BISHOP'S ITCHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting Held on 6 September 2010
St Michael's Church Hall at 7.30pm

Present:

Cllr Kettle, Chairman
Cllr Maddison
Cllr Wheeler
Cllr Whittaker
Cllr Kanwar
Cllr Christian-Carter
Cllr Tagg-Wilkinson

Cllr Stevens (County), Cllr Tonge (District)

Alison Biddle, Clerk to the Council

15 Members of the public

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Macaulay and District Cllr Mann (family illness).

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 2 August 2010 as a true and complete record of that meeting.

4. Public Forum

Members of the public present were all concerned with specific items on the agenda. No other matters were raised.

5. Police Matters

Speeding is still a big problem throughout the village in general but specifically along the B4451 between the M40 junction and the village.

There is a rumour that Southam Police Station is to be closed. Cllr Stevens is aware that the front desk hours are to be reduced. The Clerk will contact the police to verify the situation.

6. Clerk's Report

The Clerk has contacted Follett's about the renewal of the lease for the Community Centre. She will follow this up.

7. Affordable Housing

All local landowners who own land in or on the outskirts of the village have been contacted. A list of 7 potential sites was presented to the Parish Council. Apart from the corner of Gaydon Road/Plough Lane, the only other site supported by both WCC and SDC is the field in Ladbroke Road, just past the entrance to Works Lane and opposite existing housing. The other sites have been discounted by the local planning authorities for reasons of access and visibility, proximity to listed buildings, settlement boundary edges and constrained site layouts.

After a lengthy discussion, the Parish Council decided that it would like to be able to offer residents a choice of 3 different sites if possible. Members voted on their 3 preferred sites with the result that the following were selected for further exploration:

- No 1, Gaydon Road/Plough Lane
- No 5, Ladbroke Road
- No 3, Station Road (top of hill, on the left, heading towards Deppers Bridge, behind existing housing)

(The site numbers refer to the plan provided to the Council by the Rural Housing Enabler)

It was noted that SDC has already discounted No 3, presumably as they consider it to be outside the existing settlement boundary edges. However, the Parish Council felt that the same could be said of all the options, and therefore thought that SDC should reconsider this site due to its popularity with the Parish Council and if they still objected, give their reasons for doing so in more detail.

The Clerk will ask the Rural Housing Enabler to liaise with SDC with regard to site No 3 and also to arrange for WRHA to visit sites No 3 and No 5 to consider possible layout and general suitability. Both these organisations will be invited to the next PC meeting when it is hoped that there will be enough information available for the Parish Council to decide which sites are to be included in the public consultation.

8. Planning Matters

10/01805/FUL
Erection of a 60m meteorological mast for a temporary period of 2 years
Land between Bishop's Itchington, Gaydon and Knightcote
Knightcote Road

The position of the proposed mast has been moved further away from the hedgerows but is now much closer to a dewpond which is very valuable for nature conservation and on which the mast will have a negative impact.

The potential danger for aircraft, including the air ambulance, which is much used with the proximity of the M40, was also raised. Local airfields / flying clubs have voiced concerns about this too.

It was **RESOLVED** to object to the application on the grounds that the Council's objections to the original application were still valid and that the applicant had failed to address all of the concerns relating to birds. In addition, there are new concerns relating to the dewpond and aircraft.

It was agreed that a response would be drafted for circulation to members before submission to SDC.

9. Pavilion, Playing Field

It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk should arrange for both the broken guttering and the missing down pipe to be replaced.

The Clerk reported that a quote had been received to replace the security light and install a wire cage for protection at a cost of £118 plus vat. It was agreed that the Clerk should place an order for this work to go ahead too.

10. Scowcroft Drive Footpath Link

Orbit has been asked to provide a fully costed plan for the installation of a new path but nothing further has been heard from them yet.

The Clerk has been in contact with the Countryside Access Manager at WCC who is still exploring the possibility of upgrading the surface of the existing field path. An update on this is expected in time for the October PC meeting.

