

BISHOP'S ITCHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the meeting held on 5 September 2011
St Michael's Church Hall at 7.30pm**

Present:

Cllr Kettle, Chairman
Cllr Tagg-Wilkinson
Cllr Maddison

Cllr Whittaker
Cllr Christian-Carter

Cllr Wheeler
Cllr Macaulay

Cllr Stevens (County)
Cllr Mann (District)
Cllr Hamburger (District)

Alison Biddle, Clerk to the Council

12 members of the public

1. Apologies

Apologies were received as follows:

Cllr Heatley (holiday); Cllr Kanwar (working).

2. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Maddison declared a personal interest in Item 12.1 "Queen's Diamond Jubilee", as she is a member of the carnival committee.

3. Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes of the parish council meeting held on 1 August 2011 as a true and complete record of that meeting.

4. Public Forum

Residents of Knightcote Road, who live near to Old Town Barns, are concerned that a planning application in respect of this property, which was made over 12 months ago, has still not been determined by SDC. The deadline for neighbour consultations was August 2010. Despite numerous attempts to contact the case officer, no response has been received. The clerk reported that she has recently been advised by the case officer that the reason for the delay is a heavy work load and also the fact that the Environmental Health Officer has been unable to gain access to the property in order to make an environmental impact assessment as requested by the case officer. They will make arrangements with the agent to ensure access at their next visit. It was agreed that a delay of over 12 months was unacceptable and District Cllr Mann said she would follow it up and report back.

5. Police Matters

1. Matters to report:

- There are still problems with cars speeding through the village.
- What action are the police taking regarding the damage to cars in Ladbroke Road on 20/21 August?
- Motorists are still ignoring the mini-roundabout and driving straight over it as they travel along Gaydon Road. It was noted that the new road markings at the junction with Plough Lane have been moved further back which makes it more difficult to see the traffic travelling along

Gaydon Road. The clerk will report this to WCC and also enquire about the reinstatement of the dome which was promised a few months ago.

- The real problem is that the speed limit needs to be enforced. It was agreed that the clerk would contact Jaguar Land Rover at Gaydon to request that their employees are officially asked to keep to the speed limit through the village.

2. SNT Meeting 15 September 2011

Cllr Kettle volunteered to attend this meeting.

6. Clerk's Report

- Tim Batchelor has said that as he has not received any further instructions from Dan Britton, he will take the remaining part of the ash tree down and leave it in the churchyard for Dan to collect in due course.
- The clerk has still not received a reply from the landowner about the proposal to upgrade the surface of the public footpath at the rear of Scowcroft Drive. It was agreed that this should be placed on next month's agenda.
- SDC will be contacting residents about broadband over the next few weeks. The clerk is currently waiting for some information which can be used for publicity in the village.

7. Planning Matters

1. Stoneton Windfarm Exhibition

Cllr Wheeler volunteered to attend.

2. Proposed Starbold Windfarm

The planning application for this has not yet been received. Advice from WALC confirms that as the parish council has already objected to the meteorological mast application, there is no reason to prevent discussion about the expected forthcoming planning application for the windfarm itself. There is no doubt that this proposal will have a significant impact on the local community and it would be helpful to begin research on the relevant issues now. It was therefore agreed to set up a working party to consider the best way forward. Cllr Tagg-Wilkinson, Cllr Wheeler, Cllr Whittaker and Cllr Kettle all volunteered to join this group. It was suggested that perhaps our district and county councillors may also be able to help.

The need to find out the preferences of SDC and WCC in respect of renewable energy was briefly discussed. The possibility of funding for community led renewable energy schemes was also briefly touched upon.

Cllr Macaulay left the room for 5 minutes during this discussion

8. Knightcote Grange Public Open Space.

1. Maintenance

Cllr Maddison declared a personal interest in this item as she lives in Knightcote Grange.

Owing to a misunderstanding, this area has not been maintained to the required standard. The contractor has carried out some remedial work but there is still some way to go. A few residents were present. In general they like the current landscaping but agreed that it needs weeding and replanting in some areas. They are keen to be involved in a consultation. It was agreed that those residents present would discuss with their neighbours and put a proposal to the parish council as to what they would like to see happen with the landscaping.

2. Ball Games in Parrish Close

It was explained that this is a separate issue to the one of maintenance. A consultation has been carried out with the residents of Parrish Close only. Of the 4 responses received (out of 10 consultation letters sent out), 3 of them were not supportive of additional planting and

stated that they liked the fact that children can play on the green. They felt that additional planting would reduce this amenity value. Mrs Parkin stressed that she and her husband had no objection to young children playing on the green and did not want to stop this activity. However, they feel that the playing of football games by older youths is not an appropriate use of this space. They would like to have something planted on the bald area, caused by the football games, and which is extremely unattractive. This would prevent football games and still leave space for younger children to play.

It was suggested to Mr and Mrs Parkin that they should discuss the problem with their neighbours and agree on a proposal which they could put before the parish council. Mr and Mrs Parkin agreed to do this.

