

**Bishop's Itchington**  
**ANNUAL VILLAGE MEETING**  
**2022**



**Welcome** to the 2022 annual village meeting. This is a chance to look back on the past year, to celebrate our achievements as a community and discuss any current issues.

**Bishop's Itchington Annual Village Meeting  
25 April 2022 at 7.30pm**

**AGENDA**

1. Welcome from the Chairman – Councillor Adam Dugmore
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of the annual village meeting held on 26 April 2021
4. Parish council annual report for the year ended 31 March 2022
5. Parish council financial report for the year ended 31 March 2022
6. Reports from Village Organisations
7. Reports from county and district councillors
8. Questions and answers session
9. Close of meeting



**Minutes of Bishop's Itchington Annual Village Meeting**  
**26 April 2021 at 7.30pm**  
**(Meeting held using the Zoom platform)**

**Present:**

Cllr Dugmore (Chairman)	Cllr Bougoussa	Cllr Christian-Carter	Cllr Gates
Cllr Kettle	Cllr D Mann	Cllr M Mann	Cllr Thomas
Cllr Tressler			

**In attendance:**

Karen Stevens (Parish Clerk)  
Andrew Malipant (Pavilion Project)  
5 Members of the public

The meeting was chaired by Cllr Dugmore who welcomed everyone, particularly residents. He opened the meeting and advised that this meeting is more relaxed and not as regimented as a parish council meeting.

**1. Apologies:**

Cllr Andy Crump (District Councillor) however, he did circulate a written report that was included in the information pack that was shared earlier.

**2. Minutes of the Annual Village Meeting 29 April 2019**

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the Annual Village meeting held on 29 April 2019 as a true and complete record of that meeting. (Proposed Cllr Kettle, seconded Cllr Christian-Carter, six in favour and three abstentions (not present at the last meeting)).

**4. Bishop's Itchington Parish Council Annual Report Year Ended 31 March 2021**

Cllr Dugmore advised that it had been a busy, up, and down time since the last Annual Village meeting from both a personal and parish council perspective. It has been an interesting set of reminiscences including the cancellation of the planned VE day celebrations (maybe a 75 plus 2 might be able to happen after all the restrictions are lifted). From the parish council point of view, what we have been doing over the last couple of years has allowed progress to be made in several areas – there is good news, and it is important to reflect on that. The pandemic made the last year difficult as we did not know how we were going to handle meetings and we still do not know what is coming next once the existing legislation that allows us to meet online expires although we will endeavour to keep things going no matter what. Last March when we saw what was going on, we saw lockdown looming, a couple of ideas in the village prompted a gathering of people outside the community centre with a boot full of leaflets with an unbelievable number of residents turning out to help distribute them – it demonstrated that if you wanted to get The Scene or leaflet to every house in the village we have got enough volunteers to get it done in about 15 minutes, then the army of volunteers (approximately 60) helping residents who were really keen to help was incredible – a big thank you to Cllrs Bougoussa and D Mann for setting it up and for taking the phone on, it was great to have people buddied up with people who could help them.

We have got a new web site, so we are much easier to find and more accessible. The 'contact us' has seen an increase in traffic compared to previous websites. It is more

relevant and up to date as such although we have had some feedback to request councillors faces included so people know who is who which is something we will do. Other unusual actions that we have had to take with the lockdowns and pandemic as you will be aware –

- The Scene is on the website when the printers could not operate (this has worked well and we will carry on putting it on the website as it has opened it up to a lot of people who might have an interest in the village but do not live here),
- We recruited a new clerk – Karen Stevens
- Some new play equipment
- New cemetery railings

Thanks to those around us help the parish council– the various community groups who are keeping the various services in the village and various venues up and running, our District and County Councillors who have been supporting us through a variety of activities and helping us get things straightened up for our residents, regrettably, we lost Bob Stevens last year but are grateful to Andy Crump for stepping in and covering the area as well as he has done, and Chris Kettle for his ‘multiple hats’ – thanks for keeping us going and helping when we have needed that little bit of extra support.

Looking forward,

- there are elections coming up for the County Council,
- as a parish council we do have a vacancy remaining so anybody who is interested or knows anyone who would be interested please direct them to the Clerk or any of the existing councillors for further information

## **5. Parish Council Financial Reports for the years ended 31 March 2020 and 31 March 2021**

Details of the council’s accounts for the last year were included in the printed booklet provided but due to issues with the IT system a couple of figures will need to be updated and re-issued.