11. Information Sign, Station Road

The Clerk has obtained details of the procedure and associated costs for installing an information sign from WCC. It was felt that the costs, which would be a minimum of £1,000, were too high. Cllr Tagg-Wilkinson volunteered to make further enquiries re obtaining a sign from an alternative supplier. The Clerk pointed out that WCC had strict criteria which would still have to be met.

12. Council Tax Referendum Consultation

The Council agreed that a referendum at the right time, limited to cases of excessive increases, would be acceptable. However, a referendum at the wrong time of the year would be completely unworkable. The Clerk will respond accordingly.

13. WCC Locality Review

The Parish Council felt strongly that the Community Forum undermines Parish Councils. Parish Council meetings are well attended by members of the public who wouldn't travel further afield to attend the Community Forum. The current government is keen on promoting localism, where communities are involved from the bottom up. There is a feeling that Parish Councils are being disenfranchised by the Community Forums. The Clerk will respond accordingly.

14. Tree in Scowcroft Drive

A resident is concerned about a tree on the green in Scowcroft Drive as it looks as though the roots are damaging the pavement, and are very close to a water meter. Cllr Maddison and the Clerk have both been to look at the tree, and agree that this is possibly the case. There is also a small mountain ash between the tree in question and the houses. It was agreed that the Clerk should ask Tim Batchelor to inspect the tree and give his opinion on the best way to deal with the problem. It may be possible to prune the roots to avoid the need to fell the tree.

15. Information from County & District Councillors

- SDC has completed its spending review. It is trying to achieve a nil % increase in council tax by improved efficiencies and not filling vacant posts.
- Southam College has achieved its best exam results to date.

16. Co-option of Parish Councillor

It was **RESOLVED** to co-opt Alan Heatley to the vacancy.

17. Response from SDC re Complaint about Licence Application

The Parish Council was disappointed not to receive any acknowledgement from the Chief Executive. There was no apology to the Clerk either. It was agreed that a further letter should be sent to the Chief Executive highlighting these points, and that in view of the fact that it concerned the Clerk, the letter should be signed by the Chairman, Cllr Kettle.

18. Finance

1. Monthly Financial Report
   There were no questions.

2. Accounts Payable
   These were examined and passed for checking.

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

4. Replacement Laptop

   It was agreed that the cost of a business laptop should be investigated and reported at the next PC meeting.

19. Reports and Questions

- There have been reports of dogs off the lead in the children's play area. It has been previously agreed to install a sign asking for dogs to be kept on a lead in this area. The Clerk will arrange for it to be installed.
- A resident in St Michael's Close has complained about the height of their neighbour's trees again. The Clerk has written to them advising them on the appropriate action to take.
- The buffer zone doesn't seem to have been strimmed very well. The Clerk will investigate.
- The litter bin on the green outside Cross Green Flats has been kicked over. The Clerk will report this to SDC.
- There is a car which is being parked on the B4451, on the footpath just before the turning for Church Close which is causing an obstruction. The Clerk will report this to the police.
- Cllr Kettle has had the opportunity to climb the church tower to see the restoration work.

The meeting closed at 10.10pm

Signed……..Chairman

Date……..

