

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 13 December 2011

Present: Cllr Winstanley (Chairman), Cllr Hansell, Cllr McGuinness, Cllr Roling and Cllr Toher

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

Public Session: No members of the public were present. However, on behalf of Mrs Stansfield, Cllr Roling, presented details of a petition containing 963 signatures calling for a reduction in the speed limit along Alan Drayton Way between Stoke Wood Pharmacy at the brow of the hill down to near the Co-op Store to 30mph and the Parish Council was being asked to lend its support.. Cllr Roling also commented that the Local Area Committee was recommending a reduction to 30mph along the entire length of the B3037 in view of the numerous road junctions, play areas and pedestrian crossings along its length. There was general agreement that it was a busy road and that all reasonable action should be taken to reduce the risk of accidents.

Proposed Cllr Winstanley, Seconded Cllr Roling, **RESOLVED** with Cllr McGuinness against and Cllr Toher abstaining that a letter giving support to the petition be submitted and following a further proposal by Cllr Toher that further safety measures be considered along Fair Oak Road.

Action: Clerk to draft and circulate to all councillors for comment and place the matter of B3037 speed and safety measures on the January 2012 meeting agenda for further discussion.

148. Apologies

148.1 Cllr Uren.

149. To Agree the Minutes of the Meeting on 8 November 2011

149.1 Proposed Cllr Winstanley, Seconded Cllr McGuinness, **RESOLVED** with Cllr Toher abstaining (absent) that the minutes of the meeting held on 8 November 2011 be accepted as a true record.

150. Matters Arising from the above Minutes

150.1 There were no matters arising not dealt with elsewhere in these minutes.

151. Declarations of Interest

151.1 None declared.

152. Persistent absence by a councillor

152.1 The Local Government Act 1972 states that where a councillor is absent from meetings of a council or its committees for a period of six months without a statutory excuse or one found acceptable by the council that councillor ceases to be a member of that council. Cllr Davies-Dear had not attended any meetings since May 2011 but had recently submitted a letter of resignation citing pressure of work elsewhere as his reason. The Clerk was to obtain advice on whether the letter submitted was acceptable or whether Cllr Davies-Dear had in fact disqualified himself.

Action: Clerk

153. RFO's Report, Budget Monitoring and Payments

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

153.2 The Clerk would seek clarification from the Council's insurers on whether or not the cost of removing illegally dumped asbestos waste in the Manor Farm allotment skip was reclaimable.

Action: Clerk

153.3 Proposed Cllr Winstanley, Seconded Cllr Toher, **RESOLVED** unanimously that the payments tabled be approved.

154. Council tax leaflet text

154.1 A draft text for inclusion in the Borough's council tax leaflet for 2012 was approved with one minor amendment.

155. New constituency boundary proposals

155.1 Councillors noted that proposed changes to the constituency boundaries did not impact directly on Bishopstoke Parish and saw no reason to take any further action.

156. Response to the EBC draft Local Plan

156.1 Councillors had attended the recent public exhibition arranged by EBC on the draft Local Plan and had discussed and saw no reason to comment further other than to have their gratitude conveyed to the Borough for the recognition of the need and the inclusion in the Plan of a new Cemetery and allotments.

Action: Clerk to draft

157. Asset Management Report

157.1. Cemetery. Nineteen interments had taken place to date in the current year and some minor tree pruning had taken place.

157.2 Allotments. Some asbestos waste had been dumped in the skip provided at the year end to the Manor Farm allotments by persons unknown. The specialist company called in to remove it cited other instances elsewhere in the area of similar dumping which had to be hand sorted and disposed of safely but at a cost.

157.3 Play areas and open spaces. Work continued on preparations for the transfer of some open spaces and play areas with effect from 1 April 2012.

158. Proposed BMX track on Brookfield open space

158.1 Thought was given to the proposed BMX track for the Brookfield open space and the impact it might have on neighbours and more to the point the planned transfer of responsibility for the open space and equipment thereon from the Borough to the Parish in 2013. Local consultation with likely users had shown strong support for the facility although none of these responses had yet been seen by Councillors who would wish to be consulted formally in due course and also be provided with information on maintenance costs and equipment lifespan.

Action: Clerk

159. Meeting dates 2012

159.1 Meeting dates for 2012 were confirmed and would be circulated for information to interested parties.

Action: Clerk

160. Parish Website and Newsletter

160.1 Cllr Winstanley reported that the Winter issue of the Newsletter was with the distributors.

161. Clerk's Report

- 161.1 The Clerk reported on the request from residents living at the lower end of Asford Grove for a grit bin to be sited nearer to the bottom of the hill and the Borough's response that this would not be possible as the grit lorry could not turn in the confined space, the location proposed restricted access for disabled footpath users and denied grit to those living at the top end of the incline. He also confirmed that Green Smile Ltd had been engaged to spread grit as necessary in inclement weather as an extension to their grounds maintenance contract.
- 161.2 Thanks had been received from St Mary's Church for the ground clearance work which had been undertaken adjacent to the Stoke Park Road backway during which two graves had been uncovered. It was hoped that this site clearance would deter residents from dumping their garden refuse in this area. Thanks were also expressed to Cllr Roling for making funds available from her county councillor's budget for a replacement seat.
- 161.3 Preparatory work had started on installing the two new bus shelters on Stoke Park Road.
- 161.4 The Clerk had attended the annual informal meeting with the EBC Chief Finance Officer at which discussions covered precepts, budgets and other financial matters of common interest.
- 161.5 It now appeared that planning consent would be unlikely if a formal application was submitted to erect a parish office on the site of the Shears Mill turbine housing although a replacement turbine building itself would probably be acceptable. Thought was now being given to alternative sites for a permanent parish office.

162. Date, time and place of next meeting

- 162.1 The next meeting will be on Tuesday 10 January 2012 at 7.30pm in the Methodist Church Hall, Sedgwick Road, Bishopstoke.

163. Motion for Confidential Business

- 163.1 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' remuneration, it was advisable in the public interest that the public be excluded and for the record the business be regarded as confidential.

164. Consideration of approval for payment of staff hours of work, mileage and out of pocket expenses for November 2011 (Confidential Business)

- 164.1 Members noted the report tabled by the RFO and attached to these minutes.
- 164.2 Proposed Cllr Winstanley, Seconded Cllr Toher, **RESOLVED** unanimously that payments be made as tabled.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the Meeting at 9.00pm.

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

Public session that a letter giving support to the petition and the introduction of further safety measures along Alan Drayton Way be submitted.

149.1 that the minutes of the meeting held on 8 November 2011 be accepted as a true record.

153.3 that the payments tabled be approved.

163.1 that, in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be discussed relating to employees' remuneration, it was advisable in the public interest that the public be excluded and for the record the business be regarded as confidential.

164.2 that payments be made as tabled.

Payments in November 2011 in excess of £500 published in accordance with the Government's transparency directive

Staff	Salaries & expenses	1831.24
Green Smile Ltd	Grounds maintenance	550.00
Hants Environmental Services	Asbestos removal	648.00