

BISHOP'S ITCHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 7 February 2011 St Michael's Church Hall at 7.30pm

Present:

Cllr Kettle, Chairman Cllr Whittaker Cllr Heatley
Cllr Kanwar (from 7.35pm) Cllr Wheeler Cllr Tagg-Wilkinson Cllr Maddison

Cllr Stevens (County)

Alison Biddle, Clerk to the Council

9 Members of the public

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Macaulay (sick), Cllr Christian-Carter (sick), District Cllr Mann (personal reasons)

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes of the meeting held on 10 January 2011 as a true and complete record of that meeting.

Cllr Kanwar arrived during this last item.

4. Public Forum

Members of the public expressed an interest in affordable housing, planning and general matters. A question was asked about the item relating to the churchyard trees (Item 15, Confidential items). The clerk explained that one of the trees had shed a limb a few months ago and work was required to make it safe.

5. Police Matters

No matters were raised.

6. Clerk's Report

The clerk reported that there had been some vehicle damage to the spinney fence at the cemetery. The repair work is in hand. There were no questions.

7. Planning Matters

1. 10/02599/TPO

Tree works

The Cottage, Station Road

It was **RESOLVED** to make no representations and no comments.

8. Finance

1. Monthly Financial Report

There were no questions

2. Accounts Payable

These were examined and passed for signing.

3. Appointment of Internal Auditor & Terms of Reference

It was agreed to appoint W. Robinson as auditor. The terms of reference were reviewed and it was agreed that no amendments were required.

4. LGPS Contribution Rates

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the new LGPS contribution rates.

5. HS2 Fighting Fund

A request for a contribution to the fund was considered but not felt to be appropriate. It was therefore agreed to decline the request.

9. County & District Information

1. Bishop's Cross Garage Illuminated Sign

SDC has confirmed that there is no statutory requirement for them to notify neighbours in cases such as this. A neighbouring resident was present and stated that the previous sign which had been installed on the site when it was a filling station had spoiled the enjoyment of his property. The light from the sign and a humming noise had intruded into his garden. The council also felt that lack of notification was undemocratic. The clerk was asked to email SDC putting forward these concerns and to copy it to Cllr Mann.

2. Warwickshire County Council Cuts

Cllr Whittaker had requested that this item be placed on the agenda as he was concerned about the effect any cuts would have on PCSO's. Cllr Stevens explained that this referred to a number of PCSO's who were stationed in various secondary schools in the county and funded by WCC, not PCSO's in general who are paid by the police.

Other Information

Cllr Mann had circulated a written report on SDC matters prior to the meeting. There were no questions.

Cllr Stevens explained that WCC's proposed budget is designed to save £20 million per year over the next 3 years.

- It means that a number of care homes will close and there will be more emphasis on supporting people in their own homes.
- Any extra money will go towards youth clubs which will be run in clusters and will have 2 tiers of management removed.
- A number of libraries may close or have reduced opening hours. A full public consultation on this begins soon.
- Rural transport will be cut.
- Recycling centres will remain open but will have reduced hours.
- 1800 posts will be lost out of a total of 8000 (does not include school staff) by a mixture of voluntary and compulsory redundancies and resignations.

WCC is to pay a full time officer to deal with issues arising from HS2. The public consultation starts at the end of February and lasts until July. It will consider the environmental impact, the business case and the proposed route. All county councils along the route will be meeting to discuss the matter and they will also be meeting with representatives from HS2.

The PCT's will cease to exist from 2013 when funding will be passed to the control of GP's who will be organised into consortiums. Public health will become the responsibility of WCC.

Southam College has received an outstanding Ofsted report.

10. Affordable Housing

The appointment of an independent person to review the results of the questionnaire was discussed. It was suggested that perhaps the clerk to a neighbouring parish may be able to help. The clerk has also contacted the company who helped the community project with a survey they carried out last year. It was agreed that the clerk would email the cost of this service to councillors when the information is received.