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

Accounts Payable 6 September 2010

To Whom Payable	Cheque No	Ex Vat	Vat Payable	Totals	Yellow Land
Urgent accounts paid since last meeting requring the formal approval of the Council					
J Workman (replacement for chq no 2315)	2327	£ 349.00		£ 349.00	£ 349.00
British Telecomm (Phone)	D/debit	£ 81.58	£ 14.27	£ 95.85	
Accounts to be paid this week					
Staff salaries	2328	£ 2,005.41		£ 2,005.41	£ 1,092.45
Staff salaries	2329	£ 948.91		£ 948.91	£ 948.91
Staff salaries	2330	£ 257.41		£ 257.41	
Staff salaries	2332	£ 60.25		£ 60.25	
Staff salaries	2333	£ 35.66		£ 35.66	
Dr E R Pearce (Photography event)	2335	£ 125.00		£ 125.00	£ 125.00
Viking Direct (Ink cartridges)	2336	£ 36.43	£ 6.37	£ 42.80	
S Davies (Memorial repairs)	2337	£ 130.00		£ 130.00	
MFM Services (grasscutting etc)	2338	£ 785.00		£ 785.00	
Frank Mann Farmers (Bench installation)	2339	£ 100.00	£ 17.50	£ 117.50	
A Biddle (Expenses)	2340	£ 15.90		£ 15.90	
WCC (LGPS)	2343	£ 261.21		£ 261.21	
J Pickering (Expenses)	2344	£ 37.00		£ 37.00	
Memorial Hall	2345	£ 39.00		£ 39.00	
Lloyds TSB Commercial Finance (flyers)	2346	£ 165.00		£ 165.00	£ 165.00
Noisegate Media Ltd (oral history CD's)	2347	£ 167.50	£ 29.32	£ 196.82	£ 196.82
C Redstall (Expenses)	2348	£ 43.92		£ 43.92	£ 43.92
Biffa Waste Services Ltd (Cemetery)	2349	£ 96.72	£ 16.93	£ 113.65	
SDC (T/course)	2350	£ 16.00	£ 2.80	£ 18.80	
C Redstall (Expenses)	2351	£ 61.15		£ 61.15	£ 61.15
SDC (Office rates)	2352	£ 324.85		£ 324.85	
SDC (Cemetery Rates)	2353	£ 185.24		£ 185.24	
Southam Office Supplies (Stationery)	2354	£ 69.80	£ 12.21	£ 82.01	£ 82.01
T Batchelor (Grounds Maintenance)	2355	£ 689.40		£ 689.40	
Staff salaries	2356	£ 121.46		£ 121.46	
HMRC (PAYE)	2358	£ 1,147.20		£ 1,147.20	£ 875.20
				£ -	
				£ -	
				£ -	
				£ -	
				£ -	
				£ -	
				£ -	
				£ -	
				£ -	
	TOTALS	£ 7,925.42	£ 85.13	£ 8,010.55	£ 3,590.46

Cheque nos 2331,2334, 2341, 2342 & 2357 spoiled

Bishops Itchington Parish Council

Summary spend v budget by month

Appendix B

Aug-10	This month				Year to date		
	Actual	Budget	Variance		Actual	Budget	Variance
5	£'s	£'s	£'s		£'s	£'s	£'s
Budget Heading							
Salaries & expenses	1,920.95	2,250.45	(329.50)		9,808.51	11,252.27	(1,443.76)
Administration	380.27	420.49	(40.22)		3,873.34	4,614.33	(740.99)
Grasscutting & estate work	90.00	661.19	(571.19)		1,866.00	3,305.95	(1,439.95)
Cemetery & churchyard	883.10	946.07	(62.97)		3,902.97	4,173.12	(270.15)
Pavilion & playing field	588.06	698.94	(110.88)		2,545.32	3,114.62	(569.30)
Yellow Land	388.00	1,393.79	(1,005.79)		1,007.26	6,968.93	(5,961.67)
Community Group	-	166.67	(166.67)		1,545.51	833.33	712.18
Memorial Hall	-	100.42	(100.42)		80.00	502.08	(422.08)
Other grants	-	250.00	(250.00)		250.00	1,250.00	(1,000.00)
Section 137	-	-	-		5,000.00	36.90	4,963.10
Other Expenditure	-	40.00	(40.00)		78.00	200.00	(122.00)
VAT payments	49.28	-	49.28		1,749.77	-	1,749.77
Contingency	-	-	-		-	-	-
Transfers	-	-	-		-	-	-
Total Expenditure	5,790.56	9,249.74	(3,459.18)		46,707.04	48,922.69	(2,215.65)
Income	19,864.37	313.79	19,550.58		53,631.06	34,193.96	19,437.10
Surplus deficit	14,073.81	(8,935.95)	23,009.76		6,924.02	(14,728.73)	21,652.75
Balance brought forward	27,169.42	28,526.43	(1,357.01)		34,319.21	34,319.21	-
Balance carried forward	41,243.23	19,590.48	21,652.75		41,243.23	19,590.48	21,652.75