

# BISHOPSTOKE PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of a Meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held in the Methodist Church Hall, Sedgwick Road, Bishopstoke commencing at 7.30pm on 7 September 2010

**Present:** Cllr Winstanley (Chairman), Cllr Hansell, Cllr McGuinness. Cllr Toher and Cllr Uren

**In Attendance:** Mr P J Storey (Clerk to the Parish Council)  
Mrs C Taylor (Assistant Clerk)

**Public Session** One member of the public was present.

### 1. Apologies

1.1 Cllr Roling.

### 2. To Agree the Minutes of the Meeting on 13 July 2010

2.1 Proposed Cllr Winstanley, Seconded Cllr Hansell, **RESOLVED** unanimously that the minutes of the meeting held on 13 July 2010 be accepted as a true record.

### 3. Matters Arising from the above Minutes

3.1 Item 10.1 - travel token scheme deferred until October meeting.

### 4. Declarations of Interest

4.1 Cllrs Winstanley and Toher declared an interest in the Grant Aid application from the Carnival Group and support to be given in future.

### 5. RFO's Report and Budget Monitoring

5.1 A budget monitoring report had been circulated with the agenda papers. This was noted.

### 6. To consider the council tax increases referendum consultation

6.1 Following the announcement of the Government's commitment to freeze council tax next year, various discussion papers had been circulated including one on a local referendum to veto excessive tax increases. HALC had expressed the view that there were other and cheaper ways of the electorate expressing its wishes, citing the Annual Assembly as an example, and also emphasised the view that smaller councils and small increases should be exempt from any cap. In view of this debate, and until more positive advice was forthcoming, it was agreed to monitor the situation for the time being.

### 7. To review and, if appropriate, make recommendations on the support given to The Bishopstoke Carnival Group

7.1 The difficulty the Carnival Group had in attracting more volunteers to help plan and manage the Carnival had been acknowledged previously and was the reason why some of the Assistant Clerk's hours had been offered. However, this offer was not taken up until late in this year's planning cycle and the full effect would not be known until next year. Also, with the proximity of the Carnival, Sunday 12 September, it was agreed to review the workload involved after this year's event. Accordingly further discussion on this item was deferred until the next meeting.

**8. To consider and, if appropriate, make recommendations on the application for Grant Aid from the Bishopstoke Carnival Group**

8.1 The Bishopstoke Carnival Group had requested a grant of £2600 towards the costs of staging the Carnival. Although the Parish Council strongly supported the Carnival, queries were raised on some of the expenses for which grant aid was being sought and more information was required. Accordingly, it was decided to defer this application for the full Council at its next meeting.

**9. To consider a response to the HCC consultation on Local Transport Plan 3 Strategy**

9.1 HCC had circulated a consultation document on a 20 year long term strategy and a three year implementation plan for transport in Hampshire. However, as there was insufficient local knowledge to consider the plan in detail, it was decided not to take any further action.

**10. To review the 30 year right rule for the purchase of Cemetery plots**

10.1 Burial authorities were increasingly becoming involved in litigation over the management of cemeteries often as a result of missing or incomplete records. In the past, it had been the practice to purchase a cemetery plot in advance and in perpetuity or for 99 years for future use by the family. With families breaking up and the acquisition of land rights becoming more complicated, burial authorities were increasingly reducing the length of time to minimise this risk of loss or complication and 30 or 60 years of ownership were becoming the norm.

10.2 Previously, the Council had determined 30 years to be the length for right of purchase of a plot in Bishopstoke Cemetery, at the expiry of which the family would have the right to apply to re-purchase. However, some concern had been expressed at this relatively short length of time and it had been agreed to review at this meeting. In the event, it was decided to investigate the prospect of offering a choice to families and the Clerk would investigate further.

**Action: Clerk**

**11. Asset transfer update**

11.1 The Clerk reported our solicitors were still awaiting the transfer of title paperwork from the Borough Council for the allotments.

**12. Parish Website**

12.1 The Webmaster had completed his update of the website although it remained necessary for individual Members to check the site and their personal details.

**Action: All**

**13. Parish Newsletter**

13.1 The Autumn edition of the Newsletter had just been distributed and the next issue would be in late November/early December.

**14. Clerk's Report**

14.1 The Clerk reported that repairs to the Riverside railings were due to start on 13 September; that advice on how the Government's initiative to encourage openness by requiring local authorities to publish details of all expenditure in excess of £500 applied to parish councils; that an application had now been submitted formally to the Environment Agency for the installation of a fish pass which was a prerequisite to more restoration work on the Shears Mill turbines; and that an application had been made by local residents to purchase the land on Church Road known as Judges Gully - this would be discussed with EBC before a formal reply was made.

**Action: Clerk**

**15. Date, time and place of next Meeting**

15.1 The next meeting will be on Tuesday 12 October 2010 at 7.30pm in the Methodist Church Hall, Sedgwick Road, Bishopstoke.

**Action: All**

**16. Motion for Confidential Business**

16.1 Proposed Cllr Winstanley, Seconded Cllr Toher, **RESOLVED** unanimously that, in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be discussed relating to employees' confirmation in post and remuneration, it was advisable in the public interest that the public be excluded and for the record the business be regarded as confidential.

**17. Consideration of approval for payment of staff hours of work, mileage and out of pocket expenses for June 2010 (Confidential Business)**

17.1 Members noted the report tabled by the RFO and attached to these minutes.

17.2 Proposed Cllr Winstanley, Seconded Cllr Toher, **RESOLVED** that payment be made to the staff, as tabled.

*There being no further business, the Chairman closed the Meeting at 8.50pm.*

### **Summary of Recommendations for Consideration by Full Parish Council**

None.

### **Summary of Resolutions Passed to be Noted by the Full Parish Council**

- 2.1 that the minutes of the meeting held on 13 July 2010 be accepted as a true record.
- 16.1 that, in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be discussed relating to employees' confirmation in post and remuneration, it was advisable in the public interest that the public be excluded and for the record the business be regarded as confidential.
- 17.2 that payment be made to the staff, as tabled.