

Chairman Cllr. Harvey Neve

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Bishop Middleham Parish Council held
Wednesday 13th December 2023, in Bishop Middleham Village Hall at 7.00pm

Present: Cllr. H. Neve (Chair), Cllr. V. Cooke, Cllr. J. Brownlee, Cllr. P. Musgrove, Cllr. G. Turner

Cllr. E. Peeke (County Councillor)

Cllr. P. Maddison-Green (Resigned - Final Meeting)

A. Hall (Parish Clerk)

ITEM NO.	MINUTES	ACTION
1.12/23	Notice of Meeting - it was moved by Cllr. H. Neve to open the meeting at 7pm	
2.12/23	Apologies: Cllr. J. Burrows (Work), Cllr G. Jacobs (other commitment), Cllr. M. MacCallam (Work)	
3.12/23	Declarations of Interest - Relating to Item 9.12/23 b) - Cllr. J. Brownlee is Chair of the Village Hall Committee and declared an interest regarding the discussion.	
4.12/23	Minutes - The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 8 th November 2023 were accepted. However, an amendment was requested in 12.11/23 to show the name of the cause that was being discussed. Resolved: to accept and approve the minutes. To be signed in January's meeting when the amendment has been made. Proposed Cllr. Turner, seconded Cllr. Cooke.	
5.12/23	Public Participation No members of the public were in attendance.	
6.12/23	County Councillor's Report 1. Cllr. Peeke informed members that the final recommendations had been published regarding the boundary changes. 2. Cllr. Peeke had been promoting the DoltOnline facility on the Durham County Council website and urged members pass the word on the benefits. Cllr. Neve thanked Cllr. Peeke for her continued and valuable work within the community and the support offered to the Parish Council and residents.	
7.12/23	Outdoor Activities a) Phase 2 The Park - The park was now complete and had been handed over to the Parish Council. Confirmation had been received earlier in the day from Tarmac confirming the final funding would be paid by the end of the week. This would allow the final invoice from Tarmac to be paid. A press release had been prepared by the Clerk and sent to Members. This would be sent to Tarmac for confirmation before publication on our website. b) Trees -The Clerk had met with John Alderson, Tree Officer for Durham County Council regarding the trees along Bank Top and on the bank side. Mr Alderson felt the trees were all in a healthy	AH

	condition and could see no signs of damage or decay. He advised against cutting the trees back as this only allowed the trees to grow back thicker. Members felt more information was required on the legal requirements for the Council regarding trees. Resolved: Clerk to find out if we have any TPOs in Bishop Middleham or Mainsforth and also what the legal duties are for maintaining trees.	AH
8.12/23	Health and Safety - Nothing to report.	AH
9.12/23	<p>Finance</p> <p>a) Payments and receipts for November 2023 had been circulated to all Members prior to the meeting - no issues were raised. Resolved: Approved payments</p> <p>b) Office Space (Clerk) - members were informed that proposals had been discussed with the Village Hall for the Clerk to work from the office 2 hrs per day. A figure of £5 per hour had been put forward. Taking into account the Clerk's holidays this would equate to 46 weeks at £50 per week. Making a total of £2,300. Members felt it was a positive step to have the Clerk as a presence in the village and available for residents if required. Resolved: Clerk to trial working from the Village Hall from January 2024 for 6 months.</p> <p>c) Review of Garage Rent - Members reviewed the discussion at the November meeting. Resolved: to increase the garage rent from 1st April 2024 to £25 per month for all garages. Tenants to be informed that this will be reviewed on an annual basis.</p> <p>d) Review of Football Fees Members reviewed the discussions at the November meeting. It was felt that fees charged to both teams should be fair and the costs of pitch marking be shared between the teams. Resolved: to find out the costs charged in the contract for the main pitch marking. To apply a CPI percentage increase to the site fees from April 2024. Clerk to find costs and bring to January meeting for approval.</p> <p>e) Leases for Village Green - The Clerk had had first discussions with Savills. Their proposal is to restart the lease under the current conditions with a provision stating any large costs for the trees could be looked at by Savills. The rep from Savills was going to take this to their board and she would come back to the Clerk. It was felt that Savills would not take on a maintenance agreement stance. Members felt another option was to relinquish the lease. Resolved: The Clerk to approach the Church Commission to try to resolve the lease situation and agenda for January 2024 meeting.</p> <p>f) Budget (Proposed 24/25 budget - Precept Proposals) - Members discussed the proposals put forward by the Clerk. Proposed: Initial proposal was to increase the precept by 4.99% in line with Council Tax.</p>	<p>AH/JB</p> <p>AH</p> <p>AH</p> <p>AH</p> <p>AH</p> <p>AH</p>
10.12/23	Planning - Nothing to report	
11.12/23	<p>Councillor Vacancy</p> <p>Cllr Neve started by thanking Cllr Maddison Green for her contribution to the village and the Parish Council and the support she has given. Cllr Maddison Green thanks the Parish Council for the opportunity and updated the Members on the Boost Programme (run through BIC - Business Innovative Centre, Sunderland). She advised that grants of £2,500 were still available for social enterprise businesses to apply to.</p> <p>Vacancy - the vacancy had been sent to the Monitoring Officer and it has been advertised, closing 14th December 2023. Co-option to be advertised in January 2024.</p>	AH / HN
12.12/23	Correspondence - Nothing to report.	AH
13.12/23	Member Sharing	

	<p><u>Cllr V Cooke</u> -</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. raised the issue of speeding again. Cllr Peeke stated she was waiting for the report back from the speed strips that had been installed in Mainsforth and Bishop Middleham. 2. Reported an issue with his Cllr emails - unable to use his normal emails and this was causing a problem. Cllr Neve to help resolve the issue, it was felt his system was not set up correctly. <p><u>Cllr J Brownlee</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Garden rubbish in the park is still there. Clerk to report this as fly tipping. <p><u>Cllr G Turner</u> - on behalf on Cllr Jacobs - reported that a couple of the lampposts Christmas decorations were not working. A thanks for the damage fence at the A177 junction had now been removed. Request for £86.69 for the mince pies and mulled wine.</p> <p><u>Cllr H Neve</u> - issues had been raised with regard to filling grit bins and gritting of roads. Cllr Neve wished to thank Cllr Jacobs and his wife for providing the refreshments for the Christmas event.</p>	
15.12/23	<p>Next Meeting: Wednesday 10th January 2024 at 7pm</p>	

The meeting closed 9pm

Signed: - Chair.

Date: 10th January 2024