

The Parish Times

Keeping Hinton Parva, Bishopstone and Russley Park informed.

Volume 9. Number 3.

chairman's SPEECH

EACH year at the Annual Assembly the Chair of the Parish Council reviews the previous year and looks forward to the coming 12 months. This is recorded in the minutes and reproduced here for those unable to attend the meeting.

'It is interesting to look back over last year's review and see how much progress we have made as a council on the projects we intended to address. The one thing that never ceases to amaze me is how slow and ponderous are the deliberation of SBC in anything which involves them. There is also the fact, in planning, that whatever we as a council approve is turned down by them and whatever we don't like, they seem to approve. This begs the question "why do the officials of a metropolitan borough not take into consideration the opinions of rural councils who are better placed to represent the parishioners?"

'Moving on - last year saw heavy involvement in objection to the urban development east of the A419. There was an exhibition which told us nothing we did not already know and incidentally being justified by SBC staff who all live miles away from the proposed development. Mercifully since the successful court action in the North East against a similar proposal, SBC seem to have put the plans on ice but will no doubt soon start to spend large amounts of our money to build up a case for 'the defence' should a similar action be brought over the EDA.

'We had an interesting meeting with the planners in council who seemed less than convinced of the viability of the scheme, though not prepared to criticise his colleagues, and also admitted that there were so many holes in the plan that a coach and horses could be driven through it. The final confirmation of the inappropriate nature and incompetence of the scheme was that nobody had any idea how much it would cost. I feel we do have to thank the current economic climate for the slowdown of their plans as no national house builder wants to undertake a project of this magnitude at such a difficult time. However having said this we cannot afford to be complacent about a delay which may only be temporary. The up-side is that were there a change of government many of these building expansions would be scrapped. This might pose a dilemma depending on one's political persuasion.

'We have continued in our efforts to reduce traffic speed through the villages with the proposed new signage and hopefully the implementation of the program for the VAS installations. This seemed to well in hand until the creation of a new official at SBC to take control. However I am confident that we will soon have the signs, funds for which have already been allocated from the precept. My information is that these VASs should be in place shortly.



EMERGENCY PLANNING

The Parish Council was approached by SBC to compile a Parish Plan for the villages in the event of an emergency. Sam Weller and Stuart Hanks attended the February meeting to brief Councillors and then forwarded the necessary documentation for us to consider. This requires us to collate a list of key contacts within the village anyone with skills that may be able to help should a disaster occur within the Parish, i.e. nurses, doctors, 4 x 4's, etc.

If you feel you have any skills and would like to be entered onto the register as someone that can help, please contact the Clerk via email lesley@tynash.com or by telephone 01793 791355.

The Parish Council would hold the list securely.

Second Hand Hard Disks

Second hand computer hard drives auctioned on eBay, some for as little as £1, often contain valuable data for criminals. Most people buy them simply to upgrade their computers, but they can give access to tax returns, bank statements, correspondence relating to investments, or savings and even account numbers, pins and passwords.

It is estimated that half of all computers changing ownership contain data useful to criminals. The most valuable is information that links individuals' names with their addresses and dates of birth as this allows fraudsters to make false applications for credit.

chairman's SPEECH

continued

'We have not been able to get any further with the ongoing work to sort out the flooding risk in the Coombe and we should push harder on this point in the year ahead.

'Having had our meeting with the owners of the Motorcross track and their accession to our requests, there seem to have been very few complaints this year. However a parishioner who lives very close to the track looks likely to start all over again having already been in touch with SBC. I personally do not think we can go any further with this one.

'Though we have made every effort to ensure the quality of the roads in the parish, we are up against a policy to improve the urban roads over those in the rural areas. Repair work has at best been inadequately carried out by the 'Streetsmart Team', (who thinks up these names?) who's patching falls out literally within days. I feel that we must be more forceful on the subject and obtain a proper plan of renewals for the rural roads.

