

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Bishopstoke Parish Council
held at Bishopstoke Methodist Church
commencing at 7.30pm on 10 January 2023**

Present: Councillor Louise Hillier-Wheal (Vice Chair)
Councillor Ralph Candy
Councillor Andrew Daly
Councillor Dave Francis
Councillor Geoff Harris
Councillor Mark Kirby
Councillor Martin Lyon
Councillor Chris McKeone
Councillor Dermot McKeone
Councillor Mike Thornton
Councillor Gin Tidridge
Councillor Anne Winstanley

In Attendance: Mr David Wheal (Clerk to Bishopstoke Parish Council)
Mrs Sophie Thorogood (RFO to Bishopstoke Parish Council)
Mr Martin Graham (representing As One)
Mrs Sue Toher (Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group)

Public Session 0 members of the public were present.

Cllr Hillier-Wheal, chairing the meeting in the absence of Cllr R Dean, welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited the Clerk to address those present.

The Clerk informed the Council of the sad passing of a former Bishopstoke Parish and Eastleigh Borough Councillor, Angela Roling. Angie had dedicated many years of service to both the village and the borough before retiring from Council life due to her health. The Clerk offered the condolences of the Council to her family.

The Chair then invited Martin Graham of As One to make a presentation to the Council.

Martin introduced himself and the As One organisation, which is dedicated to fostering a spirit of community throughout the country by enabling local Street Associations to form. The process involves organising an event for interested people from local streets to attend and find more information about how to set up an Association and what they can do. Further support and information can then be provided later on. Street Associations are for residents of a single street and would usually cover 50-100 dwellings, so larger streets might have more than one association.

There is an event planned in the next month or so at St Mary's Church and Martin hoped that Bishopstoke Parish Council would be able to promote and support that event, and any others that are planned going forward.

The Chair thanked Martin for his time, and for his presentation.

Finally, the Chair welcomed new Councillor Mark Kirby, attending his first Full Council meeting since his election to represent the Itchen Ward.

Martin Graham left at this point.

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58 Apologies for Absence

58.1 Apologies had been received from Cllrs Anne Dean, Ray Dean and Andy Moore. The apologies were noted.

59 To adopt and sign Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 8 November 2022

59.1 The minutes of the above meeting had been included in the document pack for this meeting.

59.2 Proposed Cllr Candy, Seconded Cllr Francis, **RESOLVED** unanimously that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 8 November 2022 be adopted as a true record.

60 Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensations

60.1 Cllr Tidridge declared an interest in item 14 on the agenda, the discussion of the Greening campaign.

61 Reports from Committees, Working Groups, Officers and Councillors

61.1 The resolutions from Council Committees were noted.

61.2 Proposed Cllr Winstanley, Seconded Cllr Harris, **RESOLVED** unanimously that the Council vire a maximum of £5,000 from reserves to the Underwood Road plot clearance budget.

61.3 The Clerk's report was noted. Cllr Tidridge requested that the Parish Council website be updated with the dates of the next Carnival.

Action: Clerk

61.4 Cllr Tidridge informed the Council that the next Bishopstoke, Fair Oak & Horton Heath Local Area Committee meeting will take place on Feb 1st.

61.5 Cllr Harris gave a brief update on information provided from the Airport Consultative Committee. There will be a consultation regarding the air space across the whole of the South of England. The Clerk was asked to forward Cllr Harris' email to all Cllrs.

Action: Clerk

61.6 Cllr Lyon asked whether the Parish Council is able to help with problems regarding kerbside drainage and also mud from verges making paths and pavements dangerous and impassable. The Clerk responded that whilst there are various bodies that are responsible for those things, there is nothing stopping Parish Councils from doing some clearance work, however there is not currently a budget for such work. The creation of a "Local Issues" budget going forward would be one way of allowing this to happen. The Clerk was asked to forward details of these issues to the local Hampshire County Councillors.

Action: Clerk

Initial: _____ Date: _____

The Chair was asked whether item 9 on the agenda, the Neighbourhood Plan, could be brought forward. This was not opposed.

62 To approve sending the current draft of the Neighbourhood Plan to Eastleigh Borough Council for checking and comment

62.1 The draft Screening Document had been included in the supporting papers for the meeting.

62.2 Sue Toher, Chair of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, informed the Council of the progress that had been made over the course of recent years on the Neighbourhood Plan, which had now reached the point where it is ready to be sent to the Borough Council for them to assess whether it aligns with their current strategic documents and priorities. By law this step has to be taken by the Parish Council of the area (where it exists), but Sue assured the Council that there were further amendments and other minor changes that need to take place before the final version is ready for approval.

62.3 Proposed Cllr Tidridge, Seconded Cllr Thornton, **RESOLVED** unanimously that the Parish Council transmit the Neighbourhood Plan Screening Document to the Borough Council. Sue was asked to provide the Clerk with details of who to send it to at the Borough Council.

