



BISHOP'S WALTHAM PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council
held on Tuesday 13th February 2024 at The Jubilee Hall
commencing at 7pm

Present:

Cllr Conduct	
Cllr Iro	Vice Chairman of the Council
Cllr Jones	
Cllr Marsh	Chair of the Council
Cllr Nicholson	
Cllr Pavey	
Cllr Webb	
Cllr Williams	(also a WCC Councillor)
Cllr P Wilson	
Cllr T Wilson	

In attendance: Mrs E McKenzie Executive Officer

Members of the public: 2

PC240/23 To receive and accept apologies for non-attendance

Cllr Jelf – Family Commitments
Cllr Latham – Family Commitments
Cllr Stallard – Family Commitments

Resolved: to accept apologies for non-attendance

Proposed: Cllr Iro

Seconded: Cllr Conduct

All in favour

Cllr Miller (WCC Councillor) had also sent his apologies for non-attendance.

PC241/23 To receive and accept Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests on items on the agenda.

Cllr Williams – agenda item 11 (PC250/23) and agenda item 26 (PC265/23)

PC242/23 To receive and accept any personal, pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests on items on the agenda.

None.

PC243/23 Public Session

A member of the public gave an illustrated talk on the work of the Town Team and an initiative to encourage more volunteers to offer ideas and encourage participation. The Parish Council warmly welcomed him and offered support whenever possible.

(The member of the public then left the meeting at this point)

The Chairman mentioned:-

The Eco Fair and Clean Up Bishop's Waltham (litter pick) events on Sat 23rd March and encouraged councillor attendance.

The Hospitals Together consultation was taking place on Thursday 22nd February at 6:30pm and, again, councillors were asked to attend.

Litter had been noted at the town centre bus shelter, as well as some 'street art'. It was felt that litter and graffiti should be removed as standard, but the street art had been requested to remain by residents. Some form of protective overlay was initially considered for further action to be taken operationally if appropriate.

The Executive Officer noted:-

The sad death of Mrs Helen Hills – advocate and supporter of the Men's Shed group as well as many other community groups.

Thanks given by the Community Payback Scheme worker to the Parish Council grounds staff.

The offer of a free portrait of the King was to be accepted for the Parish Council gallery from the Government Cabinet Office and National Association of Civic Officers.

J. Hand 12-3-24

A letter had been received highlighting concerns for the closure of the HWRC. This would be passed to the working group for their deliberation and inclusion in our response to HCC.

PC244/23 To receive the report from the County Council and District Council Representatives.

Cllr Humby's report was noted.

Cllr Miller's apologies for non-attendance was noted. His report noted that the WCC Strategic Lead had investigated the central car park for additional disabled parking bays, and also that dog waste bins needed carefully monitoring to ensure adequate collections. (The Executive Officer explained that the contractor had given reasons of sick leave for the delay in collection and the schedule was back on track this week).

Cllr Williams raised the following points:-

- WCC had followed up on the requirement for further disabled parking spaces in the central town car park and action was being planned to allocate space and mark such in due course.
- The Hospitals Consultation was noted as key as it would lead to the closure of the A&E at Winchester meaning BW residents would have to travel to Portsmouth or Southampton hospitals which were noted as already at capacity.
- The 11 applications for the Rural England funding had been considered and results would be made known by the end of February.
- A new police officer had been allocated to the town but no response had yet been made to meeting requests by the Parish Council or WCC Councillor.
- Reassurance was given that the Parish Council increase in percept request was in line with other parishes and the increases from all sectors was currently being finalised.

PC245/23 To receive the Minutes of the Committees of the Parish Council

Resolved: to receive the Minutes of the Committees of the Parish Council

Proposed: Cllr Pavey

Seconded: Cllr Jones

9 in favour, 1 abstention

PC246/23 Approval of the minutes of the meeting 16th January 2024

Resolved: to approve the minutes of the meeting 16th January 2024

Proposed: Cllr Williams

Seconded: Cllr P Wilson

All in favour who were in attendance at the meeting of 16th January 2024

PC247/23 Actions arising from the minutes of the meeting 16th January 2024

The Executive Officer provided updates on actions in progress.

