

BISHOPSTEIGNTON

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

2024

MINUTES

HELD 6PM MONDAY 18 MARCH 2024

APM24.01 ATTENDANCE:

Up to 22 participants at various times including councillors and clerk to the council.

APM24.02 BPC CHAIRMAN REPORT

Introduction

I am pleased to present my latest report as Chair of the Parish Council, having been pleased and honoured to be re-elected at the Parish Council Meeting in May 2023.

My main aims continue to ensure that we serve all areas of the Parish, provide the best services possible, endeavour to progress Community Projects, and to continually improve our communication processes, all within the limited resources available.

Key Achievements during 2023/24

- Footpath adjacent to school - Sections resurfaced last Spring.
- King's Coronation - Publication of Village Events Programme
- Green Spaces - management for Biodiversity
- Play Parks - Two additional attractions - one for each Play Park were installed during the summer
- New Noticeboard at the junction of Grange Park and Forder Lane
- Parish Information Boards at Village Green and Cemetery - A joint venture with Bishopsteignton Heritage
- War Memorial - Professional cleaning and repairs
- Strategic Plan agreed and published. Progress to be reviewed during the year
- Remembrance Events - Greater Community Participation
- Additional Defibrillator at Cockhaven Arms, further one to follow at Michaels Field with thanks to Cllr. Gill, Eddy Stephenson & Russell Edwards.
- Teignbridge Local Plan 2020 - 2040 - BPC response to Proposed Local Plan Submission consultation period 8 November to 22 December 2023. This follows previous significant input over recent years, since the publication of the initial draft. I wish to thank many organisations and parishioners who have contributed to be Parish Council response.
- Maintenance of Night Landing Site Floodlights at Michaels Field to facilitate Devon Air Ambulance landing for emergencies.
- Ongoing provision of Benches, including for people in wheelchairs, particularly at the Lawns, and related maintenance
- Cockhaven Road Junction - improvement of the grass area with landscaping, greater safety features for pedestrians and developing a welcoming area to our village. Planting has recently been undertaken.
- MUGA - Increasing usage from a variety of sporting groups. Ongoing maintenance, often sadly, as a result of vandalism.

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The role of the Asset Management Committee, is the driver for many enhancement initiatives of our 'Green Spaces', including three-year contracts being retendered. This work has once again been significant, and enthusiastically led by Cllr. Robert Gateshill. This includes tree planting at the Village Green and the Lawns, landscaping and many works at the Cemetery including the Garden of Rest. Kate Yeo, John Parkes, and Hilary Davies have been magnificent "hands on" workers making a significant contribution. We also very much appreciate the general maintenance duties undertaken by Paul Walton across the Parish.

Climate and Ecological Change has been ever present in our decision making, and in seeking opportunities to embrace this critical requirement. We have been very appreciative of the opportunity to continue to work with Kate Yeo and her colleagues in Sustainable Bishop, Cllr. Kate Benham with input from 'Action on Climate Teignbridge' ACT, and Elaine Cawthraw Chair of the Residents Association and also Bishopsteignton Scouts.

The contribution of BERT, operating in line with the Emergency Resilience Plan is a significant contribution to the community, with the input by Healthy Living Group

We are so fortunate to have the Bishopsteignton Healthy Living Group in the village, which includes Care Watch, Memory Cafe, and Singing for Memory, led until recently by Eddy Stephenson and now Alun Williams. So I wish to thank everyone involved for their great contribution.

Clearly the above and other matters shown below, considered by the Parish Council have been many and varied, in a very demanding, but rewarding and satisfying period. A summary is shown below:

