

PARISH COUNCIL OF BISHOP WILTON
Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held in Bishop Wilton Village Hall
Monday 17th May 2021 at 7.30 PM - Meeting 5/21

Present: Cllrs: Stewart Berry, Leo Hammond, Ingrid Haywood, (Chair), Sue King, Paul Rigby, Roy Sumpner, and the clerk. Thirteen members of the public (MoP).

1. Welcome and Apologies: Cllr Haywood welcomed everyone and received apologies from Cllr Vicki Kress,
2. Code of Conduct
 - a) Declarations of Interest from members of the council on matters relating to the agenda: Cllr Hammond gave his usual notice of abstention from discussion and voting on planning applications due to his involvement with the ERYC planning committee. He will give advice if requested.
 - b) Granting of any dispensations to members of the council on matters relating to the agenda: None
3. Open forum: Two MoP spoke about the upcoming Item 8 Planning application 21/00872/PLF Land South West Of Walgate House. They relayed a detailed report about the plans including access, boundaries, aesthetics and conservation issues, clarifying that trees removed will be replaced with new planting. Chair thanked them for their input and invited them to stay for the agenda item discussion.

Another MoP raised the topic of volunteering in the parish and championed the community spirit. They then proposed that the parish council take on some form of volunteer coordination role to facilitate further. Chair offered thanks and agreed the proposal was worth consideration as an agenda item.

4. The Minutes of Meeting of 19th April 2021 were adopted 5:1. Proposed by Cllr Hammond, seconded Cllr King.
5. Ward Councillors Reports: **Cllr Hammond** - *This month it mainly focuses around highways, it's great to see that the surface dressing repairs I requested on Bolton Lane/Eastfield Road (Snakes Lane) and Belthorpe Lane have taken place. Admittedly this type of repair is not the prettiest, however, these are very low priority roads for ERYC Highways and would not usually be repaired. So this surface dressing secured after a lot of lobbying from me (because our country roads are not a low priority for me) is very much welcomed. It will lengthen the road surfaces lifespan and has removed the large number of potholes. I am also happy to inform everyone that the damages to the bridleway on South Lane, reported to me a few meetings ago by the PC will be repaired by ERYC*
6. Matters Arising from the previous minutes:
Cllr Haywood referred to Item 16b from the April minutes saying inspection of the playground had confirmed that the surface, when wet, leaves black marks on clothing and skin. **Agreed:** MoP to speak with suppliers / Look at PC archives and try to find a warranty or other pertinent document. (Clerk / RS)

Cllr Sumpner objected to the decision over ownership of the quarry. He maintains it is owned by the council and not Halifax Estates. Cllr Hammond produced a Land Registry document that showed ownership is in the hands of the Estate and complimented H E for their community spirit. Cllr Haywood highlighted that the quarry is not on the PC Asset Register but that if it is requested of her she will be willing to contact Land Registry for further information. No request was made.
Cllr Sumpner expressed his ongoing concern.

Clerk reminded all councillors to remove previous councillors from their distribution list. She asked each in turn if that had been done. All confirmed yes. Clerk also expressed concerns about contents of her emails, if not entire emails, had been divulged to MoP. She maintained she had no evidence but if anything further came to light she would report a data breach to ICO, and take the matter further with relevant authorities.

7. Finance
 - a) The current account bank balance: £16,658.58 - Noted
 - b) The NS&I balance: £3,430.77 - Noted
 - c) Receipt of the precept 1 of 2: £4360.00 - Noted
 - d) Salary for the clerk: April and May- Approved

e) Payment to the PCC for upkeep to the church grounds: £250.00 – Approved

Agreed: Items a - e proposed by Cllr Haywood and seconded by Cllr Berry. Agenda item approved to look at changing bank accounts due to NatWest disallowing a bank card application and other frustrations.

f) Leaflets and prize for Community Fund-raiser: up to £150.00 – Cllr Haywood proposed that a budget of up to £105.00 be approved for the leaflets with the proviso that wordage is also approved by full council prior to publication. She also proposed a prize worth £45.00 in the form of a Sunday lunch voucher at the local pub, The Fleece for the winner of the village logo competition. **Agreed.** Seconded by Cllr Rigby.

8. Planning: The below applications were received:

a) Planning Consultation for 21/01275/CLE Gowthorpe Fields Hatkill Lane Full Sutton YO41 1HR / Certificate of Lawfulness for existing use of land as domestic garden / **Cert of Lawful Development – Existing** Council was neutral and had no comment

b) Planning Consultation for 21/00872/PLF Land South West Of Walgate House 57 Main Street Bishop Wilton YO42 1SR / Erection of a detached dwelling with associated access and parking / **Full Planning Permission.** Councillors are concerned about the size of this proposal and the possibility of overdevelopment of the plot with close proximity of frontage to the public highway and the removal of established trees in a conservation area. As the land is elevated there are concerns the building will be overbearing and block up to half of the sunlight from the neighbouring property. Two letters were received by the clerk, prior to this meeting – one is in favour of the development and the other against for similar reasons to the council. **Agreed:** Request this application goes to ERYC Planning Committee to ensure amendments to any plans are in keeping with the street scene and conservation. Motion carried 4:1 - ACTION: Clerk.