The updated lease with the Cricket Club had been drafted by the solicitor for further review by the working group.

HCC had been contacted regarding concerns about the road between the ponds and a response was being pursued.

A further letter had been sent to Sainsbury's requested an ATM to provide additional cash supply in town.

The member of the public added that the Post Office may possibly be reconsidering the idea of including a Banking Hub in their building now that the sorting office area was not in use. It was felt that this initiative would be supported by the Parish Council if the Post Office could offer such a facility.

PC248/23 To receive current financial statement and balance sheet

Resolved: to receive current financial statement and balance sheet

Proposed: Cllr Iro

Seconded: Cllr Pavey

All in favour

PC249/23 Quarterly Budget Review

Resolved: to acknowledge and receive the Quarterly Budget Review as tabled

Proposed: Cllr Jones

Seconded: Cllr Nicholson

All in favour

J. Hall

12-3-24

PC250/23 Planning Applications – Ratification of the Recommendations of the Planning & Highways Committee

It was noted that the planning application for the Esso garage site would possibly be amended and further statutory reports were still outstanding before such would be presented to the WCC Planning Committee. This would take further months so continued monitoring would be in place.

Resolved: to ratify the recommendations of the Planning & Highways Committee

Proposed: Cllr Conduct

Seconded: Cllr Jones

9 in favour, 1 abstention

PC251/23 Notice of a Casual Vacancy and Co-option

Resolved: to readvertise the casual vacancy and to seek to fill the vacancy by co-option at the meeting of 12th March 2024.

Proposed: Cllr Marsh

Seconded: Cllr Webb

All in favour

ACTION: Executive Officer

PC252/23 Asset of Community Value – Re-registration

Resolved: to relist Bishop's Waltham Social Club as an Asset of Community Value

Proposed: Cllr Conduct

Seconded: Cllr Pavey

All in favour

ACTION: Executive Officer

PC253/23 Annual Meeting of the Parish 2024 - Update

The outline of the event was noted as was the requirement of the Committee Chairmen to write their annual reports and create a short presentation for the meeting.

Further recommendations for consideration were suggested for the working group in terms of how to attract a wider demography of audience and ensure relevant targeted publicity followed. The inclusion of the phrase 'children welcome' was suggested to allow parents to attend. The member of the public present suggested asking, via surgeries or social media, what residents would like the meeting about and perhaps offer a raffle. The budgeted cost of the event was queried and the working group were asked to ensure a clear rationale for the proposed spend.

ACTION: Consider additional points suggested

ACTION: AMP 2024 Working Group

PC254/23 Parish Council Website - Update

The paper tabled was noted and, as three councillors not at this meeting, it was agreed to bring this matter to the next meeting for further updates and an additional invitation to join the working group.

PC255/23 Response to Men's Shed Request for Land Lease at Albany Road

The draft response was duly deliberated. The focus was hoped to show Parish Council support of the group with the balance of viewing the area carefully in respect to future land usage for the whole community. The Men's Shed would be encouraged to undertake a feasibility study to return to Parish Council for further consideration.

Resolved: to approve the tabled statement to be sent as a letter to the Men's Shed group in reply to their request to lease Parish Council land at Albany Road.

Proposed: Cllr P Wilson

Seconded: Cllr Jones

All in favour

ACTION: Administration Officer

PC256/23 Annual Asset Register Check – Appointment of Working Group

Resolved: to appoint the working group as Cllr Jelf and Cllr Stallard to undertake the Parish Council Asset Register Check 2024, with guidance from the previous working group of 2023, and submit a report for the March Finance, Policy and Resources Committee meeting.

Proposed: Cllr Conduct

Seconded: Cllr Pavey

All in favour

ACTION: Cllr Jelf/ Cllr Stallard /Admin Officer

J. Marsh 12-3-24

PC257/23 Chairman's Report

Noted.

