

## **Bishopton Parish Council**

### **Minutes of the June Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2013 in Bishopton Village Hall.**

**Present:** Cllrs: J. Robins (Chair), L. MacMahon, M. Moses, J. Robson, I. Robins, G. Baines.  
D. Thorman – Parish Clerk.

**Apologies for Absence:** Cllr. A. Grieveson. Cllr. B. Jones of DBC had indicated that he would arrive approx. 15 minutes late.

**1. Visitors:** Mr. A. Coote

**2. Declarations of Interest in Items on the Agenda:** None

**3. Previous Minutes:**

After some queries were resolved the minutes were approved and were duly signed by the Chairperson as a true record of the 19<sup>th</sup> June 2013 meeting.

Item 11.2 – Letter from residents re trees in front of property was brought forward to be discussed at this point of the meeting.

Mr. Coote described his concerns regarding a flowering cherry tree outside his property which was causing damage to a footpath. Mr Coote was worried about potential damage to underground services and to his property should the tree undermine its foundations. Some of the higher branches were very close to a bedroom window making access for its cleaning difficult. Mr Coote was advised that the matter had been referred to Mr. P. Haynes, DBC's Arboricultural Officer, who had advised that their policy was to repair footpaths locally when damage became a hazard and not to take further action unless a tree was proved to be causing problems. Any work on the tree would have to be sanctioned by DBC and Mr Haynes anyway.

The Clerk was asked to write to Mr. Haynes requesting a meeting to discuss the concerns on site with Mr Coote and himself. Copies of the correspondence were to be sent to Mr. Coote.

Cllr. B. Jones of DBC joined the meeting at 7:20pm

Mr. A. Coote left the meeting at 7:35pm

**4. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes:**

4.1 Traffic Control Equipment

The Clerk reported that the sign had been moved to the western end of the village on 16<sup>th</sup> July. The speed parameters and light intensity had been altered to see what effect this would have on battery life. He was still experiencing data downloading problems and was in discussion with the suppliers on the issue.

4.2 Parking o/s Bishopton School

Cllr. Jones reported that this had been discussed at a PACT meeting earlier in the evening. It remained the intention of PCSO Heseltine and himself to be involved in a junior PACT in the school when the former returned to normal duties.

4.3 Withdrawal of Supported Bus Services by DBC

Cllr. Jones had circulated a timetable for the new service which was anticipated to start on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2013 with a launch one week previously involving the mayor of Darlington. It was noted that DART, as a registered charity, could be utilised as a mechanism to generate funds in support of, and to prolong, the project

4.4 Playing Field – Progress Report

The Clerk had written a further letter to the school headmaster but there had been no reply. It was not known if any of the parents or children had written to the school governors.

4.5 Autumn Leaf Removal to Avoid Damage to Grass

The Clerk had contacted a number of contractors regarding autumn leaf removal but only two had expressed an interest in submitting a price. He stated that he would chase up their responses. It is still proposed to see if a work party can be formed in the autumn with local children helping.

#### 4.6 Village Green Access Road Programme

The Clerk distributed a schedule demonstrating responses from 6 contractors who had submitted prices for a variety of surface treatments only 3 of which were within current budget levels. He noted that budgets had been established on the basis of a 5 year programme but now considered that the best option was to seek a loan and undertake the work in one season. On the basis of the cheapest 3 estimates this could be easily accomplished within the budgeted figures. Cllr. Jones suggested that a loan might be obtained from the Public Works Loan Board. On the basis that the surface dressing season ends in September it was agreed that the project should be deferred until May 2014 which would allow time for the Clerk to research loan funding and for consultation to take place with affected residents. In the meantime the Clerk was to respond appropriately to the contractors involved.

#### 4.7 Neighbourhood Plan - Report

The Clerk reported that the such plans were specifically related to development and would give the PC a greater say on the issues and provide 25% of the Community Infrastructure Levy [as against 15% if there was no plan produced]. In view of the very limited scope for infrastructure development within the parish it was decided that the decision made at the previous meeting, not to produce a plan, should stand.

#### 4.8 Website Visits - Report

The Clerk reported that there had been 68 visits over the month since the previous meeting – including 1 each from Australia, Czech Republic, Germany, Japan and the USA. Of 62 visits from the UK, 11 were from York, 6 from Lincoln and 6 from London.

### 5. Planning Applications:

#### 5.1 Decision Notice 4 Manor Farm Court

This had been approved by DBC subject to some conditions.

#### 5.2 Decision Notice 11 High Street

This had been approved by DBC subject to some conditions.

#### 5.3 Decision Notice 17 High Street

This had been approved by DBC subject to extensive conditions. It had been noted that the granting of planning permission gave no rights in relation to the Village Green and the applicant had been advised to seek legal advice in that regard.

### 6. Matters Raised by Councillors & the Clerk:

#### 6.1 Highway Sign Posts East & West of the Village

It was noted that, despite a number of communications to DBC, the damaged sign at the west of the village had not been attended to. It was also noted that there was no adequate signing to indicate Redmarshall Road for traffic egressing from Whinney Hill Lane. The Clerk was asked to communicate these concerns to DBC and to remind them that the cast iron direction sign in the War Memorial triangle still required painting.

### 7. Village Green:

#### 7.1 Damage to Village Green by Weedkiller

It was noted that there had been some damage to the Green by DBC road channel weedkilling operations. However it was believed that this would recover in due course.

### 8. Wind Farm Proposals:

#### 8.1 Up-date on Existing Proposals

SPAG had issued a 'final' newsletter and it was agreed that a copy of this should be placed on the notice board and on the Website.