9. Resignation of Councillors – Notices were received from Cllr Iain Rickatson and Cllr Pat Black. Since her immediate resignation, Pat Black has requested that her letter be read out in full. The clerk read:

I am writing to inform you that I am resigning from the Parish Council with effect from today's date. I am concerned about the fact that the Parish Council is not open and transparent in its approach to the public. The draft March minutes were sent to Councillors on 31 March 2021. Some factual amendments were made by me as well as some other desired alterations and I circulated these to all Cllrs. I have not seen any other version of the minutes since 31 March. During the meeting on 19 April minutes were voted for and approved in their unseen final form which is why I abstained. So it was not clear whether the original version with some factual errors or some later version had been issued which I did not have access to. It is not right that Counsellors are asked to vote for a detailed document which they physically do not have in front of them. Also your offer to include a statement to the March minutes for me to sign detailing my vote against the minutes, is not satisfactory and is too late. The Chair's behaviour in the way these minutes and my proposed amendments were handled was unacceptable. The Chair did not ask for a proposal or vote nor was discussion encouraged regarding my proposed amendments including amendments to the accuracy of the minutes. The only exception was in relation to Counsellors being referred to anonymously.

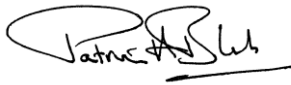
The Council were happy to have Counsellors referred to anonymously by not having their names published in the minutes. Indeed Counsellor Rickatson said he wasn't at all bothered about his name not being published. The Chair and Counsellors are missing the point here. The PC serves the community and the community should be allowed to know what activity and contribution individual Counsellors are making. Also residents who raise specific issues with a Counsellor for discussion at a meeting should be able to see that the Counsellor has done so when it is recorded in the minutes.

In addition residents should be able to track progress on issues discussed at meetings whether it is something that an individual resident has raised or whether it comes from a different source. In this respect once recorded, going forward in subsequent meetings, progress would normally be covered under Matters Arising. The use of updated Action Sheets each month means that minutes are not clogged with a long list of outstanding unresolved Matters arising month after month. However this means that residents can no longer see what is happening with such matters and if something is overlooked there is no public record. Councillors voted against my proposal to have the Action Sheet published each month on the website and notice boards which would be the only way that the public could keep up dated with progress on outstanding items; bearing in mind that not all outstanding items are currently

followed up in the minutes. Placing the Action Sheet with the Agenda on noticeboards and the website would cause virtually no extra work whatsoever.

All of this means that the Parish Council is not open and transparent and as a result shows a lack of accountability towards the Parish. It gives the impression that there is something to hide and I am not prepared to support an organisation that seems to have a cavalier approach towards its constituents.

Yours sincerely



10. Vicarage Lane – **Resolved:** Letter, with wording advised by ERYC, to be sent to residents of Vicarage Lane to ‘put their minds at rest’ and clarify the situation Proposed Cllr Hammond, seconded Cllr Haywood.

Motion carried 5:1

11. Meetings – **Resolved** that the dates be altered to the fourth Monday in any month, to accommodate all councillors being able to attend, providing bank holidays are effectively worked around and the village hall is free. If VH not available then the current timescale will be kept. Proposed by Cllr Haywood and seconded by Cllr Hammond. ACTION: check hall and inform clerk (IH).

12. Grass-Cutting – **Resolved:** Parishioners will be consulted about the village green and grass-cutting etc so the current situation will continue until further decisions are made based on public opinion. Dave Lee to be instructed to cut until further notice. **Agreed:** Proposed, Cllr Haywood, seconded Councillor King.

13. Project Updates:

Cllr King updated the PC regarding three outstanding projects. Pete Slater at PSE is beginning work towards converting the old playground roundabout to a picnic table. Cllr King and the Clerk have applied to the National Lottery Community Fund to fund the moving back of both bus stop benches and the laying of extra slabs: currently awaiting news whether successful or not. Cllr King has been in communication with BT regarding the Bishop Wilton Telephone Box. BT own both the kiosk and the land it is set on, so we are unable to adopt. Currently awaiting confirmation by BT that they will, therefore, add the kiosk to a future painting schedule.

Cllr King also suggested that a project started by a previous PC cohort be restarted, i.e. a poster montage of BW school children’s art work be fixed behind the notice board, now that the shop bench has been installed. Action: PC to locate images and discuss at a future meeting.

14. Community Issues and any arising items for the next agenda

Cllr Berry is keen to follow up the suggestion put forward in the open forum about the PC being involved with volunteer coordination going forward.

Cllr Haywood confirmed plans are underway for the street party and associated funding from ERYC grant. She also confirmed adoption measures for the shop bench are under investigation.

Cllr Sumpner believes training needs require analysis and would like to see some skills assessment.

15. Correspondence: Noted.

16. Date of next meeting: Provisionally Monday 28th June 2021 **Agreed by show of hands.**