Cllr Kettle explained that last year we had a difficult year due to the reasons that Cllr Dugmore outlined. In the midst of it we had a change of Responsible Finance Officer (RFO) when Alison Biddle resigned and Karen Stevens, as clerk, also picked up that role and as you see there is an awful lot that goes through the accounts every year with a total expenditure for 2020/21 of £138,000 of which some will have come out of reserves which we will need to transfer before the published audited accounts are produce. This is all the money we raise through the precept, and it is spent within the village – people are always concerned at how their council tax contributions are spent therefore it is important for people to know that the money we raise as a parish council is solely for the benefit of residents. Running a village of this size is not as simple as it might seem to many because there is an awful lot going on and we have a large amount of open space to maintain (cemetery, verges. Playing field etc) and we have an inordinate large number of trees which need to be checked on a regular basis to make sure they are safe and if they are not, remedial action has to be taken and again, this is not cheap, play equipment also has to be checked annually and replaced as necessary. We do have staff Clerk/RFO, Cemetery Manager and Playground Inspector. We do review expenditure every month and all items of expenditure do have to be approved by full council. We use electronic banking and there is full visibility of everything that is spent, if anyone has any questions relating to the accounts, they should contact Cllr Kettle via email.

## 6. Reports from Village Organisations

In the paperwork, there is a report from each of the parish council working groups:

### **Cemetery and Churchyard:**

The published report outlines what has happened in the cemetery and Cllr Christian Carter is happy to answer any questions. New railings have been installed and we are looking at the situation with the water tank and if it can be repaired or whether a new water tank is required. Thanks to the Young brothers for the voluntary work that they do to keep the cemetery looking good.

### **Planning:**

No additional information to add to the published report and no questions were raised

### **Playground Working Group:**

We found that towards the end of last year that quite a lot of the equipment was in a state of disrepair – it was installed at the same time and is now coming to the end of its lifespan. In October 2020, a working group was established (Cllrs Thomas, Christian-Carter, Gates, and D Mann, and some local residents) who identified the broken/damaged pieces of equipment and decided what to do about each item – replace or repair. Reids Playground Maintenance was engaged to repair/replace the items. The mini hammock was one item that needed replacing so the working group identified two possible replacements, and these were put on Facebook for playground users to vote for their favourite - the poll had a good response and consequently the 'mini-twist net' was purchased and installed. Currently, everything in the playground is fully functional. The working group is reviewing the rest of the equipment and have identified that the much-loved tractor climbing frame is passed its 'sell by' date and therefore needs replacing. It is hoped to identify a couple of possible replacements then another Facebook poll will be run. Cllr Gates has also put together a spreadsheet for a planned maintenance programme so that the pieces of equipment can be reviewed on a regular basis and plan for their repair/replacement rather than undertaking it on an ad hoc basis.

The playground is well used and the majority of users like the playground and its range of equipment.

### **Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP):**

In May 2020, a professional planning agency, Kirkwells was appointed to get the plan together. We had the basis of a plan and a lot of good work had been undertaken by the previous NDP administration, but it all needed to be pulled together. Michael Wellock has pulled the plan together and put it into a document. This has been presented to Stratford District Council (Stratford DC), Regulation 14 public consultation stage was undertaken (six week public consultation during February /March 2021) although due to the Covid19 restrictions we were not allowed any face to face reviews but we ran a village public consultation meeting using the Zoom platform – unfortunately only one resident joined the meeting although we did receive a number of written comments mainly from companies/organisations and one from a villager and these are being collated by Michael Wellock. We have received the review from Stratford DC and Michael has this list and is

working through them, answering the comments, and moving onto the next stage of the plan. The target date to have it completed for the public referendum is September 2021

### **Pavilion Project:**

This has been a positive year with a lot achieved but there is still a great deal of work to be undertaken. Achievements are that:

- we have a new planning application in front of Stratford DC planners (currently decision making at Stratford DC is being delayed due to Covid19 restrictions), it is a well-liked plan
- Looking at the possibility of appointing a fund raiser to obtain additional funding to the Section 106 monies the parish council has,
- Some of the work we are currently undertaking i.e., a robust business plan, which belongs to the village so other groups in the village can adopt it for their own use when they want to apply for funding for various projects
- The working group has aligned itself with BISA and also the parish council finance group so that we can start to work closely together in order to obtain necessary information and work out which financial route to take to build this pavilion
- A new resident in the village (with legal expertise) has joined the working group
- It is hoped that in 12 months' time when we hold the next Annual Village meeting, there will be extremely positive news and we will be striving to get the funding needed to get the project over the line

If anyone has any questions, then do not hesitate to contact Cllr M Mann.

