

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 2nd December at 7.00pm held in The Ockenden Suite, Bishampton Villages Hall

Present: Cllrs Boocock (Chair), Davis, Hodgkiss, McCorrie, Tucker, Venters and Wallace.

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

The Chairman opened the meeting and explained that Carolyn Morris (former Parish Clerk) had agreed to stand in to take meeting minutes until a new clerk was recruited.

1. Apologies: Apologies were received from Cllrs Amoroso 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.
- 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

Mr Rodney Hodgkins updated the council on the latest news about progress in getting the new village phone mast up and running. He expressed his frustration with the mast company, the contractors, the MP's office and all involved. He said he had been told that the mast would not be in operation until the end of March because of road closures involved which have to be organised in school holiday time. Cllr Boatright-Greene was asked if he had any news and he said it was true that highways could not close the road if it meant diverting school buses, so it was hoped February half term would be the latest it would be completed. He believed work could be done over weekends, but the contractors had not responded to that option.

Mr Hodgkins also raised the issue of the state of the pathway from Broad Lane up to the village hall. This had been delayed due to uncertainty about the ownership of the land. Cllr Boatright thought there would be funds available which could help towards costs.

Mr Hodgkins also asked the council whether there was any news about the grant money coming from the now-operational solar farm. This was due to be discussed later in the meeting.

3. Minutes: The minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 4th November 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 spoke about the ongoing online debate about the red glow emanating from the tomato greenhouses on the airfield. There had been reports, complaints of light pollution and comments on social media from people far and wide wondering what the light was. Cllr Boatright-Greene had been told that contractors were looking at minimising the light escaping but some of the problem was put down to 'cloud flare', which is a phenomenon that means the light is diffused over a wider area when there is low cloud conditions
- Cllr Boatright-Greene had spoken to the highways department about the very poor state of Long Lane, and its many potholes, one of which was measured at 1ft from top to bottom. He said that, frustratingly, highways priorities have been to repair main roads first but he is arguing that smaller roads which have to take a lot of HGV traffic should also be on the priority list. He hopes to prompt some action asap. It was noted that pothole repair funding promised by the last government has resulted in just £2.6m for Worcestershire, much less than the scheme suggested.

- County Hall – no news on plans for the empty building. Cllr Boatright-Greene will be pushing for action as it is costly and bad for employees to be in temporary accommodation for so long.
- Schools – January should see the finalisation of the plans to adopt a two-tier school system across the county. The plan will be that all middle schools will be Primary schools from September but will continue until 2027 as the students gradually move on. Academies can, however, choose how they want to run their own systems so there is a possibility of Pinvin schools continuing their present format.
- Landfill – Ash from incinerators is being brought to Hill & Moor to have metals extracted over the next few weeks which might mean a few more vehicles heading to the tip.

There were no questions for Cllr Boatright-Greene.

District Councillor report:

- Cllr Tucker spoke about the SWDP and said that if the planning department complete the next stage by the end of the year then The “Examination in Public” may commence in March. With this in mind, she advised the local parish councils to get together and be prepared from the start of the new year.
- WDC Finances – the district council has been using reserves and hopes very much for a better settlement from the Government, otherwise it is forecast that the council will be in serious financial trouble within three years.
- Planning: Cllr Tucker reported on planning applications and commented on how there was a serious affordable housing need in Wychavon. The problem seems to be that releasing more land for development produces only very small numbers of affordable homes, which does little for the local population.

There were no questions for District Cllr Tucker

5. Progress Reports for Information and Discussion

- 5.1. Solar Farm – A proposed change suggesting housing batteries to the north-west of the site was noted, with some surprise that installation was estimated to be 40 weeks. This will require planning permission so details will be studied then. There was no further news about the grant money, which appeared to be delayed by bureaucracy – the PC will continue to pursue Infinis.
- 5.2. Cllr Venters reported that the sign for the new village hall Junior Play Area had been installed and a new outside tap was just awaiting a plumber to fit it.
- 5.3. War Memorial Cleaning – It was agreed that Cllr Davis should liaise with members of the former history Society for information about previous cleaning/ grants available before any decisions would be made. MD

6. Items for consideration/approval

- 6.1. Roles and responsibilities – Deferred to a future meeting.
- 6.2. To consider appointing Cllr Venters to replace Cllr Davis as PC BATVHT representative. It was decided that because Cllr Venters had since become chairman of the village hall committee, it would be appropriate for Cllr Davis to remain as joint Council representative to make sure there would be no conflict of interests.
- 6.3. Meeting dates for 2025 were approved, following the usual pattern of first Monday of the month, and it was agreed that both Annual Parish Meetings would be held in April.

