

MINUTES
OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT 7.30PM MONDAY 03 APRIL 2023
AT BISHOPSTEIGNTON COMMUNITY CENTRE, SHUTE HILL



2932 MEETING GOVERNANCE

.01 Attendance:

- .i **Present:** Members: Cllrs. Merritt (Chair), East, Gateshill, Gill, Head & Watson (6/11). County Cllr. Peart. District Cllr. MacGregor. Clerk: Mrs. K. Ford. 3 members of the public.
- .ii **Apologies:** Cllr. Benham, Grimble, Lambert & Smith (4/11). PCSO S. Bunce & PC. C. Orchard.
- .iii **AWOL:** Cllr. Shaw (1/11)

.02 Declaration Of Interests: none.

.03 Order Of Business: No change required.

.04 Ratification Of Minutes: Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held at Bishopsteignton Community Centre on 06.03.23 were considered. It was proposed and seconded that these be approved as a true and correct record. Agreed unanimously therefore **resolved to approve** and to be signed by the chair.

2933 OFFICIAL REPORTS:

.01 POLICE: Cllr. Gill as member for police liaison gave a brief update on behalf of PC. Orchard:

- Still delays to reporting due to new computer system across Devon & Cornwall Constabulary.
- PC. Orchard and PCSO. Bunce have been actively involved in an Antisocial Behaviour Scheme in Torbay, so have had to spend time out of the area.
- Both officers are involved with preparations for the Village Festival including liaising with neighbours and plan for traffic/parking control.

.02 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR: No report was provided and Cllr. MacGregor had nothing further to add.

.03 COUNTY COUNCILLOR: Cllr. Peart provided the following report.

Devolution deal for Devon, Plymouth and Torbay moves a step closer.

A new deal that will transfer money and powers into the hands of local Leaders across Devon, Plymouth and Torbay, has moved a step closer with the backing of the Government's Levelling Minister, Dehenna Davison.

Outline approval has been given for a Devon wide devolution deal which could bring greater local control and allow partners to tap into additional resources to help tackle key local priorities, such as affordable housing, better public transport and connectivity, and providing for the skills that the local economy needs.

The deal wouldn't require a change to the established democratic structures across the area, or the need for an elected Mayor. Instead, new powers would be devolved to a partnership of existing local councils who would deliver on a joint programme working alongside a wide range of other local stakeholders.

Local partners across Devon have now been invited to work together to prepare a final business case to present to Government for approval later in the year.

Any final deal would require local consent with the full agreement of all the constituent councils as well as Parliamentary approval.

Highways Network Spending

Every penny of the extra £9.4m for Devon, announced in the Chancellor's budget recently, will be spent on improving our roads and making them more resilient.

Most of it will go towards the Local Area Capital Programmes which will reflect local priorities identified through our elected members and Neighbourhood Highways Officers. Using inspections and survey data, the remaining funding will be directed to preventative works to stop potholes forming in the first place.

No further matters were raised, or questions asked.

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2934 FINANCE:

- .01 **Payments:** It was proposed and seconded, that the payments listed in '2304 Payment Authorisation' be approved and processed by the clerk. Agreed unanimously therefore **RESOLVED**.
- .02 **Monthly Finance Statements:** A statement for the period ending 31.03.23 had been forwarded to members. No questions were raised therefore this was **NOTED** by members and signed by the chair. Clerk to publish this on the BPC website.
- .03 **Annual Accounts:** Members were presented BPC Payment & Receipt Accounts for the Financial Year 01.04.23 to 31.03.23 from which the Annual Governance & Accountability Return for the same period would be prepared. No questions. This was noted by members.

2935 ASSET MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Noticeboard at Grange Park/Forder Lane

The report provided by the clerk was discussed and all options considered. It was agreed a board should be located in this area, the preferred position being adjacent to the bench set away from the hedge. Further research to be conducted hopefully to find a suitable board within this price which allows public access, is made of recycled plastic composite, with a minimum of 8x A4 display. As a last resort aluminium would be acceptable.

It was proposed by Cllr. Merritt, seconded by Cllr. Watson, that a budget be set, not to exceed £1,000, in accordance with the specification above. Agreed unanimously therefore **RESOLVED**.

Clerk to conduct further research and liaise with Chair and Vice for final ratification.

2936 PLAYGROUNDS MANAGEMENT & MAINTENANCE POLICY:

The draft policy was considered. Several amendments were suggestion and agreed. It was proposed by Cllr. Head, seconded by Cllr. Watson, to adopt the policy for use with immediate effect, subject to relevant minor changes. Agreed unanimously therefore **RESOLVED**.

Furthermore, the process of inspection was discussed at length. It was agreed that all inspections, even when no faults or risks are detected, must be recorded on the specified form and submitted to the clerk. These must be conducted at least monthly, but if more frequently a form must still be completed. Clerk to speak with Mr. P. Walton, who is currently contracted to carry out these inspections, to ensure written reports are provided. If possible, these could be completed and submitted online via a mobile device, with assistance from Cllr. Watson.

2937 CLERKS REPORT

The clerk provided a report prior to the meeting and made available to download from the website. The following matters were considered further:

- .01 **Kings Coronation:** The clerk added that rather than a programme of events being produced it is more likely to be a poster which can be shared far and wide. It was felt not many events were being arranged due to ongoing preparations for and the closeness of the Village Festival.
It was noted that tree planting was still to be arrange, most likely to take place in Autumn/Winter 2023. A memorial tree for the late HM The Queen Elizabeth II and one to mark to occasion of the coronation of HM King Charles III.
- .02 **Defibrillators:** Cllr. Gill asked that thanks be given to Mr. J. Head at Old Walls Vineyard to thank him for his continued support in hosting a defibrillator at the venue. The clerks advised she is in the process of writing to all venues in the village who host a defibrillator and will be thanking them all.
- .03 **Road Signage:** Cllr. Gill reported that a member of the public has suggested the recent article in The Times, which names Bishopsteignton as 'The Best Village in Devon/the South West' should be referred to in street signage, perhaps creating a banner to celebrate to recognition. It was agreed to defer this discussion to a future meeting of the Asset Management Committee.

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2938 MEMBERS REPORTS: members gave brief summaries on the following matters/events:

The Chair, Cllr. Merritt, wished to take the opportunity to thank all current members of Bishopsteignton Parish Council for their continued support and dedication to the parish and its electorate over the past four years. In particular, he gave thanks to Cllr. Gateshill for acting as Vice Chair, and the clerk.

2939 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

- .01 Mrs. E. Cawthraw, as chair of 1st Bishopsteignton Scouts, reported their planning application for a building at The Lawn recreation ground is submitted and due to be validated fully within the next week therefore likely to appear on the agenda of the next BPC Planning Committee meeting (17.04.23).
- .02 A member of the public asked if BPC were members of the association Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) as they have recently provided excellent training webinars, free to members, on understanding the planning system. The clerk advised that BPC were not members of CPRE, but this may be considered in future. Also that once a new council was in place, and committee members appointed any training needs would be considered and action take to ensure a fully informed membership to each committee. DALC and other similar groups also provide such training.

THE CHAIRMAN CLOSED THE MEETING AT 8.34 PM