### **County Councillor – Cllr Andy Crump:**

Cllr Crump's written report has been circulated.

- It has been an eventful 9 months since Cllr Bob Stevens passed away and Cllr Crump took over temporary responsibility for the area. Having two wards has been a challenge
- Has produced weekly email reports with various updates. These have also been posted on Facebook
- Been trying to get things done i.e., footpaths, roads covered in mud, different developers' responsibilities, HS2, speeding, issues in nearby Depper's Bridge, safer routes to school
- The one benefit from lockdown had been a drastic reduction in the number of people seriously injured/killed on local roads
- Safer Routes to Schools – an officer will be contacting the primary school regarding help with this
- Supported a bid by Bishop's Itchington Primary School to the Green Shoots and have put them in touch with a gentleman called Bob Sherman from Harbury who an expert on low carbon initiatives is
- New beat manager for Southam called Steve Hope – Andy has made him aware of the issues in the area
- Trying to get the Parish, District and County to work together to ensure that local developers meet their Section 106 obligations and planning conditions

Cllr Dugmore thanked Andy for his stand in role and for covering both areas – we have enjoyed the banter and some of the jokes!

Several organisations had submitted written reports which were included in the booklet and additional verbal reports were received as follows:

**BIFC:**

Due to the pandemic the football has had a very stop/start 12 months. Last season just petered out and they decided who won what on a points basis that did not really mean anything so when this current season started, we looked forward to playing Saturdays and Sundays in the Banbury/Leamington Leagues but unfortunately, we only got as far as November, and we were shut down again. When we got the option to get going again at the end of March 2021 the Banbury League decided for various reasons including the fact that some clubs did not feel comfortable about starting again at that time to start and finish the season. There have only been a few league matches (no cup matches) to find the league champions and promotion/relegation spots. FA said the season could be extended to the end of June, but local parks departments were not keen on this. The Banbury League therefore decided not to continue but the Leamington League is continuing and should be finished with a couple of mid-week games by the end of May. Sunday sides are doing quite well and are unbeaten currently. The Saturday sides have been playing friendlies and the reserves have managed to get themselves into the final of a friendly final but did lose in the final.

Looking forward and hoping that next season will be a normal season.

**BISA:**

A couple of zoom meetings have been held and an AGM was held between lockdowns. They are keeping in touch with the Pavilion Project and are hoping in the near future to get more involved.

Tennis courts are open again and have been very well used

Men's five-a-side football has started again as has the walking netball

Not sure if the ladies' football and tennis group are set to start again.

When they can use indoors again, it is hoped to start badminton asap.

**WI:**

Everything is in the report. They have been zooming and delivering newsletters to keep members together. They have lost 6 members and have gained a new member – things are a lot better than they thought they would be with a lot of support and members continuing to be a part of the WI even those unable to Zoom.

Hopefully, going forward, they will be able to do some outdoors activities like the garden party, swim etc.

**Community Centre:**

The report was submitted late but was circulated in the document's booklet

There has not been a lot happening due to Covid19, but the post office has been running.

Entrust, the charity who run the café twice a week are hoping to come back week commencing 17 May 2021

The scouts have started back on a Thursday evening.

Hoping to have a whole summer schedule of activities for all the young people in the community – have garnered interest and are now trying to get the provision in place.

Youth club has not started backup yet but before the pandemic, up to 60 children were attending on a Friday evening. Realised there is a need for activities for secondary school aged children so hoping to split the group doing a younger group and older group either back-to-back on the same night or alternate weeks.

Lots of maintenance work undertaken whilst the centre has been closed largely due to Colin and Pete.

Looking to raise funding to replace the back doors

Biggest thing coming up is a theatre group who are coming to the village to perform on 18 June – details of how to obtain tickets have just been published. It is the Boys Club Theatre and Steff Hartland Productions. The writer and producer are Frankie Meredith. It is a play about the Petticoat Council – a group of local women from Bishop's Itchington who became the first female majority council in the UK during 1949 holding their meetings at the Memorial Hall. They are also playing at Warwick Arts Centre and Crompton Verney. All Covid restrictions will be followed.

Lots of changes on the committee and always on the lookout for new committee members.

The Centre now has Wi-Fi.