PC258/23 Councillors' Reports

The meeting held on 31.1.24 with the HCC Traffic Management Team was noted. A positive plan for road junction safety improvements had been proposed and would be progressed via HCC as necessary. The representatives had been receptive to Parish Council concerns and further discussions would follow about road resurfacing and relining to be clear to road users.

Concerns about traffic enforcement were noted, and encouragement given to the public to report such online to Parking Services, and continued updates to HCC would be required.

Notes on the ongoing Accessibility Project and overlaps with pavement marking/levels were made. Weight restriction of lorries was discussed but found to be in line with allowances permitted.

No changes to the town centre car park bin store were imminent but alternative ideas for location were considered.

PC259/23 CSO Report

Report noted.

A sign had been seen dumped in the North Pond. The Executive Officer would investigate this matter with the CSO and other relevant groups.

PC260/23 Councillors' Surgery – Report and Future Meetings

The report of the surgery on 27.1.24 was noted as successful and interesting.

Councillors for the next surgeries were agreed as:-

23.2.24 – Cllr Conduct, Cllr Iro, Cllr Marsh – Country Market location

23.3.24 – Cllr Jones, Cllr Williams – Jubilee Hall location (with Litter Pick event/Eco Fair)

If additional councillors were available then the High Street Location would also be utilised as a surgery base.

PC261/23 Requests for future agenda items

Review of Standing Orders, Financial regulations and Financial Risk Assessment.

Co-option

PC262/23 Date of next meeting - Tuesday 12th March 2024

Noted.

The remaining member of the public left at this time.

PC263/23 Motion for confidential business:

The following motion will be moved on the completion of the above business:

That in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the public and press be temporarily excluded, and they are instructed to withdraw in accordance with the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960.

PC264/23 Facilities Review

- i) Progression in Purchase of St John Ambulance Hall, including funding options**
- ii) Update on, and Options for, Well House**

Noted.

The purchase of St John Ambulance Hall was in progress with final documentation checks being undertaken.

Well House was now vacant as the tenants had left at the end of January. Redecoration was now planned for this month. The tenant had agreed to pay a proportion of this in line with the end of tenancy agreement. The Finance, Policy and Resources Committee had requested that a commercial valuation was sought by an alternative agency, which was currently being actioned. It was noted that there was a lack of interest in commercial properties at present and therefore a quotation and valuation was also being sought to consider changing the property to residential. All options were being considered to ensure due process in gaining best value from this property.

J. Hand 12-3-24

PC265/23 Recommendation from the Halls and Grounds Committee

The recommendations were duly considered.

Recommendations from the Halls and Grounds Committee

- i) Skatepark Contractor Supplier and Project Cost – *for ratification*
- ii) Solar Panels for Jubilee Hall – *for consideration*
- iii) Albany Road Play Area Tenders – *for consideration*

- i) Skatepark Contractor Supplier and Project Cost

Resolved:

To approve the recommendation from the Halls and Grounds Committee, and Finance, Policy and Resources Committee, to ratify the appointment of Gravity Skateparks to provide the new skatepark facility at Priory Park, at the price of £163,145, excluding VAT

Proposed: Cllr Pavey

Seconded: Cllr Nicholson

All in favour

- ii) Solar Panels for Jubilee Hall

Resolved:

To approve the recommendation from the Halls and Grounds Committee to appoint Cinergi to provide and install their 'Option 2' configuration at £63,770.25, excluding VAT

Proposed: Cllr Iro

Seconded: Cllr Jones

All in favour

- iii) Albany Road Play Area Tenders

Resolved:

To approve the recommendation from the Halls and Grounds Committee, and Finance, Policy and Resources Committee, to appoint HAGS to provide and install the play area at Albany Road at the price of £65,000.00, excluding VAT.

Proposed: Cllr Iro

Seconded: Cllr Conduct

9 in favour, 1 abstention

There being no other business the meeting ended at 8:28pm.

J. Ward
12-3-24