7. Planning

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

- W/24/01714/HP– 9 Tilesford Park, Tilesford – Approved

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

- W/24/02183/HP – Moat House, Main Street, Bishampton. After studying the plans, councillors had no objection to a proposed extension to the house.

8. Properties

8.1. Shop –

(i) Update on shop alterations and to consider request from tenants for a financial contribution to the replacement of the roof. Recognising the improvement to the building, it was agreed to contribute a sum reflecting the likely cost the council would have incurred for a simple repair. An amount of £500 was agreed.

(ii) The annual inspection of the fire alarm and emergency lights was carried out on 27th November.

8.2. Housemartins -

(i) Update on outstanding works including ratification of the increased cost of the window vents: It was noted that the installation company had agreed to waive the extra unexpected costs of window vents in view of late notification

(ii) To consider quotes for the repair of the garage door: The lowest quote received was for £255 and this was approved.

(iii) - To approve the repair of the fence around the oil tank damaged in the recent storm: It was agreed to ask Tony Dew to look at repairing the fence but not had access yet. A budget of up to £100 was approved for the work

(iv) – The annual fire alarm inspection was carried out on 27th November.

9. Finance

9.1. The November bank reconciliation was received. All in favour.

9.2. The list of current payments and last month's receipts had been previously made available and all were approved for payment. All in favour.

9.3. The draft budget was approved reflecting a zero uplift in the precept despite the impact of NI changes (approx. £750). (Precept requirement to be confirmed to Wychavon in January),

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

- The money saving option for goal nets was no longer available. It was agreed to acquire Velcro straps for the present.
- Flailing the footbath by Walnut Cottage has been delayed due to access for the machine

11. Update from the Staffing Working Group re Clerk vacancy

One person had been interviewed but was not considered suitable as although they didn't have the relevant experience felt necessary.

The position will be readvertised and widened to bordering county associations.

12. Councillors’ reports and items for future agenda

Until a clerk is appointed, the chair proposed to take on the general administration with the approval and assistance of council. As this will include loading bank payments he will refrain acting as a bank signatory for this period.

The chairman reported that the Christmas trees for Bishampton and Throckmorton had been delivered by Smart Cut and that he would communicate the opinion that the tree was not quite as fully-branched as in previous years.

Cllr Rolls asked for the following items to be included in a future agenda

- * A Bishampton calendar and competition, proceeds to the village coffers/fete.
- * Availability/rental of a unit next to the pub for a community project.
- * Allotment possibilities for village residents