Action: Clerk

63 To consider the funding of youth provision in Bishopstoke

63.1 A summary of the current position had been included in the supporting papers for this meeting.

63.2 Councillors requested updated information on numbers of young people being helped by Youth Options in Bishopstoke as well as the current financial position of the YZone prior to being presented with a prospective new contract for youth services in the area.

Action: Clerk

63.3 Proposed Cllr Tidridge, Seconded Cllr D McKeone, **RESOLVED** unanimously to rename the YZone budget heading as Youth Provision.

64 To consider and approve the expenditure budget for 2023-24

64.1 An updated version of the budget proposals had been circulated following a lengthy online meeting the previous week. The changes suggested by that meeting were included in the financial report, as was the projection that the precept rise could be brought down from the original 30-35% to 25%.

64.2 A number of potential further amendments to the budget were discussed in an attempt to bring down the proposed precept rise even further. These amendments were reducing predicted overtime by £2,500 bringing staff costs to £137,107; reducing the newsletter budget by £500 to £4,500; reducing the Council grant pot by £500 to £5,500; and reducing the available money for plot clearances at Underwood Road allotments by £500 to £4,500. A further amendment proposing reducing the amount set aside for the Glebe Meadow project from £25,000 to £10,000 was also discussed.

64.3 The Clerk noted that any cut in the proposed budget included in the document pack would likely lead to a reduction in services provided by the Parish Council, and would also result in having to impose a higher than planned rise in the following year. The Clerk strongly recommended the Council approve the unamended budget.

64.4 Proposed Cllr Tidridge, Seconded Cllr Kirby, **RESOLVED** with 6 in favour, 5 against and 3 abstaining to include the amendments listed in Minute 64.2 in the final budget.

Initial: _____ Date: _____

64.5 Proposed Cllr Tidridge, Seconded Cllr Francis, **RESOLVED** to approve the amended expenditure budget.

65 To consider and approve funding the budget for 2023-24, including the precept request

65.1 Details on funding had been included with the supporting papers for this meeting.

65.2 Following the amending of the budget Cllrs considered the precept request. It was felt that the increase in precept request could be further limited with options of 20% and 15% being discussed.

65.3 A proposal that the precept increase be set at 15%, Proposed by Cllr Francis and Seconded by Cllr Tidridge was **REJECTED** with 4 in favour, 5 against and 3 abstaining.

65.4 Proposed Cllr Winstanley, Seconded Cllr Lyon, **RESOLVED** with 4 in favour, 1 against and 7 abstaining that the precept rise be set at 20%.

65.5 Proposed Cllr Winstanley, Seconded Cllr Lyon, **RESOLVED** with 5 in favour, 2 against and 5 abstaining that the Council funding for 2023-24 be via a 20% increase in the Bishopstoke Council Tax precept (bringing the cost for a Band D house to be £94.06 for the year and raising £332,919.73), £3,500 from Bishopstoke Carnival, £20,300 from the Burial Grounds, £5,600 from allotment rents and £1,000 from interest.

At this point the Chair asked the Clerk to identify which remaining items were either essential or swift and which could be deferred to the following meeting.

66 To approve the bank mandate

66.1 The details of which Councillors and Officers would be on the bank mandate had been included with the supporting papers for the meeting.

66.2 Proposed Cllr Lyon, Seconded Cllr Winstanley, **RESOLVED** unanimously that the bank mandate be as recommended in the supporting papers.

67 To agree joining the local As One partnership

67.1 Following the presentation by Martin Graham earlier in the evening, Cllrs considered whether to join the As One partnership, to support their work in the local area, or to not be involved.

67.2 Proposed Cllr Tidridge, Seconded Cllr Kirby, **RESOLVED** unanimously to support the work of As One in the local area.

68 To consider joining the Greening Campaign

68.1 Cllrs felt that they needed more information before making a decision on the Greening Campaign. The Clerk noted that the Council could ask the Campaign to host an online session for Cllrs to attend.

68.2 Proposed Hillier-Wheal, Seconded Cllr Tidridge, **RESOLVED** unanimously to invite the Greening Campaign to host an online session for Cllrs to attend.

Initial: _____ Date: _____

69 To consider content for the next press release

69.1 The Council agreed that the next press release would include news on the budget and precept request for 2023-24; the As One events in the near future and the Neighbourhood Plan being sent to Eastleigh Borough Council.

70 To agree the date, time and place for the next meetings

70.1 The next meeting will take place on Tuesday March 14th 2023. It will take place at 7:30pm at the Bishopstoke Methodist Church. The Clerk requested any agenda items and supporting papers be with him by March 7th.

70.2 Cllr Francis gave his apologies for the meeting on March 14th.

The remaining items on the agenda were deferred to the following meeting and the Chair closed the meeting at 9:35pm

Chair's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Clerk's Signature: _____ Date: _____