'Over recent months, much of our time has been taken up with the proposed development of housing on the site of the True Heart pub. Again our views and those of many parishioners are being thwarted by the planning officers at SBC. They seem unconcerned about the loss on an amenity which should be enjoyed by many and also about the inadequately prepared planning application for development. The ether has been burning up with the e-mail traffic on the topic and a big vote of thanks should go to Ian Thomas for the enormous amount of research and time which has gone

into making a case for the proposal to be turned down by planning. Hopefully by demonstrating that it the Heart is a viable an essential amenity, we may be able to sway the opinion of the committee.

'Having had some fairly unpleasant exchanges over the increase in the contribution to the precept, some of which was most unfairly levelled at Lesly Drewett, I am only too pleased that I was able to persuade her not to resign over the matter. She puts in an enormous amount of her personal time to ensure that the business of the council runs smoothly - well actually I don't believe it would run at all without her. So, Lesley thank you very much from all of us for making our lives easier.

'Though sometimes it might appear a thankless task, I very much hope that all sitting councillors will continue in office after April as it is important that we are actively involved in the community and put something of ourselves into it.

'And for the coming year.

- 1) Stay focused on the danger of the EDA
- 2) Get the roads fixed properly
- 3) Complete the VAS program and...
- 4) Ensure we keep the True Heart.

'On a personal note I would like to thank councillors for their support of my remaining as Chair for the foreseeable future and preventing me from 'falling on my sword'.'

true heart UPDATE

As reported last month on the 16th November 2009, Bishopstone Parish Council received notification of a planning application to redevelop the True Heart and build housing behind the current building. The development also called for the demolition of certain parts of the existing structure.

Bishopstone Parish Council have, since this time, been actively working to try to get the planning officers to refuse the application. Unfortunately, Swindon Borough Council seem to be adopting the policy that provided there are 2 pubs in a village one can close without any impact.

This in effect give carte blanche to developers to close pubs in villages so long as there is an alternative.

Bishopstone Parish Council interprets the existing policies differently and are stressing that the Royal Oak and the True Heart offered different venues for different needs.

The Planning application was due to go before committee on Tuesday 9th March 2010 at the Council Chamber, Civic Offices at 18:00 pm however at the last moment the Parish Council received notification that:

"following some recent discussions with our legal department it has been decided to withdraw this application from the agenda to allow us to make to revisions and alterations to the report. We are anticipating to take this application to the next committee (6th April)."

The Parish Council feel that the more people attending as a show of moral support, the better our case will be viewed in opposing the application.

The True Heart offers a much larger venue than the Royal Oak and is used for large social gatherings. It has also been a meeting place for many village clubs including, the school football team . It is the Parish Council's belief that the True Heart remains an extremely viable proposition. Furthermore, in the Conservation Area Appraisal the 2 pubs are noted as being important for the villages sense of community.

If at all possible please come to the meeting on the 6th April and help try to save this well loved venue.

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SMALL PRINT

Welcome

The Parish Council always extends a warm welcome to all new and prospective residents of the Parish. We are very pleased that you've chosen to live in our community.

The Parish contains two conservation areas and everything south of the Ickneild Way is also in the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Many houses are also listed.

Naturally this brings with it all sorts of problems when it comes to tree felling, house alterations, etc. There are also other regulations aimed at

preserving the character and beauty of the parish. If in doubt, please check, we are only a phone call away.

The Parish Council is therefore always available to answer any questions you may have on any particular aspect of living in a conservation area, the area of outstanding natural beauty or in listed buildings. Please do not hesitate to contact either the Clerk, the Chair or any member of the council - the numbers appear on the next page.

We do hope you will be very happy here.

Parish Documents

The Parish has an archive room in the village hall in Bishopstone. This is not accessible to members of the public, however, with advanced warning any document stored there may be viewed by contacting a member of the council.

Documents of particular importance are also stored on the parish website and may be viewed

by anyone with a PC. Members of the parish without a PC can ask the clerk to provide them with a hard copy.

Documents on the website include the precept, the accounts, standing orders, annual Returns, etc.

