

Chairman Cllr. Harvey Neve

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Bishop Middleham Parish Council held
Wednesday 10th January 2024, 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. Musgrove, Cllr. G. Turner

Cllr. E. Peeke (County Councillor)

A. Hall (Parish Clerk)

ITEM NO.	MINUTES	ACTION
1.01/24	Notice of Meeting - it was moved by Cllr. H. Neve to open the meeting at 7pm	
2.01/24	Apologies: Cllr. J. Burrows (Work)	
3.01/24	Declarations of Interest - Relating to Item 9.001/24 b) - Cllr. J. Brownlee is Chair of the Village Hall Committee and declared an interest regarding the discussion.	
4.01/24	Minutes - The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 13 th December were accepted and approved. Resolved: Proposed Cllr. Neve, seconded Cllr. Turner	
5.01/24	Public Participation One member of the public was in attendance to give further information regarding a Community Grant application he had submitted.	
6.01/24	County Councillor's Report 1. Information had been received that there were some funds left in the transport budget and Cllr Peeke was trying to access this funding to make improvements in the area. 2. Although the sign at the junction with A177 has been replaced, Cllr Peeke has reported it again due to it not looking secure. 3. Cllr Peeke is still waiting to hear regarding the speed strip work that had been carried out. 4. Although the parking at Kiln Crescent had been approved at planning, it was expected that this would not start until Spring. Cllr. Neve thanked Cllr. Peeke for her continued and valuable work within the community and the support offered to the Parish Council and residents.	
7.01/24	Outdoor Activities a) Review of 2023 events: i) Highlight area Risk Assessment for clearing fencing away, making sure it is put away straight away or someone stays with the posts. ii) Discussions to be had with new owners of the post office / shop. iii) Find ways to gather feedback from events iv) Need to be fully covered with Health and Safety information. Ensure Accident Book is accessible	AH

	<p>v) Bad weather contingency plan – put on tickets how they get this information. Check with Rainbow Fireworks if we can move the date if required.</p> <p>vi) Review of opening times – to allow the rides to be opened. It was agreed for 2024 to start the event at 5pm until 8pm.</p> <p>vii) Suggestions for Michaelmas Fair – stalls, fire engine, police van, military enactments, birds of prey</p> <p>b) Dates for events in 2024 as follows:</p> <p>i) D-Day 80 Event - 6th June 2024</p> <p>ii) Michaelmas Fair - 28th September 2024</p> <p>iii) Fireworks Display 1st November 2024</p> <p>iv) Christmas Tree - 1st December 2024</p> <p>The above dates were approved by Members.</p>	AH
8.01/24	Health and Safety - Nothing to report.	
9.01/24	<p>Finance</p> <p>a) Payments and receipts for December 2023 had been circulated to all Members prior to the meeting – no issues raised. Resolved: approve all transactions.</p> <p>b) Village Green Lease – Members were informed that no further communication had been received from Savills. It was felt important to try to contact the Church Commission direct to try to move forward. Resolved: Clerk to contact Church Commission.</p> <p>c) Budget / Precept 2024 – Members discussed the proposed budget at the December meeting and had considered all of the options. It was felt that an increase of 4.99% (in line with DCC) would be appropriate to allow the same level of service to be maintained for the events and work of the Parish Council. Resolved: To approve the proposed Budget and Precept Request of 4.99%. Proposed Cllr Neve, seconded Cllr Turner.</p> <p>d) Community Grant application from The Rotary Newton Aycliffe and the Village Hall for a Race Night for a fundraising activity with the proceeds being split equally between The Rotary and the Village Hall. Members felt this was an appropriate cause as it allowed people to access the facilities of the Village Hall and raises much needed funding. Resolved: To approve the Grant Application of £395.</p> <p>e) Football Fees – Following an update on pricing by the Clerk. Resolved: Members agreed to increase the annual fee by 4.2% (inflation rate). The costs for pitch marking were £800 over a year and this fee be halved and charged to each team.</p>	<p>AH</p> <p>AH</p> <p>AH</p>
10.01/24	<p>IT Services</p> <p>a) Review Website Service and costs. We don't have a signed contract with the current provider but we paid up to 31st March 2024. The Clerk reported there have been some issues around the Clerk's email address and the Clerk is unable to update / unload content, this is done through the current service provider. Members were reminded that our current website is a community website and covers other community groups, eg the Village Hall, Bishop Middleham and the Parish Council. Which the Parish Council pay for. Resolved: Clerk to look at options and costs from other companies.</p> <p>b) Review of communication and social media. Members were informed of problems in the past. However, Members could see the benefits of having social media. Resolved: Clerk to research more and bring back to the Council.</p>	<p>AH</p> <p>AH</p>
11.01/24	Planning - Nothing to report	

12.01/24	Councillor Vacancy Notice of vacancy to go on the website and in the noticeboards this week. Members agreed for a closing date of 9 th February with interviews, if required, would be held w/c 18 th February 2024.	AH
12.01/24	Correspondence - CDALC president nominations. Members were asked to have a think and maybe research the nominees to make a decision who we would like to vote for. Discussions took place regarding each candidate and a vote took place but a decision could not be reached. Some Members abstained from voting as they did not know the candidates. Resolved: Members to look at each of the candidates and pass any comments or nominations suggestions to Anne before the closing date of 31 st January 2024.	ALL
13.01/24	Member Sharing <u>Cllr MacCallam</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - issues with the path to Hardwick Park. Very muddy and slippery. HN to discuss with Brightwater. - Damaged style up to Castle Hill at the back of the church. VC to discuss with owner of land. - Fly tipping on Tarmac land to progress and get an update - Minutes of meetings need to be put in the noticeboard at Bishop Middleham. Old posters / items to be removed. - Litter picking - one of the volunteers has left the village. Request to arrange a little picking day. Need to find the hi-viz jackets and pickers. Provisional date arranged for 23rd March. <u>Cllr Jacobs</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Issues with parking and churning up of land next to church. <u>Cllr Brownlee</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Highlight the good work of Natalie, SE Landscaping. Always works hard. <u>Cllr Musgrove</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Beds at crossroads. Clerk to arrange meeting with Scott and Cllr Musgrove. <u>Cllr Cooke</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rocks on the road from quarry. - Gully sucker for the park - Mike Tweddle - Speeding - again raised the need for more volunteers <u>Cllr Neve</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Durham Wildlife Trust meeting with farmers on 17th Jan 	
15.01/24	Next Meeting: Wednesday 14 th February 2024 at 7pm	

The meeting closed 9pm

Signed: - Chair.

Date: 14th February 2024