BISHOP'S ITCHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting Held on 11 January 2010
St Michael's Church Hall at 7.30pm

Present:

Cllr Kettle, Chairman	Cllr Christian-Carter	Cllr Harries
Cllr Whittaker	Cllr Maddison	Cllr Tagg-Wilkinson
Cllr Macaulay	Cllr Robins	Cllr Kanwar
Cllr Stevens (County)	Cllr Mann (District)	Cllr Patrick (District)

Alison Biddle, Clerk to the Council

27 Members of the public

1. Apologies

There were no apologies. All councillors were present.

2. Declarations of Interest

- Cllr Whittaker declared that there was a possibility that a third party may believe that he had pre-determined item 9 "Affordable Homes Proposal" and that he had therefore decided to withdraw from any subsequent debate.
- Cllr Kanwar declared a personal interest in item 7.4 "Planning Matters" as the applicant is a neighbour.
- Cllr Christian-Carter declared a personal interest in item 8 "Playing Field" as she is a member of the Biodiversity Action Group.

3. Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes of the meeting held on 7 December 2009 as a true and complete record of that meeting.

4. Public Forum

Salt

There was a complaint about people taking the salt from the grit bins for their own private use. It was agreed that this was theft of WCC property and should be reported to the police.

Bicycles on Footpaths

There was a concern about children riding bicycles on the footpath in Poplar Road. This also needs to be reported to the police. The Clerk was asked to mention it in her Scene report.

Affordable Housing

The majority of people present were concerned about this issue. A spokesperson on behalf of "bi-rdwatch", the residents' action group, outlined their main concerns and the reasons for their objections to this proposal. They now had a copy of the report prepared by the Rural Housing Enabler at WRCC following the public consultation exercise held in November 2009. They believe the report to be biased, not based on fact and therefore meaningless. They still have grave concerns about the total number of houses which would eventually be built, the impact on traffic, and how the allocation

of the homes to people with a local connection would be enforced. There were also concerns that the Council had not made all the facts available to the public.

The Chairman explained that following a full housing needs survey and the Parish Plan survey, a need for 25 homes had been identified which was backed up by the fact that there are currently 32 people on the housing list who have a connection with the village. The current proposal consists of just 12 homes. If and when these are built and occupied, it would be necessary to conduct another survey to identify if any further need still existed and if it did, a further public consultation would be carried out. Each house will have a legal agreement attached to it for perpetuity preventing the occupation of the house by anyone who does not have a connection with the village. It would only be if the house was standing empty for a certain length of time that it would be possible to allocate it to anyone who didn't have such a connection.

It was emphasised that the Council had not yet made any decision on whether or not to take forward this proposal. The purpose of the public consultation is to find out the public's view on the proposal to enable the Council to make a fully informed decision. All the facts relating to this matter have been discussed in public and are recorded in the Parish Council minutes which are available to the public.

Meteorological Mast

There is concern that because the meteorological mast planning application was refused permission by SDC, many people believe that this issue is now resolved. In fact the applicant has appealed against this decision which will now be reviewed by the Planning Inspectorate. It is important to make this known to as many people as possible and a number of meetings are being held in Bishop's Itchington and surrounding villages. The deadline for making further representations on the appeal is 28 January 2010. "FRAWT", the residents' action group has heard that the applicants intend to submit their application for the windfarm itself within the next few weeks. "FRAWT" is also organising some fund raising to set up a fighting fund.

5. Clerk's Report

The Clerk had nothing to report and there were no questions from members.

6. "Village with a Vision"

This item had been withdrawn from the agenda. The presenters will attend a future meeting.

7. Planning Matters

The following planning applications were considered:

1. 09/02408/LBC
   Retention of satellite dish to eastern wall of house (retrospective)
   The Cottage, Station Road
   It was **RESOLVED** to make no representations but it was commented that input from the Victorian Society and English Heritage should be obtained and that the dish should be masked in some way. The applicant explained that the dish was at the rear of the house and attached to a more modern part of the building.

2. 09/02407/FUL
   Proposed erection of shed and greenhouse
   The Cottage, Station Road
   It was **RESOLVED** to make no representations and no comments.

3. 09/02455/FUL
   Erection of two storey side extension and single storey front extension
   46, Lakin Drive
   It was **RESOLVED** to make no representations and no comments.

4. 09/01316/FUL – Appeal
   Two storey extension to enlarge living room and bedroom
   Cottage Stable, 1 Stable Courtyard, High Street
   This appeal is being dealt with under the Householder Appeals Service and therefore the Council has only to consider whether it wishes to withdraw any representations it has previously made. There is no opportunity to submit further comments.
   It was **RESOLVED** not to withdraw previous comments.

