

**Chairman Cllr. Harvey Neve**

Minutes of a meeting of Bishop Middleham Parish Council held  
Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2023, in Bishop Middleham Village Hall at 7.00pm

**Present:** Cllr. H. Neve (Chair), Cllr J. Brownlee, Cllr. V. Cooke, Cllr. G. Jacobs, Cllr. M. MacCallam, Cllr. P. Maddison Green

Cllr. E. Peeke (Durham County Council)

3 Residents

A. Hall (Parish Clerk)

ITEM NO.	MINUTES	ACTION
1.2/23	<b>Notice of Meeting</b> - it was moved by Cllr. H. Neve to open the meeting at 7.00pm.	
2.2/23	<b>Apologies:</b> Cllr. J. Burrows and Cllr. G. Turner	
3.2/23	<b>Declarations of Interest</b> - Cllr. J. Brownlee declared interest in the Village Hall	
4.2/23	<b>Minutes</b> - The minutes of the meeting on Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> January 2023 were approved. <b>Proposed as an accurate record by Cllr. Brownlee and seconded by Cllr. Maddison Green</b>	
5.2/23	<p><b>Public Participation</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Litter picking - increasing amount of excess rubbish and flytipping at a number of areas in Bishop Middleham. A number of hotspot areas identified. Significant areas to be reported.</li> <li>2) Footpaths - issue raised regarding overgrown footpaths (Quarry Lane, and A177 to Pitt Lane). Cllr. Peeke advised this had been reported previously but DCC were reluctant to clear due to damage to the paths. Cllr. Peeke to raise the issue again. It was also noted that there is a sign missing from A177 junction and High Road - members were informed this had been reported by Cllr. Peeke and Clerk.</li> <li>3) Litter bin in layby near A177 junction has been removed - requesting to have it replaced.</li> <li>4) Issue regarding cars parking on Broadoaks - Cllr. Peeke informed the meeting that she was in the processing of raising this issue.</li> <li>5) Cllr. Neve would like to thank the litter pickers on behalf of the Parish Council for all of the hard work they do to keep our village clean and tidy.</li> <li>6) Resident had submitted a grant application on behalf of the Village Hall for a St Patricks Night to pay for the group. <b>Cllr. Brownlee declared an interest in this item.</b> Decision to be made as part of item 12.2/23.</li> <li>7) Concern had been raised regarding the lack of disabled / accessible parking at the church. There is a piece of land that is leased to the parish council next to the church that could be made safer. Cllr. Neve suggested this item be put on the agenda for the next meeting</li> </ol>	<p><b>EP</b></p> <p><b>AH</b></p>

	<p>and requested that the church gathered costings and spec and submit to the Parish Council for consideration for a grant. This led to a further discussion around disabled access to other areas of the village.</p> <p>8) Concern was raised regarding a number of local business and providers who were struggling financially at the moment and asked if there was anything the Parish Council could help with. Cllr. Neve advised it was not appropriate to discuss individual businesses and their financial affairs. The Parish Council and the Community Facebook page could promote businesses and should contact the Parish Clerk or the Chair for further information.</p> <p>2 of the residents left the meeting at 7.40pm</p>	
6.2/23	<p><b>County Councillor's Report</b></p> <p>1) Update on Pit Lane, DCC had issued clean up order to the tenants and had until 23/3/2023 to comply or further action will be taken.</p> <p>2) Kiln Cres - Cllr. Peeke was funding an additional 3 parking places in this area and was currently seeking quotes for this work.</p> <p>3) Cllr. Peeke had approached Derbyshire / Tarmac regarding additional funding. Initial thoughts were to update / improve the wildlife park area. Cllr. Neve advised that this area was going to be handed to Durham Wildlife Trust. Opportunity to work together may be advisable. Cllr. Neve to contact Durham Wildlife Trust to move forward.</p> <p>4) Issues of grass verges being churned up by parking and other vehicles. Notices had been produced, Cllr. Peeke requested permission to post these notices on cars causing the problems. Permission not required by Parish Council. Cllr. Peeke to monitor</p> <p>5) Rewilding - Cllr. Peeke had agreed to Bishop Middleham being part of a pilot scheme to reduce the use of herbicides in the area to encourage rewilding. Allowing natural growing to take place around the base of trees, hedgerows and verges.</p> <p>6) Cllr. Peeke advised she had some funding she was suggesting was used to employ someone to look at funding bid / writing. Discussion took place that more was needed and Community Development worker would be beneficial. However, the Parish Council were not in a position to move this forward but thanked Cllr. Peeke for her enthusiasm and offer to help with funding.</p>	HN
7.2/23	<p><b>Outdoor Activities</b></p> <p>1) The Park regeneration was progressing - nearly finished. Bench that had been moved is to be refurbished. The Parish Council was to receive a refund due to HAGS using the pavilion as welfare, this is being used to refurbish the bench. End of process and inspections to be carried out.</p> <p>2) Phase 2 of the park had not started, as we are waiting for funding confirmation from DCC. To give time to gather further information and have more time to discuss, this item is to be moved to the March meeting. <b>AGREED: Clerk to contact HAGS to confirm current price and how long that price can be held.</b></p> <p>3) Christmas Lights - Clerk had reported that prices had been distributed. It would be £1215 for commando boxes in Mainsforth on 5 of the new columns, £750 for wraps for these columns. There is an offer for 2-4-1 through Blachere's on motifs - cost no more than £600. This would leave £834 to repair timers in bishop Middleham and remedial work on the Christmas Tree. <b>AGREED: to proceed</b></p>	AH  AH