Ongoing Tasks vital to the Parish

- Parish Council 2024/25 Budget and precept to Teignbridge District Council, again considerable work required and on all financial processes, including Community Grants, significant documentation for audit, new accounting systems etc. The preparation of next year's budget has been particularly challenging, due to additional unfunded responsibilities from DCC and TDC being undertaken by BPC, resulting in a 17.1% increase. This is an increase of £9.17 per year for a Band D property.
- Numerous Planning matters considered as a consultee, necessitating a good understanding of Planning Regulations, although the BPC has been disappointed at the lack of impact, on some of the planning decisions by TDC.
- Teign Estuary Trail - I must thank Estelle Skinner of TDC, Hannah Clark and officers of DCC and Judith Sharples of the Campaign Group for their contribution to the joint meetings of BPC Members and members of the TET Campaign Group. The Business Case is now being undertaken and due for completion late summer. This will be key in achieving the required funding and land acquisition.
- Lawns - Scout Building - ongoing communication with Scouts following TDC planning application approval in June 2023
- TDC is currently considering ways of improving working with Town and Parish Councils, including a Conference arranged by DALC on 12 March.
- Police & Community Together Monthly Surgeries (PACT) for community participation. Thanks to Clarke Orchard, Saul Bunce and Ben Chadwick, also to Cllr. Reg Gill for organising the events.

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- Highway Issues - Always a significant matter - Regular communication with Devon County Council, Highways, to report issues - road defects with meetings with Highway officers, including County and District Councillors.
- Children Play Parks - Lawns and Cockhaven Close - Equipment inspected regularly and repairs undertaken as necessary.
- Funding Bids to various bodies and organisations for village projects.
- Greater Publicity of the Parish Council fund for Community Projects
- Teign Estuary & Coastal Partnership Forum - Annual Meeting

Parish Council Policies and Procedures - During this period numerous developments have been undertaken to operating procedures, significant use of social media, financial system and a new Cemetery Management System. The use of tablets for all Councillor communication meeting agendas, reports, minutes etc. is continuing to result in more efficient and effective working.

None of the above could be achieved without the dedication, commitment, help and support of the Vice-Chairman, all members of the Parish Council, current and past, and significantly the Clerk to the Council. I therefore wish to acknowledge, and convey my considerable appreciation and thanks, on your behalf.

The Clerk's Report produced for every Parish Council meeting, and published on the BPC website is an excellent way of keeping up to date on current matters the PC is undertaking.

Conclusion

Increasingly, significant matters can occur requiring input from the Parish Council, the parish is increasingly indebted to the work of the Clerk, therefore I wish to thank the Clerk to the Council on behalf of all Councillors and on behalf of the community.

I would also like to thank Lead persons involved in Bishopsteignton Heritage - John Parkes as Chair, and the Community Centre Management Committee for providing suitable accommodation for storage and as a location for our meetings and Dominic Geldard as Chair.

I also wish to thank Jim Lockhart Chair for the 2023 Village Festival, and of course former Chair John Patton, who with many people involved have made a significant contribution to the community in recent years.

I trust you will find this report interesting and helpful in providing information on the range of matters dealt with, and how the Parish Council operates to provide the best possible service to parishioners, within the democratic framework applicable to Local Councils.

Cllr. Henry Merritt
Chairman, Bishopsteignton Parish Council

APM24.03 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR MACGREGOR - ANNUAL REPORT

Cllr. MacGregor gave a summary of his activities at Teignbridge District Council over the previous year. The Chairman thanked Andrew for all his support to the parish over the last year.

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APM24.04 COUNTY COUNCILLOR PEART – In attendance, no report given.

APM24.05 COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

1. **Ladies Probus Club** provided the following report:
We are a group for like-minded retired and semi-retired ladies.
Meetings are held on the 4th Thursday of the month start time 10.00 am for 10.30 at the Vineyards, Bishopsteignton. Visitors are very welcome to join us at a meeting for a £5 fee.
Our speaker for March 28th will be Denise Bolt who will be giving some floristry tips and demonstrations.
Our group has a private (members only) Facebook page (see Bishopsteignton Ladies Probus Club) or contact us @ bishopsteigntonladiesprobus@gmail.com
2. **Bishopsteignton WI** provided a report, see appendix A.
3. **B.A.G.S (Bishopsteignton Allotment Growers Society)** shared a flyer, see appendix B.
4. **Bishopsteignton Heritage** provided a report, see appendix C
5. **Bishopsteignton Makes** provided a report, see appendix D
6. **Sustainable Bishop** provided a report, see appendix E
7. **Bishopsteignton Scouts** provided a report, see appendix F

The chair thanked everyone for attending.

THE BPC CHAIRMAN CLOSED THE MEETING AT 8.09PM