9. BICP and the Big Society Fund

BICP is not in a position to proceed with this at the moment. The matter is postponed until further notice.

10. Finance

1. Monthly Financial Report

There were no questions.

2. Accounts Payable

There were no questions

3. Cost of Memorial Repairs, Cemetery

It was **RESOLVED** to authorise the cost of these repairs. The cemetery manager will contact direct family members where possible and invoice them as appropriate when the work has been completed.

11. Grounds Maintenance Contracts

It was agreed that the start date for the contracts should be amended from 1 April to 1 March. They will continue to run for a 2 year period. Therefore the new contracts will run for 23 months to bring them into alignment with the new start date i.e. from 1 April 2012 to 28 February 2014. Subsequent contracts would run for the full 24 months.

The clerk also asked the council to consider increasing the number of cuts per season from 14 to 16. This would give the contractor more flexibility over the first and last cuts and would help to keep the grassed areas looking neater. This will be considered further at the next meeting.

A decision also needs to be made with regard to the landscaping at Knightcote Grange and what is required of the contractor.

The clerk has asked Cllr Christian-Carter to help her re-draft the contracts in a simpler format and taking into account current requirements. The council was in agreement with this.

12. Queen's Diamond Jubilee 2012

1. Donation to Carnival Committee

The clerk was asked to find out how much the committee would need.

2. Nomination of Councillors to Committee

This was deferred until the next meeting. Councillors were asked to consider whether they could help.

13. Litter Bin, Playing Field

The clerk reported that the cost of the bin would be £450, to include purchase and installation plus a further £90 per annum for a weekly collection. The parish council would have to pay the costs in full. The clerk was asked to find out exactly what type of bin would be installed for this price. This matter will be placed on the agenda again next month.

14. County and District Information

- Southam College's exam results were particularly good this year.
- The result of the Libraries and Youth Service consultations are to be announced next month.
- The proposals for planning policies will have a dramatic effect.
- Has the parish council been invited to submit agenda items for the next community forum?
The district councillors will follow this up.

15. Consultations

1. Open Public Services White Paper

Cllr Tagg-Wilkinson has written a summary which the clerk will forward.

2. Draft National Planning Framework

Cllr Tagg-Wilkinson will prepare a summary to forward to the clerk.

3. Local Planning Regulations

This was deferred until the next meeting. Cllr Wheeler will do the preparation work.

4. Defra Registration of New Town and Village Greens

It was agreed that this consultation was not so relevant and that owing to time constraints, no response would be made.

5. SDC Gypsy and Traveller

It was agreed that there was no space available within the parish. Cllr Wheeler and Cllr Whittaker will respond accordingly.

16. Accounts Payable

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

17. Reports and Questions

- The meeting with Nick Gower-Johnson from WCC still has to be re-scheduled.
- What is the situation with the chestnut tree in Rupert Kettle Drive? The clerk reported that the contractor had said he would inspect the tree this evening.
- The latch on the gate at the bottom of the play area is broken again.
- The litter bins on the playing field are full again.
- The road sign at the chicane in Plough Lane is dirty and covered in graffiti
- The post on the dog litter bin at the entrance to the playing field has been broken.

The meeting closed at 10pm.

Signed.....Chairman

Date.....

Bishops Itchington Parish Council

Summary spend v budget by month

Appendix B

Aug-11 5	This month			Year to date		
	Actual £'s	Budget £'s	Variance £'s	Actual £'s	Budget £'s	Variance £'s
Budget Heading						
Salaries & expenses	2,315.58	2,260.25	55.33	11,337.93	11,301.25	36.68
Administration	947.62	332.21	615.41	5,322.11	5,479.89	(157.78)
Grasscutting & estate work	1,114.68	667.54	447.14	2,968.68	3,337.71	(369.03)
Cemetery & churchyard	732.90	1,325.46	(592.56)	4,324.55	6,232.27	(1,907.72)
Pavilion & playing field	478.02	644.32	(166.30)	1,981.09	2,841.53	(860.44)
Yellow Land	125.00	41.67	83.33	2,590.43	208.33	2,382.10
Community Group	-	83.33	(83.33)	-	416.67	(416.67)
Memorial Hall	-	83.33	(83.33)	-	416.67	(416.67)
Other grants	-	250.00	(250.00)	250.00	1,000.00	(750.00)
Section 137	-	-	-	-	36.90	(36.90)
Other Expenditure	-	48.33	(48.33)	480.00	241.67	238.33
VAT payments	246.64	-	246.64	764.16	-	764.16
Contingency	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditure	5,960.44	5,736.45	223.99	30,018.95	31,512.88	(1,493.93)
Income	99.86	294.92	(195.06)	34,726.35	32,599.60	2,126.75
Surplus deficit	(5,860.58)	(5,441.53)	(419.05)	4,707.40	1,086.71	3,620.69
Balance brought forward	57,093.52	53,053.78	4,039.74	46,525.54	46,525.54	-
Balance carried forward	51,232.94	47,612.25	3,620.69	51,232.94	47,612.25	3,620.69