## **7. Reports from County & District Councillors**

**WCC – see above**

### **SDC**

- A difficult, challenging year because not only did they have to carry on their normal activities but also had to provide two additional, very significant tasks – i. the distribution of food parcels across the district and involved drafting council staff away from their normal duties. Assisted by Jaguar Land Rover who did provide a number of vehicles to enable them to get the food parcels out. Whilst every community did a fantastic job, and he must congratulate Dawn and her team but also Cllr Dugmore in setting up the local support network in the village that was described earlier on. Clearly some areas and larger villages/ towns where a lot of people were self-isolating at home who did not have family/support/community links that the district stepped in to help.
  - ii. Distribution of cash from the government to business but given a very short timescale to deliver grant funding to any business rated property in the whole of Stratford District. SDC has no facility for distributing cash, we have the rating system and council tax system to collect cash but no payment systems so the accounts team, whilst continuing to try to collect business rates for council tax had at the same time to try to distribute money to all the business that were entitled to government support.

## **8. Question & Answer Session**

Q: What is happening about the new doctors' surgery?

A: The CCG has still not agreed to the provision of a new surgery in this village.

Nevertheless, the developer is intending to begin work on the foundations of the building imminently to preserve the planning permission which would otherwise expire next month.

**9. Close of meeting**  
The meeting closed at 20:53.

Signed.....Chairman      Date.....



## **Bishop’s Itchington Parish Council Chairman’s Review of 2021 to 2022**

We all had high hopes for last twelve months, having experienced the twelve that went before them. This year was challenging in its own way, with covid being just one of the things for us all to deal with.

The council has been shorthanded for a while and the year began with Cllr Dawn Mann stepping down from the council. Anyone who volunteered for or sought help from the Covid helpline will have spoken to Dawn and, no doubt, recognised the qualities she brought to the council. Thank you for your contributions, Dawn.

The council has been working on several projects over the year. Coming towards its final stages is the Neighbourhood Development Plan. This brings together inputs from many councillors, members of the public and community groups on what, where and how development should occur within the parish. The plan has been through several stages of assessment and consultation and is now due its final inspection ahead of a referendum where the community will decide if it is to be adopted. Thanks must go to Cllrs Thomas and Tressler for keeping things moving along with the planning consultant and Cllr Christian-Carter for sharing her planning expertise.

The playground working group has been active in keeping the play area safe and serviceable and getting the ball rolling with a major refurbishment project. This will see

the replacement of much of the exiting timber equipment, which is coming to the end of its life. Some replacements are already planned, with a new aerial runway schedule to be installed in the next few weeks. Well done and thanks to Cllrs Thomas, Gates and Christian-Carter, and the members of the public supporting them for the progress made so far.

We continue to get invaluable support from our District and County Councillors in the shape of Cllr Kettle. His tenacity, for example, with highways matters and planning enforcement issues has been very helpful to the council and the residents it has been supporting. Thank you, Chris.

We have had several challenging planning matters to deal with this year, including a large-scale solar farm and an ongoing application which has the potential to affect several residents. Cllr Tressler represented the PC at the planning committee on the former, sharing evidence that may well have encouraged the planning committee to their decision which was to refuse the application. Cllr Christian-Carter continues to help with detailed interpretation of the planning policies in force to help the council effectively respond to consultations.

We ended the year with another councillor stepping down. Cllr Michael Mann opted to leave the council in March. I would like to say thank you for his drive and enthusiasm for pushing the pavilion project forwards, taking it from an idea to a detailed plan and for keeping a group of volunteer residents up to date and engaged.

Consistent throughout and keeping us on the straight and narrow has been our clerk. Karen has been incredibly accommodating of our many extra meetings and supported us throughout the year. Thank you, for all you do, out front at meetings, as the face of the council in the office and for all the hard work in the background that may sometimes go unseen but is always appreciated.

So, we go into 2022 with four seats to fill and lots still to do. For the council to effectively represent the village and parish, we need a diverse mix who can speak for the many and varied areas of the village. If you think that could be you, please get in touch.

Adam

**Cllr Adam Dugmore**

**Chairman**



## Environment & Properties Group

The 'Environment and Properties Working Group' is responsible for much that many of us take for granted in the village: from the cemetery and churchyard to the playing field and children's play area (and many points in between) all fall within this working group's remit.

