposed. The working group will have delegated powers to recruit a new clerk, subject to parish council approval. Also, the parish council confirmed that the position will be advertised at 40 hours per month with the rate of pay being LC2 on NALC's pay scale. Proposed by Cllr Boocock. All in favour.

13. Clerk's Report

- The Clerk reported that she is sorry to be leaving but hopes to help to make the transition as easy as possible.
- Madeleine Sumner at Worcestershire County Council has been contacted to explain that there was very little appetite for a new bus service. She advised that anyone with a need for transport for essential journeys can contact Pershore Volunteer Centre's Community Car scheme. Madeleine is hoping to update the Parish Council soon regarding any Worcestershire On-demand service in the area.

14. Councillors' reports and any items for future agenda

- Cllr Hodgkiss and The Clerk recently attended an on-line course on The Future of Neighbourhood Plans. The notes from that meeting had been circulated. Cllr Boocock said that members should consider placing this on a future agenda to debate if the Parish Council should undertake a Neighbourhood Plan.
- Cllr Tucker confirmed that he has completed the relevant forms for the transfer of funds from the 4PAG group to be ringfenced in Parish Council funds.
- Cllr Boocock reminded members to consider any items for inclusion in next year's budget. Cllr McCorrie asked that an amount for weedkilling and reseeding of the play area is included.

- 15. **Date of next meeting:** Monday 4th November in the Parish Room, Throckmorton at 7.00pm

The meeting closed at 21.35

Signed

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Bishampton & Throckmorton Parish Council - October Payments

Bank Balances - 30th September

Amount Interest

Lloyds Deposit	40,009.21	21.96
Lloyds Current (01289157)	14,232.51	
Lloyds Ounce Deposit	6,618.32	5.62
Total	60,860.04	

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	15.95	0.00	15.95	2	n/a
Smartcut	grounds maintenance	306.18	61.24	367.42	25	23796
NALC reimburse Clerk	Neighbourhood Planning online course for Cllr Hodgkiss and Clerk	65.36	13.08	78.44	7	10394807289 & 10460967279
Worcs CALC	Cllr McCorrie training course	35	7	42.00	7	9603
Med UK (reimburse Clerk)	2 x defibrillator batteries	539.00	107.80	646.80	10	order no 10755
Cllr C Tucker	New gate Lock for Shorthorn Wood	29.98	6.00	35.98	33	receipt
Smartcut	Strim in Throckmorton and seed goal area at playground	145.50	29.10	174.60	25	23920
BATVH	Meeting room hire	15.00	0.00	15.00	6	BATVHT-0787
Ounce	Coffee mornings - June/July/September & October (October payment in advance)	166.70	33.30	200.00	9	Oct-24
Ionos	webhosting	10.00	2.00	12.00	9	DD
Ionos	website content management	9.00	1.80	10.80	9	DD
		2,131.57	261.32	2,392.89		