5. 09/01578/FUL - Appeal
   Erection of meteorological mast on land between Bishop's Itchington, Knightcote and Gaydon.
   To consider making further representations
   Since the original planning application, a lot of new information has come forward. It was **RESOLVED** to delegate authority to the Chairman and the Clerk to draft a letter putting forward further representations to add to the Council's previous objections.

8. Playing Field

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the proposals put forward by the Biodiversity Group at the last meeting.

9. Affordable Homes Proposal

1. Pre-determination

The Chairman briefly outlined the rules regarding pre-determination and explained that if a member was found to have pre-determined any issue, the Council's decision could be set aside as unlawful. There was evidence, by way of responses to a survey of local residents conducted by bi-rdwatch, that some members of the Council may have pre-determined this issue. Cllr Whittaker, concerned that this may apply to him, had already decided to withdraw from the debate. Cllr Christian-Carter and Cllr Kanwar had also responded to this survey. Cllr Kanwar did not consider that he had pre-determined the issue. Cllr Christian-Carter was emphatic that she had made known her personal views only and had made this clear in her email to bi-rdwatch. Her personal views are quite separate to her role as a parish councillor. She does not therefore believe that she has pre-determined this issue. No other councillors considered that this applied to them.

Cllr Macaulay declared an interest as a former member of the housing association residents' committee and withdrew from the debate.

The Chairman mentioned that at the last meeting he had raised an issue regarding an assertion from a member of the public that he was the landowner of this site. He emphasised that he has made it clear that he is not the landowner and has no interest to declare.

2. To decide whether or not to support the current proposal (i.e. 12 affordable homes on the corner of Plough Lane and Gaydon Road).

Since the last meeting in December 2009, a letter from WCC to WRCC's Rural Housing Enabler had been found which contained new information relating to the Station Road site. Previously, the Parish Council had been led to believe that WCC had rejected this site outright because it would not be possible to achieve satisfactory visibility from an access road onto Station Road. This letter however

suggests that while it may be difficult, it would not be impossible. The Chairman brought this to the attention of the Parish Council and suggested that the Station Road site should be re-examined.

There was some discussion about the various points raised. All councillors agreed there is a need for affordable housing. Some felt that Gaydon Road/Plough Lane is not the right location. However, it was generally accepted that whichever site was chosen, there would be some objections from members of the public. Other councillors were concerned about the length of time it had already taken to get this far. How long would it take to find another location and go through more public consultation?

Eventually a motion was put forward not to support the current proposal. This was turned down by a majority of 4 to 3.

A second motion was put forward to adopt the current proposal. This was carried by a majority of 4 to 3. It was therefore **RESOLVED** to adopt the current proposal to build 12 affordable homes on land at the corner of Plough Lane and Gaydon Road. This will now be taken forward by Warwickshire Rural Housing Association who will make a formal planning application to SDC is due course.

10. Finance

Cllr Kettle declared an interest in 10.2 “Accounts Payable” as they included the Chairman’s allowance. It was pointed out that as this payment had already been approved at the budget meeting there was no need for Cllr Kettle to leave the room.

1. Monthly Financial Report

There were no questions.

2. Accounts Payable

It was agreed that the payment of £16.00 to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal which was for a wreath on Remembrance Day, should be made under Sec 137. All cheques were noted as per the schedule and they were passed for signing.

11. Review of Local Police Organisation

It was agreed that the Clerk should respond along the lines of the comments made by Cllr Whittaker in an email he had sent in initial response to Inspector Devereux’s enquiry.

Cllr Stevens has asked the Chief Constable if it would be possible to arrange a meeting to discuss the letter of complaint sent jointly by BIPC and Harbury PC about the lack of police attendance at Parish Council meetings. It appears however that other parish councils do not feel as strongly as ours do about this issue.

12. Community Forum Review

It was agreed that Cllr Tagg-Wilkinson would forward his comments to the Clerk.

13. Information from District and County Councillors

- WCC’s budget will be finalised in February.
- SDC’s budget is not yet decided.
- There will be a Councillors’ Corner on 6 February.

14. Correspondence

All items of correspondence were noted as per the list.

15. Accounts Payable

It was **RESOLVED** to authorise the accounts payable.

16. Reports and Questions

- The Chapel Street/Lakin Drive footpath tarmac is all broken up.
- The street lamp in Ladbroke Road near Works Lane is still obscured by branches.
- The pavilion CCTV cameras have been vandalised.
- There is a lot of water on Gaydon Road coming from Plough Lane and also in Chapel Street.
- There have been more instances of lorries and speeding cars in Ladbroke Road.
- The gully near the traffic calming in Plough Lane needs cleaning out as it is full of leaves.
- The Scowcroft Drive field path is waiting for the landowner's permission in order for WCC to upgrade the surface.