A number of queries regarding the questionnaire were raised by members of the public. These included:

- Concern at the method of delivery via Scene as opposed to Royal Mail. Some people have heard of residents who have not received a copy of the questionnaire. The clerk reported that she had only been contacted by 3 people and she had personally sent them a questionnaire by post.
- Concern over the method of voting i.e. there is no control over the number of votes on each questionnaire as the council does not know who has completed it. People could therefore falsify the number of eligible people in their household.
- It was also suggested by one person that as the layout shown for Site A was more detailed than Site B, this was imbalanced and implied a preference on behalf of the parish council for Site A. The chairman explained that this was all the information available and that the layout for Site B had been drawn up at short notice by the landowner of that site so that it could be included in the questionnaire.

There was further general discussion about affordable housing. Some members of the public wanted to raise matters which had already been debated at length by the council in previous meetings. The chairman therefore called the discussion to a halt as these matters were not on the agenda for tonight's meeting. Some members of the public disagreed with the chairman's decision to end the discussion as they felt that they had been denied their democratic right to speak and left the meeting in protest.

11. BI Primary School Heritage Lottery Project

It was **RESOLVED** to support the primary school's project. More information is required about the clay statues before a decision can be made about the possible location of a statue on the Yellow Land. The clerk will write a letter of support.

12. Great Poppy Party Weekend

The clerk was asked to put a notice in Scene and also to contact all the main venues in the village asking whether people would be interested in organising a joint event. Cllr Stevens volunteered to contact members of the British Legion who live in the village.

13. Royal Garden Party

Councillors were asked to send their nominations to the clerk by 7 March 2011.

14. Accounts Payable

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

14. Reports and Questions

- The rubbish bin outside the school in Ladbroke Road has been vandalised.
- The property in Chapel Street which is apparently being used for business purposes now has a skip with more rubbish. The clerk has already reported this.
- Light no 2 in Ladbroke Road is not working.
- Can a new format for the annual village meeting be considered?

15. Confidential Items

1. Insurance Claim

It was agreed to await a response from the complainant's insurers before removing the tree.

2. Churchyard Trees

It was agreed that the clerk should obtain a 3rd quote before a decision is made.

The meeting closed at 9.35pm

Signed.....Chairman

Date.....

Bishops Itchington Parish Council

Summary spend v budget by month

Appendix B

Jan-11 10	This month			Year to date		
	Actual £'s	Budget £'s	Variance £'s	Actual £'s	Budget £'s	Variance £'s
Budget Heading						
Salaries & expenses	2,148.23	2,250.45	(102.22)	19,684.79	22,504.55	(2,819.76)
Administration	72.39	187.08	(114.69)	10,420.47	8,970.66	1,449.81
Grasscutting & estate work	-	661.19	(661.19)	4,309.00	6,611.90	(2,302.90)
Cemetery & churchyard	-	186.70	(186.70)	6,250.83	7,384.73	(1,133.90)
Pavilion & playing field	28.98	318.87	(289.89)	5,139.56	5,849.17	(709.61)
Yellow Land	2,216.42	3,715.52	(1,499.10)	30,675.15	37,155.17	(6,480.02)
Community Group	-	166.67	(166.67)	2,000.00	1,666.67	333.33
Memorial Hall	-	100.42	(100.42)	80.00	1,004.17	(924.17)
Other grants	-	-	-	958.00	6,250.00	(5,292.00)
Section 137	-	-	-	5,016.50	36.90	4,979.60
Other Expenditure	39.00	40.00	(1.00)	156.00	400.00	(244.00)
VAT payments	26.77	-	26.77	2,623.04	-	2,623.04
Contingency	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditure	4,531.79	7,626.90	(3,095.11)	87,313.34	97,833.91	#####
Income	2,781.82	313.79	2,468.03	93,113.05	93,049.93	63.12
Surplus deficit	(1,749.97)	(7,313.11)	5,563.14	5,799.71	(4,783.98)	10,583.69
Balance brought forward	41,868.89	36,848.34	5,020.55	34,319.21	34,319.21	-
Balance carried forward	40,118.92	29,535.23	10,583.69	40,118.92	29,535.23	10,583.69