

**BISHOPSTONE PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting  
held at 7:30 p.m.  
on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2011  
at Bishopstone Village Hall**

**Those Present:** Simon Jenkins (Chair), Lesley Drewett (Clerk), Ian Thomas, Ian Thompson, Rob Selbourne, Cllr. Andrew Bennett.

1. **Approved Apologies**  
Karolyn Tapper (Vice Chair), Sarah Paye, Stuart McGuigan, Julian Cooke, Doug Stevens.
2. **Declaration of Interests**  
There were no declarations of interest.
3. **SBC – DRAFT Core Strategy**  
The Chair welcomed Sam Howell and Stephen Cains, Senior Policy Planner, Swindon Borough Council, to the meeting. They had attended the meeting at Councillors' request to brief them on the DRAFT Core Strategy.

Mr Cains advised the meeting that the document could be viewed online. He explained that there were major changes around the structure and content of the document from the previous core strategy and Eastern Development Area proposals. He then briefed Councillors on the various parts of the document:

- Part 1 - is around the context, spatial vision and strategic objectives underpinning the long term development ambitions for the borough.
- Part 2 – the overall strategy for development within the borough, i.e. Swindon as an urban area, Wroughton, Highworth and then the smaller settlements in which Bishopstone is included.
- Part 3 – is around the core theme policies, which will help tackle a range of borough-wide issues. In the new document, the core themes have been aligned with the same principles as the community strategy, with six key themes based on each of the six community strategy themes. There are themes covering Swindon being a destination of choice, the economy, the environment, health and caring, high aspirations supported by superb education provision, and local people having influence. A seventh has been added, on the need to keep Swindon moving.
- Part 4 – spatial strategy, this goes into much greater detail around local priorities.

Part 5 focuses on development management policies. Mr Cains briefed Councillors on these policies – DMP 1 to DMP 14. There will be a new suite of Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD) to support the revised Core Strategy. SBC hope to consult on the SPD before Christmas and would like the parishes to get involved with this process.

The consultation period runs from 24/3/11 until 18/5/11. Mr Cains provided some response forms and summary leaflets for the Parish Council and individual feedback.

SBC are now at the end of the process and have been through the consultation stage on preferred options, where comments can be made without any kind of constraint. Representations are now requested on the soundness of the plan – whether it has covered all points, how robust it is, and also the legal framework of the plan. Any representations made should be backed up with evidence.

The Chair informed the meeting that there had been a question regarding buffer zones at the public meeting he had attended in Wanborough on 4 April; these had been removed

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of the last document by the RDA. David Potter had agreed at the meeting that buffer zones could now be included in the new document and he would welcome representations on this point.

The Chair was surprised to see a planned employment zone east of the A419 towards Commonhead and queried this. Ms Howell advised that there were 2 reasons for this:

- A problem with the type of land currently available for employment usage
- The need for good access to the strategic road network.

A debate took place around the need for the employment zone. Mr Cains explained that this is a 20 year plan which is trying to achieve a balance of jobs and homes for Swindon and the surrounding villages.

The Chair asked what the likelihood was for getting funding for the infrastructure. Mr Cains explained that they could not give a definite answer at present, but SBC are putting themselves in the best position to get the necessary infrastructure funding, although it was admitted that a number of other Government Agencies were able to override the document. Mr Cains explained that the bigger risk he could see is if the Core Strategy is not adopted, SBC could risk losing control, which could lead to piecemeal applications by developers.

Other traffic management and development issues were discussed. A Councillor raised the question of a density of 35 houses to the hectare which he felt was relatively high for a rural area, particularly as it was going to be an average; if there were going to be detached family homes it would mean that in other areas it could be hitting 40+ to the hectare, which is considerably higher than the minimum of 30 set by the Government. Ms Howell acknowledged this and asked that this be raised in our representation.

Councillor Bennett asked whether SBC had any knowledge of what was proposed for the future expansion of the A419 as this may impinge on the access into the employment zone. Ms Howell explained that there had been misinformation on this, and that the Highways Agency has been very proactive. A traffic study is expected shortly; she is to send the Clerk copies for further distribution once it is available.

A Councillor and Councillor Bennett remarked on the condition of the new part of the A419 at Commonhead.

The Chair thanked Ms Howell and Mr Cains for attending; they asked that if Councillors had any questions or concerns they should not hesitate to get back in touch with them.

#### **4. Public Question Time**

A parishioner had forwarded, via email, details of a planning application, which is to be submitted to SBC. As the parishioner had attended the meeting to brief Councillors on the reasons behind the application, the Chair brought this item forward, but it is left in this part of the minutes for completeness.

The parishioner explained that the planning application was in two parts. The first application is to replace the cedar shingle roof tiles with slate. A roofing specialist had advised her that the tiles were not appropriate for this climate. The adjoining property is roofed in slate. SBC have visited the property for a pre planning site visit. The second application is for a small extension to the rear to build the property up to 1½ storeys. This extension will provide the property with 1 staircase to access all bedrooms instead of the two staircases currently in place. Both applications have been discussed with SBC, who feel it improves the property. The application has not yet been submitted, but Councillors had no comments on these proposals.

The parishioner had wanted to provide feedback on traffic management and she was asked to do so via email to the Chair.

#### **5. Minutes of Last Meeting**

The Chair asked for a proposition that the minutes of the March meeting be accepted as a true record. Councillor Thomas asked that a sub heading was inserted into item 6, Planning, to show that the application discussed was Gail's Cottage.