Members of the public left the meeting at this point.

17. Confidential Items

1. Grounds Maintenance Quotes

The Clerk is still collating information. This item was therefore deferred until the next meeting.

2. Staff Recruitment

It was agreed to delegate authority to the Clerk and the HR Group for recruitment of the new staff position.

18. Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place at 7.30pm on Monday, 1 February 2010 in the Church Hall.

Meeting Closed at 10.40pm

Signed…….Chairman

Date……..

Bishop's Itchington Parish Council **APPENDIX A**

Accounts paid since 7 December 2009	Cheque No	Excluding Vat	Vat Payable	Total
R Sharples (Office Rent)	Standing Order	£ 1,062.50		£ 1,062.50
Staff salaries	2147	£ 913.10		£ 913.10
Staff salaries	2148	£ 1,069.51		£ 1,069.51
Staff salaries	2149	£ 249.91		£ 249.91
Staff salaries	2151	£ 58.50		£ 58.50
Staff salaries	2152	£ 34.73		£ 34.73
Staff salaries	2153	£ 173.00		£ 173.00
	Totals	£ 3,561.25		£ 3,561.25

Accounts Payable 11 January 2010

To Whom Payable	Cheque No	Excluding Vat	Vat Payable	Total
C Redstall (Expenses)	2154	£ 17.32		£ 17.32
Severn Trent Water Ltd	2156	£ 25.33		£ 25.33
Tudor Environmental (wheelbarrow wheel)	2157	£ 17.50	£ 2.63	£ 20.13
Shoosmiths (Legal fees - RBL Lease)	2158	£ 1,205.00	£ 180.00	£ 1,385.00
RBL Poppy Appeal (Wreath)	2159	£ 16.00		£ 16.00
Tom Rodgers (Tree work)	2160	£ 1,865.00		£ 1,865.00
M E Dronfield (Expenses)	2161	£ 54.24		£ 54.24
HMRC (PAYE)	2162	£ 399.63		£ 399.63
WCC (LGPS)	2163	£ 261.21		£ 261.21
T Batchelor (Grounds maintenance)	2164	£ 825.00		£ 825.00
C Kettle (Chairman's Allowance)	2165	£ 200.00		£ 200.00
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	TOTALS	£ 4,886.23	£ 182.63	£ 5,068.86

N.B. Cheque nos 2150 and 2155 spoiled

Bishops Itchington Parish Council
APPENDIX B
Monthly report

Dec-09	This month			Year to date		
	Actual	Budget	Variance	Actual	Budget	Variance
9	£'s	£'s	£'s	£'s	£'s	£'s
APPENDIX B						
Budget Heading						
			-			-
Salaries & expenses	1,702.49	1,817.92	(115.43)	16,545.86	17,307.62	(761.76)
Administration	727.19	231.59	495.60	6,524.63	7,338.84	(814.21)
Grasscutting & estate works	2,619.03	697.99	1,921.04	10,289.84	14,940.50	(4,650.66)
Section 137	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cemetery & churchyard	3,408.86	201.02	3,207.84	8,564.04	6,497.21	2,066.83
Pavilion & playing field	321.00	473.17	(152.17)	4,559.79	6,651.49	(2,091.70)
Memorial Hall	-	-	-	3,380.00	-	3,380.00
Other expenditure	1,101.50	-	1,101.50	3,611.18	250.00	3,361.18
VAT payments	-	-	-	922.97	-	922.97
Contingency	211	-	211.07	-	-	-
Transfers	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditure	10,091.14	3,421.69	6,669.45	54,398.31	52,985.65	1,412.66
Income						
Precept	-	-	-	62,500.00	62,500.00	-
Burials	-	179.17	(179.17)	1,504.50	1,612.50	(108.00)
Reimbursements	-	85.83	(85.83)	-	772.50	(772.50)
Playing field	-	2.48	(2.48)	31.01	22.28	8.74
Interest	-	209.98	(209.98)	617.89	1,889.86	(1,271.97)
P3 Grant	77.26	-	77.26	24,650.00	-	24,650.00
Other grants	-	-	-	-	-	-
Closing of B Gate fund	-	-	-	-	-	-
VAT refund	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total income	77.26	477.46	(400.20)	89,303.40	66,797.14	22,506.26
Surplus deficit	(10,013.88)	(2,944.23)	(7,069.65)	34,905.09	13,811.49	21,093.60