### Cemetery and Churchyard:

Following all the work carried out during 2020 to 2021, The Cemetery & Churchyard Working Group has had a quieter year although work has been undertaken. This work has involved the usual running and maintenance issues together with the installation of fencing by the overflow soil to improve the appearance of that area of the cemetery. The old, leaking water tank has finally been removed and a new tank is on order. We have received numerous comments/compliments as to how good the cemetery looks, and we will be continuing to make improvements throughout the forthcoming year.

Warwick District Council is looking at the issue of flooding/water concentration at the pedestrian entrance so hopefully a solution can be found



Thanks must go to Cliff and Steve Young for all the work they do for the cemetery so willingly and free-of-charge. Being able to ask them to undertake so many maintenance-type jobs has made such a difference to keeping on top of a very important facility and area of our village.

Likewise, thanks also need to go to our Cemetery Manager, Val Powell, and the Parish Clerk, Karen

Stevens, for responding to problems and queries so quickly and positively.

**Cllr Judith Christian-Carter**  
**Chair of the Cemetery & Churchyard Working Group**

### Planning:

Your Parish Council is a statutory consultee on all planning applications that are submitted within the parish of Bishop's Itchington. This means that it is consulted on all planning applications, no matter how large or small, that are submitted by applicants to Stratford-on-Avon District Council (SDC).

At virtually all parish council meetings, the council members are required to consider recent planning applications, to discuss their merits and demerits, and then to decide if the council supports, objects to, or makes no representations to each one.

Therefore, a core of parish councillors needs to know about and understand planning law and planning policy. No worries though on that score, as your parish council does have some councillors who 'know their planning stuff'!

Parish councillors need to assess each planning application as to whether or not it conforms to current planning policy (as laid down in the SDC's Core Strategy), as well as using their local knowledge in arriving at a decision.

**PLANNING  
PERMISSION  
APPROVED**

Your parish council also pays great attention to the views (comments) submitted by people who live in the parish.

Putting to one side all the usual type of planning applications, this last year has seen your parish council having to deal with some quite contentious planning applications, the main one of which was for a huge solar farm, proposed to be sited between the Gaydon and Knightcote Roads and Knightcote Bottoms.

Whilst there were some local people in favour of the proposed solar farm, the majority were against it. In addition, and most importantly, the planning application contravened a number of key SDC planning policies. Your parish council therefore objected to it, along with your Ward Member, Cllr Kettle. As the planning officer wished to grant the planning application, it was given to SDC's Planning Committee to determine. At the Planning Committee meeting, one of your parish councillors spoke against the proposal as did Cllr Kettle. The result was that the Planning Committee refused planning permission for the solar farm.

Another two contentious planning applications, currently undecided, concern Nemo Racing, which has a site along the Knightcote Bottoms Road. Your parish council has objected to both planning applications, mainly on the grounds of the adverse noise and visual impacts that the proposals will have on those people living nearby, as well as the vast increase in traffic along, what is, a single-track road.

When it comes to planning applications, particularly those submitted by people living in the village, your parish council is always keen to engage with you, especially at the parish council meeting when we discuss it. Knowing why you want to do what you are proposing often proves to be invaluable when reaching our decision.

**Judith Christian-Carter  
Vice-Chairman  
BIPC**

## **Playground Working Group (PWG):**

A new aerial runway/zipwire is on order and will be paid for from existing parish council funds. It is hoped to have it installed mid to late June.

The PWG is currently working on seeking public opinion regarding the rest of the new equipment for the renewal programme. Pupils at Bishops Itchington Primary School have completed a survey, and there is currently a live Survey Monkey questionnaire on the BI Play Area FB site seeking public opinion on the subject (there are currently 129 "members" of this public group, so it is proving to be quite popular).

We are also checking on how to engage with young people from Bishop's Itchington who attend Southam School.

Using the results of these consultations, we can establish an equipment specification for tendering purposes.



This public consultation is also a prerequisite of any grant application, and it is proposed to use the services of Jayne Warman to make these applications - these costings will be presented as a separate agenda item for discussion at the next regular parish council meeting.

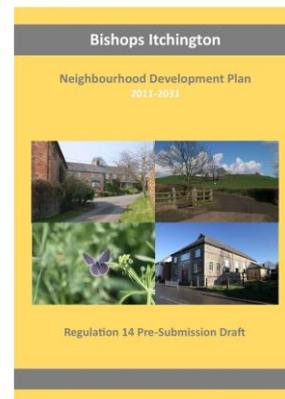
It is hoped that the refurbishment of the playground will commence for installation in spring 2023.