	<b>with ordering new Christmas lights. Proposed Cllr. Cook, Seconded Cllr. Brownlee</b>	
8.2/23	<p><b>Football</b> User Agreement: Following a visit by the Clerk and Cllr. Cooke to the pavilion, it was felt that some work needed to be carried out to cover health and safety aspects. The Clerk had started to pull together a user agreement for the use of the grass pitch and the pavilion, therefore ensuring that the 2 football teams and the Parish Council were clear on their responsibilities. The Clerk had requested the Members to approve this piece of work and to take it further. <b>AGREED: To move this piece of work forward</b></p> <p>A number of issues were raised regarding pitch marking and costs involved and levels of cleaning to be provided by the football teams. It was felt that a meeting be arranged to discuss these issues. Clerk to progress.</p> <p>Complaint: The Clerk had been approached to discuss the problem with parking on match days at the entrance to the park. Vehicles were parking on the grass in front of the bungalows, turning round on this grassed area, blocking residents from accessing and parking. <b>AGREED: to discuss this situation with the PCSO Melissa Edgar</b></p>	<p><b>AH</b></p> <p><b>AH</b></p>
9.2/23	<p><b>HR</b> - Draft advert, job desc and person spec circulated to members. Some members had not had chance to look at the information. Cllr. Neve requested members to review the information and to pass any comments to him by Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February to move forward. It was noted that the interim Parish Clerk would not be involved in this process.</p>	<b>ALL</b>
10.2/23	<p><b>Events</b> a) Coronation - meeting to be pulled together with local interested parties to discuss what we can do. <b>AGREED Cllr. MacCallam to arrange meeting.</b></p> <p>Information received from official channels was the Coronation takes place on 7<sup>th</sup> May, The big Lunch on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> May and the Monday Bank Holiday for the Big Help Out. Members felt this could be an opportunity to carry out community consultations and also launch the community makers programme.</p> <p>b) Arrangements for the events for 2023 to be moved to the March 2023 meeting, in particular, Michaelmas Fayre.</p>	<p><b>MM</b></p> <p><b>AH</b></p>
11.2/23	<p><b>Communications</b> - Only 1 councillor had yet to be connected to the email system and 1 councillor had been having a few problems but these were getting resolved.</p>	
12.2/23	<p><b>Finance</b> a) Monthly transactions to 31<sup>st</sup> January were give to Members b) Grant Application from Bishop Middleham Village Hall for St Patricks Event was approved to the value of £200 <b>Proposed Cllr. Neve, Seconded Cllr. Jacobs</b></p>	
13.2/23	<p><b>Policies</b> Communications Policy, Dignity at Work Policy, Equality and Diversity Policy and Officer - Member Protocol to be moved to the March 2023 meeting <b>AGREED: to carry forward to next meeting</b></p>	<b>AH</b>