**Action: The Clerk is to change the minutes. (Complete)**

**Action: The Clerk should bring the minutes to the May meeting for signing.**

**6. Matters Arising**

This item was brought forward, but has been left in this part of the minutes for completeness.

All actions from the previous meeting had been completed except for the following:

WALC/SAE Meeting minutes

As the minutes had not been received by the Clerk for circulation and information regarding the AONB Management Plan and Councillor Bennett was not in attendance, the following actions were carried forward to the next meeting.

**Action: Councillor Bennett is to forward the current minutes to the Clerk for onward distribution and interest. (Complete)**

Councillors asked whether a larger map of the parish highways, the same as was brought to the February meeting, could be requested from Rachel Ind.

**Action: Councillor Bennett is to ask Rachel for a larger copy of the highways map.**

It was decided to take photographs of Gail's Cottage; the Chair would review them with SBC. **(Complete)**

Grips

Councillor Selbourne raised a concern regarding grips on the New Road on the bend close to the T Junction.

**Action: Councillor Selbourne is to take a look at them to see if they need a marker and email the Clerk.**

**7. Planning**

The following planning application had been received after the agenda had been issued:

**S/LBC/11/0441CLMC** – Installation of free sat aerial dish to rear extension – Titchener's Cottage, High Street, Bishopstone

Councillors had no objections to the above planning application.

**Action: The Clerk is to write to SBC. (Complete)**

**GRANTED**

No granted schedules had been received.

**REFUSAL**

No refusal schedules had been received.

**8. Reports from Borough Councillor**

**Action: Councillor Bennett is to send the Borough/Parish Consultation meeting.**

The Borough Councillor reminded Councillors of the Boundary Commission and handed them maps showing the draft recommendations for ward boundaries in the Borough. Chiseldon, Lawns and Ridgeway now make part of a larger ward. It is hoped that Chiseldon will hopefully have more rural interests. Councillor Bennett suggested that the Parish Council should make further representations, on the proposals.

Andrew asked whether Councillors had received a letter regarding the Community Planning Forum. He advised Councillors that Terry King chairs the meeting; he was the person involved in the Front Garden and Wichelstowe discussions. The Chair said that he would

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represent the Parish Council. However, he is not available for the first meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2011.

**Action: Simon Jenkins is to notify Julie O'Rourke that he will be unable to attend the first meeting, but will represent Bishopstone Parish Council at future meetings.**

**Action: Councillor Bennett is to notify the meeting that Simon Jenkins will represent Bishopstone Parish Council, but he is unable to attend the meeting on 9/5/11.**

**Action: Councillor Bennett is to bring a copy of the minutes to the next meeting.**

Councillor Bennett reminded Councillors of the elections on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2011 and the referendum on the Alternative Vote system. Councillors did not require further information.

## 9. Reports from Sub Committees

### Annual tree maintenance on island

The Clerk had brought the Arboricultural Officer's report on the trees on the island to the meeting as two hazel trees should be re-coppiced each year for the next five years. However, Councillors felt that the trees should not be coppiced until the autumn.

**Action: The Clerk is to bring this back to the September meeting.**

The Lengthman's contract and his duties were discussed and it was agreed that he carries out all duties effectively.

### Stile at the top of the Eastbrook Valley

It was reported that the stile at the top of the Eastbrook Valley is now dangerous. The next stile further onto the Ridgeway is also in need of repair. The clerk had previously notified Eastbrook Farm.

**Action: The Clerk is to send a reminder.**

There were no reports as no other sub-committee groups had met.

## 10. Main Points

### True Heart

Councillor Thomas briefed the Council on the initial findings of Christies' viability survey; these did not suggest that there would be any benefit in continuing with the survey. The Parish Council agreed that it should not proceed any further with the viability report. The Parish Council awaits the outcome of the recent appeal. The Chair thanked Ian for his work on this.

**Action: Councillor Thomas is to contact SBC.**

## 11. Accounts to be paid

The following cheques were presented for approval:

- L D Drewett £74.38

Christie's invoice for £500.00 plus VAT had been received after the agenda had been issued; this had been ratified at the Extraordinary meeting, which took place on 31/3/11. The Clerk therefore asked for this to be approved with the other cheques.

The above expenses were approved for payment by Councillor Selbourne, seconded by Councillor Jenkins and unanimously agreed.

## 12. Correspondence

The Chair then asked if Councillors wished to view any of the other correspondence; none did.

## 13. Parishioners Feedback/Complaints

### True Heart Flyer

Councillor McGuigan was unable to attend the meeting but had provided some matters via email. He queried why no flyer had been produced regarding the appeal in the newsletter.

The Clerk had informed him that the details were received after the deadline of the newsletter. However, flyers had been placed in the Royal Oak, on both notice boards and also the website.

Post Boxes

Councillor McGuigan enquired whether any pressure had been put on the Royal Mail to replace the post boxes sooner rather than later. The Chair informed the meeting that the police and Royal Mail had been informed.

**Action: The Chair is to continue to chase this.**

[Post meeting note: The Chair has followed this up and replacements boxes have been promised by Royal Mail within six weeks of 14 April 2011.]

AGM

**14. Date of Next Meeting**

The AGM will take place on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2011 at Hinton Parva Village Hall at 19:30 pm

**Action: Apologies to the Clerk before the meeting.**

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