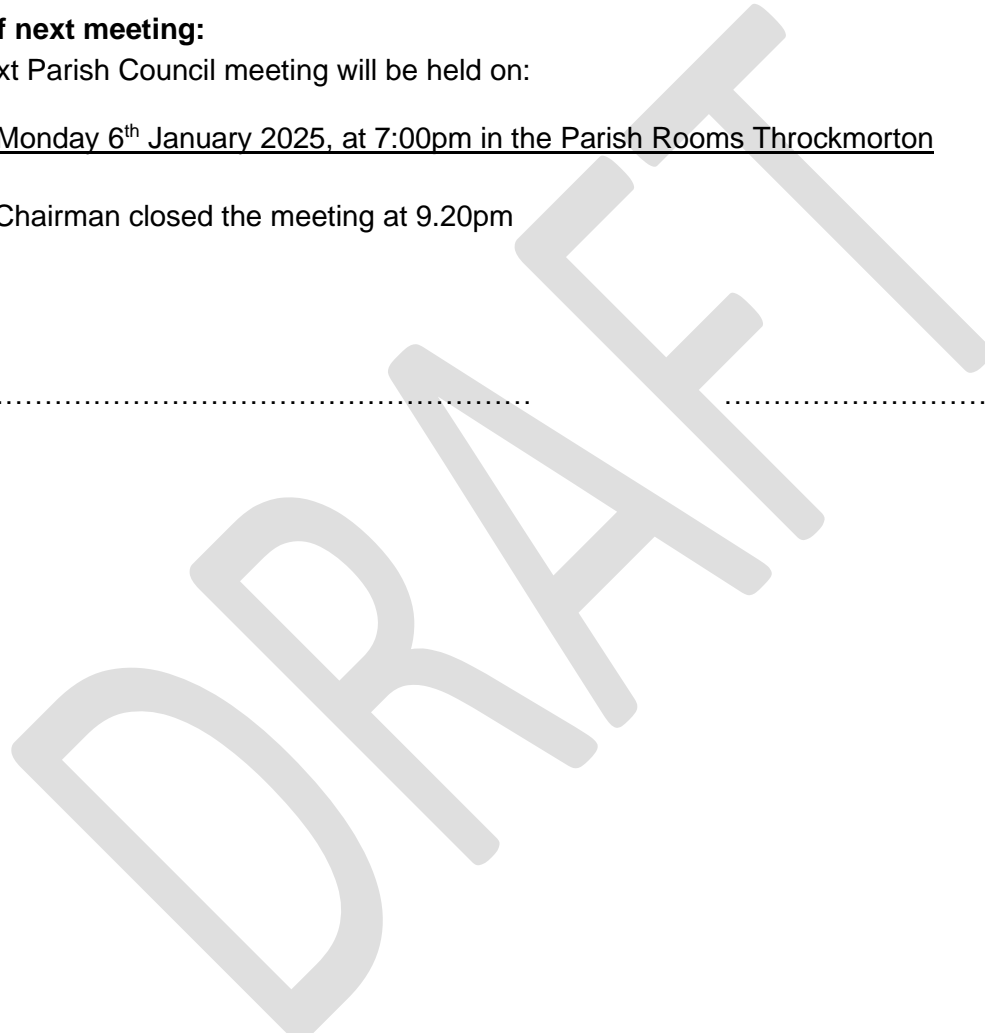
13. Date of next meeting:

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on:

Monday 6th January 2025, at 7:00pm in the Parish Rooms Throckmorton

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.20pm

Signed



Bishampton & Throckmorton Parish Council - December Payments & November Receipts

Bank Balances - 30th November Amount Interest

Lloyds Deposit	40,072.16	36.20
Lloyds Current (01289157)	15,488.21	
Lloyds Ounce Deposit	6,629.75	5.99
Total	62,190.12	

Authority to pay	Description	Nett Amount	VAT	Total	Cost code	Invoice No
PWLB	Shop loan	5299.28	0	5299.28	20	DD
J White	Back Pay 8 x 24.40	195.20	0.00	195.20	1	n/a
J White	Mileage	18.00	0.00	18.00	2	n/a
HMRC	er NI	29.48	0.00	29.48	1a	n/a
Smartcut	grounds maintenance	306.18	61.24	367.42	25	24390
Jeremy Moore	Lengthsman	160.00	0.00	160.00	31	n/a
Reimburse Julie White	fireproof document holder	28.32	5.66	33.98	9	191849666
Reimburse Julie White	postage - Lengthsman contract	1.55	0.00	1.55	9	receipt
Signs R Us	Junior Play Area Sign	18.00	3.60	21.60	26	65021
Smartcut	Flailing footpath 557b	100.00	20.00	120.00	25	24214
Carolyn Morris	Minute taking December	65.16	0.00	65.16	1	n/a
Ounce	November Coffee Morning	41.67	8.33	50.00	9	n/a
Timlin & Marshall	Trickle Vents - Housemartins	397.25	79.45	476.70	23	1034
Cotswold Tech Services	Annual fire alarm service	58.80	11.76	70.56	23	awaiting
Ionos	webhosting	10.00	2.00	12.00	9	DD
Ionos	website content management	9.00	1.80	10.80	9	DD
		6,737.89	193.84	6,931.73		