**Cllr Norman Thomas  
Playground Working Group**

## **Bishop's Itchington Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP):**

Early in 2022, Stratford District Council (SDC) announced that the NDP had reached Regulation 16 status whereby submission of the finalised Bishop's Itchington NP would go out to public consultation. This commenced on 10 March 2022 and ends on 22 April 2022, so we are now awaiting feedback from this.

We have appointed an Examiner who scrutinises the plan on behalf of SDC - we were provided with a list of 3 candidates from SDC, from which we had to choose one. Reviewing other NDP examinations, there may be a considerable amount of work involved in responding to this examination.



I have to re-apply for the remainder of the NDP grant from Locality which will cover the final invoice from Kirkwells for post examination round up.

**Cllr Norman Thomas  
Bishop's Itchington NDP Working Group**

## **Pavilion Project:**

No report on 2022 would be complete without mentioning the pavilion, or 'Recreational Community Facility' project, as it became known.

As many of you know, there was a lot of background work done to determine the sorts of sports a new building should cater for and what facilities it would need to support them. An architect had been appointed and a design proposed. In the autumn of 2021, a tender pack was issued, and five tenders were received. Three contractors were interviewed, and one was selected. The price of the build was quoted at just over £1.1million.

The parish council has worked with a fundraising specialist and grant applications to bodies such as HS2 had reached an advanced stage and were looking positive, however only tackled a small proportion of the cost. Considering the likelihood of material prices continuing to increase sharply, the council considered approaching the Public Works Loan Board for a loan to carry out the build. This would require public support as the loan repayments would increase the council's outgoings and therefore the precept, having the potential to affect every taxpayer in the parish.

Surveys and leaflets were sent out and a public meeting held. The intention was to use the meetings to share information and the survey feedback to show whether the village was for or against this loan.

Residents at the meeting quickly made their feelings known. Some were very positive, and some were very much against the idea. Some appeared happy to contribute to the project while others had very genuine concerns about the effect on their personal finances. Some had very sound criticisms of the project and raised relevant questions, while others, sadly, came to disrupt the meeting.

Several factors came together to make the timescales tighter and tighter. Last minute changes meant that the survey was delayed. Not all relevant information was available to share. Some residents received their survey forms late and some didn't receive one at all.

With the deadline for survey responses less than two weeks away and many residents not having had leaflets, survey forms or access to the information they sought, the Parish Council chair called an extraordinary meeting. This meeting was to give the council a chance to check or change its direction, asking if the survey should still be considered valid, what had been learned about what had gone wrong, how the council would like to do better in future and, finally, whether to continue with the project at these costs and needing this much public money.

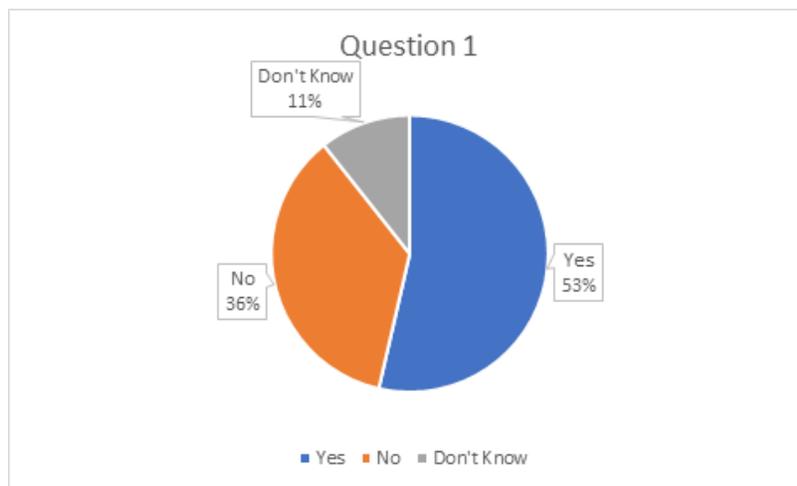
The council resolved at that meeting that the project should NOT continue. If there were an alternative way to fund it, then that may be reconsidered in the future, but the council did not support continuing with a project that would place such a large financial burden on the residents for such a long period of time.

The pavilion still needs to be dealt with and a more modest development may be the answer. The council would welcome approaches from any residents who would like to form a working group on this.