Parish Parking

The Parish has many narrow lanes and these need to be accessible to residents, utility and emergency vehicles at all times. Cars are now being parked along some of the narrowest sections of road (e.g. Cues Lane in Bishopstone, High Street, Bishopstone, etc.) often blocking these routes to even small vehicles. Please remember that emergency vehicles need to be able to move freely down all the roads and lanes of the parish at all times. Could we therefore ask that owners of vehicles park them responsibly and avoid the narrowest sections.

THE Village Hall car park in Bishopstone is a private space available only for those using the village hall. It is not somewhere for parishioners to park on a long term basis; whatever the circumstances might be. This is clearly signed on

the wall of the hall.

Cars parked here make it very difficult for legitimate car park users to find space for their vehicles. It is also incredibly inconvenient for those users having to load and unload items, or for the infirm or disabled who wish to make use of the hall.

Provided the hall is not in use, loading and unloading of vehicles is permitted, as is visitor parking for short periods. By prior arrangement with the committee the siting of skips can also be accommodated.

The committee very much regret that it cannot offer parking for those in need, however, hall users must come first and from the complaints received these are frequently finding it difficult to park.

Protected Trees

Trees are vital to the quality of our lives for a number of reasons:-

- They help make our two villages more pleasant and attractive places in which to live and work.
- They are often a familiar and cherished feature and so provide a sense of place.
- They provide a valuable habitat for wildlife.

They are often older than many of the buildings amongst which they stand and so contribute to our local history.

Because they are so important to our environment all trees within a Conservation Area are protected by law*. The **whole** of Bishopstone is within a Conservation Area. The **whole** of Hinton Parva centred around the church is also within a Conservation Area.

Anyone planning to cut down or carry out work to a tree here must give the Borough Council six

weeks written notice of their intention to do so.

*Whilst there are one or two exemptions, such as trees with a diameter of less than 3 inches (measured 1.5m from the ground) or when a tree is in a dangerous condition, you are strongly advised to check first with the Council's Tree Officer since any unauthorised works can be a criminal offence which could lead to prosecution and heavy fines of up to £20,000. Better to be safe than sorry!

The Council's Tree Officer can be contacted on 01793 466318.

Individual trees or groups of trees that make a particularly important contribution to either of our villages may be worthy of special protection by way of a Tree Preservation Order. If you know of any such trees then please do not hesitate to contact any Member of the Parish Council or the Borough Council's Tree Officer who will be happy to make an inspection.

USEFUL INFORMATION

Crimestoppers: 0800 555 111
(Call anonymously with information about crime)

Domestic Violence 24hr National Helpline: 0808 2000 247

FRANK: 0800 77 66 00
(drug related)

Anti Social Behaviour: 01793 445500

Noise Nuisance: 01793 445500

NHS Direct: 0845 4647

Swindon Community Safety Partnership: 01793 466506

Wiltshire Bobby Van Trust 01225 794652 provides home security services to people aged 60+ or with special needs. (NB: the WBVT is a charity - donations are welcome).

Beat the Burglar

If you see anyone acting suspiciously, take their description and vehicle registration details and call the police on: 0845 408 7000. In an emergency call 999.

For a free home security pack and information about offers on home security call the Home Office:

0800 456 1213

(Packs are subject to availability).

Council Meetings 2009/10

STOP PRESS

In order to discuss the True Heart planning application before the SBC Planning Meeting on the 6th April the next Parish Council meeting has been brought forward to 31/3/10 and not as previously published Wednesday 7/4/10.

The meeting will still take place in Hinton Parva Village Hall.

Wednesday 5/5/10 Bishopstone (AGM)

All meetings begin at 7.30pm and members of the public are always welcome. Late changes are shown on the website <http://parish.bishopstone.net> and on the notice boards in Hinton Parva and Bishopstone.

BISHOPSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Lesley Drewett (Clerk)
Brigadoon
Hockerbench
Bishopstone Wilts
SN6 8PW

Phone: 01793 791355
Fax: 01793 791355
Email: lesley@tynash.com
E-mail: lesley@tynash.com
website: <http://parish.bishopstone.net>

Mr Richard Alcock

Orchard House, Hinton Parva, SN4 0DW. 790808.

Mr Julian Cooke

Church Farm, Hinton Parva. SN4 0DW. 790278.

Mr Simon Jenkins

The Old Vicarage, Bishopstone. SN6 8PY. 790545.

Mr Stuart McGuigan

Greenoak, Newtown Lane, Bishopstone. SN6 8QA. 790219.

Mr Rob Selbourne

Prebendal Farm, Bishopstone, Wilts. SN6 8PT. 790485.

Mr Doug Stevens

Church View, Church Lane, Bishopstone. SN6 8PY. 791107.

Mrs Karolyn Tapper (Vice Chair)

Orchard Cottage, Bishopstone, Wilts. SN6 8PL. 790658.

Mr Ian Thomas

Littlecot, High Street, Bishopstone, Wilts. SN6 8PH. 790106.

Mr Ian Thompson

Snowberry House, Hinton Parva. SN4 0DW. 790970.

Useful Information

Highworth Police Station

01793 762251
Mon-Fri. 09-12.30 & 17:30-21.00

Police Headquarters

0845 408 7000
24hrs, 7 days a week

SBC Reception Premier House

01793 465055/465056

Civic Offices

01793 463668

Wat Tyler House

01793 463725

Borough Councillor

Andrew Bennett 01793 790563

Fly Tipping and other similar problems

Swindon Commercial Services 01793 463463

Keeping Swindon Safe

SBC 01793 445500
Police 0845 408 7000

Mobile Police Unit

Planning Update

All planning applications, their history and all supporting documents can now be viewed online by visiting:
www.swindon.gov.uk/planning.

Planning issues are discussed at the monthly Parish Council meetings. All plans for that month are laid out on display prior to the meetings and councillors and members of the public are invited to take a look. Public representations are heard prior to the start of the meeting.

Parish Council meetings alternate between Hinton Parva Village Hall and Bishopstone Village Hall and usually take place on the first Wednesday of the month.

Members of the public are always welcome.

Planning:

S/LBC/10/0197HECO + S/10/0196HECO - demolition of rear and side extensions, removal of 1no. rear dormer window and external oil tank, erection of a single storey rear extension, insertion of 3no. roof lights and installation of 2no. solar panels to rear roof slope. West Hinton House, Hinton Parva Lane, Hinton Parva. Miss Helen Cooper 466297. Deadline 25th March.

S/LBC/10/0202 + S/LBC/10/0202CLMC - Replacement of various windows. Sayers Bank, Cues Lane, Bishopstone. Miss Claire McMurray 466062. Deadline 29th March.

S/10/0127CLMC - Demolition of existing stable block & erection of a new stable block - Lower Farm House, Bourton Road, Hinton Parva **S/10/0149RM** - Erection of a two storey side & single storey rear extension -Gails Cottage High Street, Bishopstone

GRANTED

S/09/2108CLMC - Erection of two storey rear extension, single storey side extension & erection of a garage - 4 West End Lane, Bishopstone

S/LBC/09/2248/CLMC - Installation of 2 no roof lights - Spring Cottage, Nell Hill, Bishopstone

S/LBC/10/0068/ROBI - Re-thatch section of roof on east side - Icknield Cottage, Hinton Parva Lane, Hinton Parva

S/TIME/09/2176/ROBI - Extension of time for previous permission S//04/0652 for the demolition of existing barn & erection of 2 no dwellings - Land at Church Lane, Bishopstone

S/TIME/09/2177/ROBI - Extension of time for previous permission

S//CAC/04/0653 for the demolition of an existing barn - Land at Church Lane, Bishopstone

Don't forget that all important information is displayed on the notice-boards in both villages and on the website at <http://parish.bishopstone.net>.

The Parish Times will always be available on the website. It is added there as soon as it is ready to go to the printers.

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