### 9. New Residents: No. 6 Cobby Castle Lane – Clerk to deliver standard letter of welcome.

Cllr. B. Jones left the meeting at 8:15pm

## **10. Financial**

- 10.1 Annual Audit – Annual Report  
The Auditors report was awaited.
- 10.2 Utility Wayleaves  
The Clerk had obtained full utility details for the village and stated he would contact all concerned regarding wayleave payments.
- 10.3 2013/14 Budget Monitoring Current Financial Position  
The Clerk handed out copies of the financial report showing a balance of £7238.59 in the current account which allowed for all expenditure covered below. The Reserve Account showed a balance of £5629.44, which is the Children's' Fund. Payment of £1683.50 had been received from Punch Taverns and it was agreed henceforth to refer to the Reserve Account as 'Funds held for Young Persons of the Parish'.
- 10.4 Clerk's Job Description and Contract of Employment  
The previously issued Job Description was agreed and the Chair distributed a model document for a Contract of Employment. It was agreed that she would edit this appropriately and distribute for agreement at the next meeting.
- 10.5 Payment for VG Strimming  
In view of the ongoing fine weather and low growth it was agreed that Mr. F. Wall be asked to omit the August trim and finalise operations in September  
Payment of £50 was proposed by Cllr. J. Robson and seconded by Cllr. MacMahon.
- 10.9 Payment of Donation to Rainbow & Brownie Packs  
Payment of £50 had been agreed at the previous meeting.

## **11. Correspondence**

### **INCOMING**

1. Letter from LG Boundary Commission re Electoral Review of Darlington – 25.06.13
2. Letter from E-ON re The isles Wind Farm – 26.06.13
3. Email from Emma Williams of DBC re Darlington Local Plan – 28.06.13
4. Letter via email from Mr. & Mrs Bence re new Tree – 29.06.13
5. Campaign to Protect Rural England NE Newsletter – Summer 2013 – Rec'd 01.07.13
6. Letter from Jeff Stephenson of DBC re Insurance – Rec'd 01.07.13
7. Clerks & Councils Direct Newsletter – July 2013 – Rec'd 01.07.13
8. Letter from Mr. Coote & Mrs. Coote re Tree outside of Property – 01.07.13
9. Email from Cllr. B. Jones of DBC re Gravel Pits – 08.07.13
10. Email from DBC re Decision Notice - 4 Manor Farm Court – 08.07.13
11. DBC Standards Committee Agenda and Reports – Rec'd 09.07.13
12. Email from DBC re Decision Notice – 17 High Street – 12.07.13
13. Email from Cllr. B. Jones of DBC re New Bus Service – 16.07.13
14. Email from Peter Wood [via Vice-Chair] re SPAG Newsletter – 16.07.13
15. Email from DBC re Decision Notice – 11 High Street – 12.07.13

### **OUTGOING**

1. Email to Resident re Correspondence with Estate Agents re Access over Village Green -21.06.13
2. Letter to Neil Parker of Bishopton Redmarshall Primary School re use of School Field – 23.06.13
3. Letter to John Wade re Provision of Skip – 23.06.13
4. Letter to Mary Wood of Village Hall Association re Hire of Supper Room – 23.06.13
5. Letter to Janet Bowes re Donation to Rainbows and Brownies Packs – 24.06.13
6. Letter to Mr. & Mrs Bence re new Tree – 28.06.13
7. Letter to Mr. Coote & Mrs. Coote re Tree outside of Property - 28.06.13
8. Email to Mr. Coote & Mrs. Coote re Tree outside of Property – 10.07.13

### **EMAIL CHAINS**

1. 2 Emails to / from Stephen Edwards of DBC re Planning Application - 17 High Street – 18.06.13

2. 3 Emails to / from Harry Newbould of Unipart Dorman re Traffic Speed Sign – 19.06.13 to 24.06.13
3. 14 Emails to / from Various Surface Dressing Companies re VG Access Roads – 19.06.13 to 26.06.13
4. 4 Emails to / from Grounds Maintenance Contractors re Village Green – 19.06.13 to 24.06.13
5. 2 Emails from Steve Ragg of DCC re Windfarm Working Group meeting – 24.06.13 & 26.06.13
6. 2 Emails from / to Eddie Harrison [Resident] re Rural Broadband – 25.06.13 & 26.06.13
7. 7 Emails from CLCA re Various Topics – 28.06.13 to 11.07.13
8. 3 Emails from / to Les Pownall of DBC re PU Apparatus in VG – 01.07.13
9. 2 Emails from / to Rob Summers of Punch Taverns re Talbot Car Park Resurfacing – 08.07.13 & 10.07.13

- 11.1 Letter from Resident re new Tree  
 Verbal advice had been obtained from Mr. P. Haynes, DBC's Arboricultural Officer, and this had been conveyed to the residents by letter. The letter had concluded with an offer to move the tree nearer to the location of the original tree during its autumn dormant period. A reply had been received requesting that the tree be moved about 5m further from the wall and as close to the kerb line as possible. For a number of reasons such as underground utilities, the presence of a street light and highway safety, this was not considered feasible and the Clerk was asked to write explaining this and suggesting a site meeting should the residents wish. Cllrs. Baines and Moses agreed to attend such a meeting along with the Clerk.
- 11.2 Letter from Residents re Trees in front of Property  
 See following item 3 previously.
- 11.3 NALC Consultation Spreadsheet and LCR Opinion Piece  
 These were noted with no action to be taken.
- 11.4 Local Government Boundary Commission – Electoral Review of Darlington  
 With no knowledge of proposals it was decided not to make comment at this stage of the process.
- 12. Matters Dealt with During the Month:** None
- 13. Date of Next Meeting**            Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2013, at 7:00pm, in the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8:55pm

Signed: Chairperson: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_