

Chairman Cllr. Harvey Neve

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Bishop Middleham Parish Council held Wednesday 8th November 2023, in Bishop Middleham Village Hall at 7.00pm

Present: Cllr. G. Turner, (Chair), Cllr. V. Cooke, Cllr. J. Brownlee, Cllr. G. Jacobs, Cllr. Cllr. M. MacCallam, Cllr, P. Maddison Green
Cllr. E. Peeke
A. Hall (Parish Clerk)

ITEM NO.	MINUTES	ACTION
1.11/23	Notice of Meeting - it was moved by Cllr. G. Turner to open the meeting at 7pm	
2.11/23	Apologies: Cllr. H. Neve (Meeting), Cllr. J. Burrows (Work), Cllr. P. Musgrove	
3.11/23	Declarations of Interest - None	
4.11/23	Minutes - The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 11 th October 2023 were accepted. Resolved: to accept and approve the minutes.	
5.11/23	Public Participation No members of the public were in attendance.	
6.11/23	County Councillor's Report 1. DCC Consultations ongoing at present were around Homeless and Rough Sleeping 2. DCC Funding Review was ongoing.	
7.11/23	Outdoor Activities a) Phase 2 The Park - The Park is complete however, following meeting with Paul Taylor, there are some aspects that need to be resolved. The ground needs to be rolled, the table that was not needed had been unbolted but left in place. It was agreed that the contractor would replace the damaged table top and look at disposal of the other table. It was greed the Heras fencing would stay in place for another week at least to let grass matting settle. The independent inspection report had not been received and the Clerk felt it was important to see this report before signing off. Meeting arranged for 21 November. Trees in the corner to be looked at. b) Football Agreement - discussion took place around the content of the agreement. The Junior team had raised a couple of issues regarding Legionella testing and cleaning of the building by the Senior team. This was to be addressed as well as providing some lockable storage for cleaning materials. Resolved: to approve the agreement with additional cleaning requirements for the Senior team. c) Events i) Fireworks Display had been a huge success. Comments received had said it was the best display the village had ever had. It was noted that there had been a potential accident.	 AH AH

	<p>Fortunately, no-one was hurt but the risk assessment should highlight this for future events. For future events, a steward should stay with the pile of equipment that is being moved to so that others can't trip over. Events to be discussed in detail in January 2024 for the rest of the year.</p> <p>ii) Xmas - Sweets for the school. Selection boxes had been purchased. Waiting to hear from the school for special diet requirements.</p> <p>iii) Xmas Lights Switch on - Ferryhill Band had been confirmed. It was agreed that Haribos would be purchased to give out at the event. Still no word from the school about the school choir. Confirmed that Joanna in the Post Office to be asked to switch the lights on. Cllr. Jacobs would provide the mulled wine and mince piece again.</p> <p>iv) Christmas Lights - we are still waiting for official notification from DCC for the lights to be put up this year. Columns had been stress tested we are just waiting for DCC to approve. Only 6 lights to be put up in Bishop Middleham this year. More lights are required for Bishop Middleham in 2024 and we could use some of the Thompsons funding for this purpose. It was noted that lights in trees were not allowed. Cllr. Peeke had agreed to support the Christmas Lights for 2024 by allocating £1,500 from her available funding.</p> <p>d) Trees - The Clerk is meeting with John Alderson, DCC Tree Officer to get advice and support on what can be done with the issues of the trees on Bank Top. An issue was raised regarding 'gulley' sucking in the park. Suggestions were made to contact Thompsons to see if they had machinery available to carry this out.</p>	<p>AH</p> <p>AH</p> <p>AH</p>
8.11/23	<p>Health and Safety - Risk Assessment for events to be updated to include stewards to monitor when tidying up and putting equipment away. A steward should stay with the equipment at all times. It was also agreed that a review of all health and safety, including accident books.</p>	<p>AH</p>
9.11/23	<p>Finance</p> <p>a) Payments and receipts for October 2023 had been circulated to all Members prior to the meeting - no issues were raised. Resolved: Approved payments</p> <p>b) Budget - Tax Base letter had been received and overall the Parish Council would be down from last year. DCC issue a ready reckoner spreadsheet to make it easier to work out the options. The Clerk is to produce a report for Council with different options. Discussion took place regarding the proposed budget for 2024/25. Some queries were raised around costs for the website. Members felt this was quite expensive and other options should be explored and discussed at a later meeting. This led to a discussion regarding social media and promoting the parish council. Resolved: IT services to be put on the agenda for January.</p> <p>c) Review of Garage Rent - Members discussed at length the options available for the garage rent. It was felt that this should be increased, however, a decision regarding the cost could not be reached and it was agreed for members to consider the options and make a decision at the December meeting.</p> <p>d) Review of Football Fees - Members discussed at length the current situation regarding the football fees, what the current fees are and the extras that the pitch marking fees. It was felt that changes should be made, however, a decision regarding the costs could not be</p>	

	agreed. Members agreed to consider the options and make a decision at the December meeting.	
10.11/23	Planning Update from the previous meeting regarding a planning application. Following discussions with local residents it was felt the planning application was appropriate and no further intervention was required.	
11.11/23	Changing the name of the Parish Council - Consultation is still required with residents on the changing of the name. Work required with the Clerk and the Chair of the Council to move forward.	AH / HN
12.11/23	Correspondence Members felt the ZeroHour campaign was a worthwhile cause but we had missed the deadline for submissions but to keep awareness of the item for future updates.	AH
13.11/23	Policies - the following policies were considered by the Parish Council and approved. a) Public Participations at Meetings b) Scheme of Delegation	ALL
14.11/23	Member Sharing <u>Cllr G Turner</u> Relief in Need Sedgefield Charities - unfortunately Cllr. Turner was unable to attend but has requested a copy of the minutes. <u>Cllr. M. MacCallam</u> - the church were looking to put a newsletter out with all of the Christmas events taking place. It was agreed to put the Carols around the Christmas Tree into this newsletter. <u>Cllr. Jacobs</u> - concern raised regarding a damaged fence at the junction of High Road and the A171 junction. This is to be raised by the Clerk. Requested any update on the park behind the village hall - quotes should be sought in the new year to remove the play equipment and make into a recreation area with seating. Overgrown tree in the wildlife garden that could cause a potential problem. Cllr. Jacobs requested permission to tackle overgrown branches and make it safe. Members felt this was appropriate for health and safety. <u>Cllr. Maddison Green</u> - gave an update on the Boost project and opportunities for small not for profit / social enterprise businesses to apply for funding. No applications had been received from the parish and it was felt important to promote this project. A further round of funding would be available in Spring 2024. Cllr. Maddison Green announced her intention to resign from the Parish Council and this would be her last official meeting. Cllr. Maddison Green was moving out of the area to pursue work commitments and opportunities. The Council wished Cllr. Maddison Green well in her future endeavours and thanked her for her input during her time as a Councillor. <u>Parish Clerk</u> Local police officer has been invited to attend meetings - requested to provide a report if unable to attend. Fly tipping on what was thought to be Thompsons land - this was Tarmac land and Tarmac have said most of the fly tipping is on a public right of way and DCC had been contacted. Parish Clerk had informed the meeting that the pay award he been agreed for 2023/2024.	
15.11/23	Next Meeting: Wednesday 13 th December 2023 at 7pm	

The meeting closed 9pm

Signed: - Chair.

Date: 13th December 2023