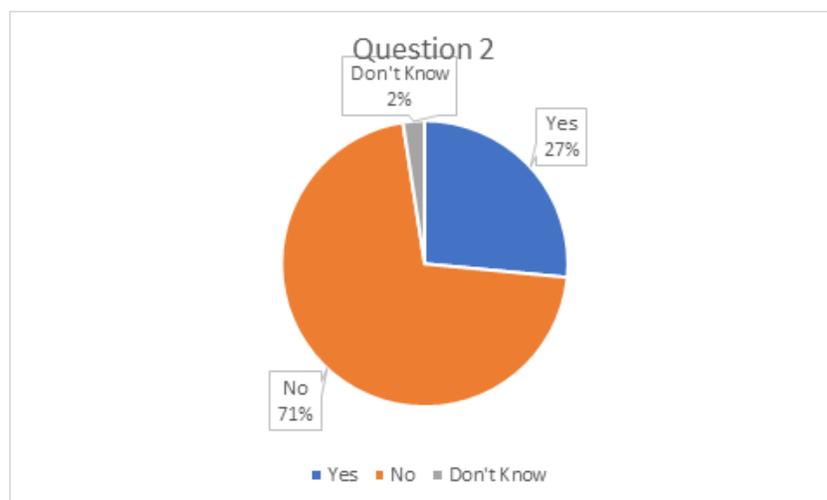
**Survey responses:**

332 survey forms were returned.

Of these, 53% felt that Bishop's Itchington needs a flexible community space for recreational activities and village events, with changing rooms for sport and car parking, 36% felt that it did not, and 11% didn't know.



71% would NOT agree to an increase in the parish precept to enable the pavilion building to go ahead, while 27% would agree, and 2% didn't know.





## Reports from Village Organisations

### **Bishops Itchington Football Club (BIFC):**

After a couple of strange years with spasmodic football, it was really good to have an almost normal season.

Unfortunately, we had to pull our first team out of the Banbury District & Lord Jersey League on Saturdays part way through the season, due to a lack of commitment from the players.

However, the Reserves were allowed to continue in the Division they were in instead of having to step up and fulfil the first team fixtures. This meant that they were finally able to field a regular team and their results began to improve. We hope to continue with just the one team next season to consolidate their progress.



The Sunday side have fared better after a shaky start. They have qualified for 4 cup finals and so far, have won one (Division 1 Cup) and lost one (Bethel Charity Cup). They are looking quite good in the League too but will have to rely on others to slip up to be successful.

Running a football Club is not cheap. We are lucky enough to be sponsored by the Greaves Club, with match balls provided by the Butcher's Arms. This sponsorship helps with paying for insurance, first aid and fees.

We play down the Playing Field and use the pavilion facilities. These are courtesy of the Parish Council, to whom we are very grateful. We were disappointed that the pavilion project stuttered once again but hope that we can be involved in whatever replacement building is put there.

## **Bishops Itchington Sports Association (BISA):**

BI Sports Association has been in existence for about twenty years and tries to identify the need for sports and leisure facilities in the village and raises funds to provide them.

Although the courts on the playing field (originally built by BISA) are now the responsibility of the Parish Council, BISA still run the day-to-day management of them. They are free for all villagers unless anyone or a group wishes to block book the courts or use the floodlights. They are currently used by a tennis group, a five a side footie group, walking netball and a netball team for training.

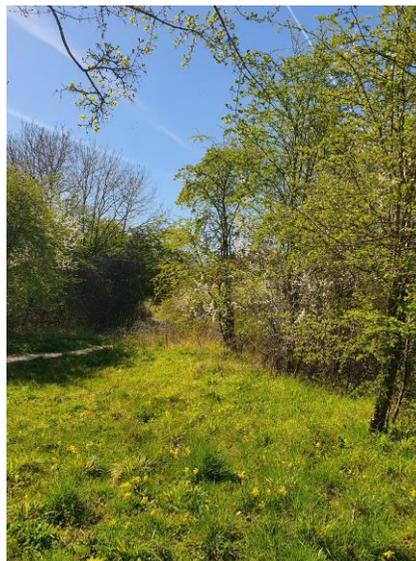
The badminton group uses the Memorial Hall on Wednesday evenings and Tuesdays. This group has gone from strength to strength, particularly since the Covid restrictions were lifted. Many thanks to Linda, who gives a great deal of her time to running this popular sport.

We have recently set up an email address, so that people can contact us about anything to do with sport and leisure – ideas for new activities, interest in joining us or queries about the courts. This is [talktobisa@hotmail.com](mailto:talktobisa@hotmail.com)

## **Friends of the Yellow Land & BING:**

This group meets up every other Sunday morning for a couple of hours to manage two natural areas in the village – the Yellow Land and the mini orchard in the corner of the playing field. We have also been involved on a few occasions, helping in the Hidden Green in Old Road.

The Yellow Land is situated a short way down Works Lane and forms the entrance to the Wildlife Trust Nature Reserve. It is an area of limestone grassland and wildflowers, which supports a colony of small blue butterflies – a rarity in Warwickshire. The group works to maintain the area and prevent too much scrub regeneration, which would block out the sunlight required to allow the flowers and grasses to grow, supporting the butterflies and lots of other insects and bugs. There is a surfaced, circular path for people to walk round and enjoy the area.



The wider nature reserve can be accessed from the Yellow Land.

Several years ago, the group were given permission from the parish council to clear an untidy and unused corner of the playing field to turn it into a small community orchard. Nothing of great interest was found during the clearing and a small number of apple, pear and cherry trees were planted. These have blossomed and borne fruit, which is available for people to pick and try when ripe.

This small friendly group meets every other Sunday morning at 10.30am and finishes around 12.30. Tools and instruction (if needed) are provided. Interested? Contact Pam on 07392 858894 for more information or to find out where the next meeting will be.

## **BISHOPS ITCHINGTON WI:**



Our first few monthly meetings were held on Zoom with guest speakers talks ranging from life as a head teacher to silver jewellery making.

We held a coffee morning in the playing field, with everyone bringing their own refreshments, lots of chatting and a game of Handbag Bingo was enjoyed by all!

Several members went to the Warwick Arts Centre to see a play about Bishop's Itchington's very own Petticoat Government! In July we went to Barbara Cox's for our annual garden party, and luckily, the rain stayed away long enough for us to enjoy a few games followed by supper.

We held a Treasure Hunt around the village devised by Jan and husband Gary in August, meeting and finishing at the Butchers Arms. And we also ran a cake and games stall at the Memorial Hall Centenary Celebrations.

By September we were able to hold our meetings in the Memorial Hall with some very good guest speakers ranging from flower arrangements courtesy of Wendy and Carolyn to a talk from a blacksmith. Several members joined Warwickshire Federation on a coach trip to Windsor.

At our French themed AGM in November, Val Bryant was elected as our new President who thanked Jan Heritage for everything that she had done during her three years as President.

Our Christmas party was a slightly quieter affair as it was members only, but the food and entertainment were still very much up to BIWI standard! In January we held a games night and silent auction, Bob Clucas gave a talk about wildflowers in February and in March we had a Well Being talk and hand massage demo from Zoe of Zoe's Boutique.

Things are beginning to return to normal with new and returning members joining us each month, bringing our membership number up to 46. Our Craft and Garden groups have started up again and have enjoyed a few trips and meetings with lots of tea and cake, and from what I hear, so have our walking netball ladies!

We've dealt with risk assessments, new insurance wording and Covid restrictions and we have new signage including one that says BIWI may contain nuts, I'm not sure if that refers to the food we serve or us, I leave that to you to decide!

**Jane Thomas.**  
**BIWI Secretary**

### **Bishops Itchington Memorial Hall:**

New heating, new wiring, insulation, plastering and a coat of paint has transformed the main hall from a dull, tired space to a bright and cheerful village space.



Covid 19 closed the Hall completely for nearly 16 months. This was followed by a period of uncertainty as many of our user groups were understandably cautious to start meeting again.

As confidence has grown, we have seen a steady movement towards a new 'normal'. Now the main Hall is looking so good the fundraising starts all over again. The next project will be to refurbish the toilets. Another chunky project. We are hopeful that our fundraising will be well supported by the village.

There are a number of different village amenities that all offer different and important facilities for our village. We have a large space that is now being well used for several badminton and bowls sessions. It is great to see both of these groups flourishing within the village.

In common with most village fundraising group, we are desperately in need of active new committee members. We do appreciate that sitting on a committee is not for everyone, as a result of this we have formed a group of people who are Friends of the Hall. People who are interested in the future of the Hall, recognise its importance in the history of the village and willing to help with ideas and running events. New members are very welcome.

Apart from the regular hall users we are lucky to have a loyal following of people who attend our regular film nights. It's interesting that we now run events that were first run when the hall opened a hundred years ago.

We have a big aim for this year and that is to gain charitable status this will open up a much wider range of funding streams. The Parish Council have been assisting us with the registration of the land, this will pave the way for us to becoming a registered charity. Thank you for your continued support.

This year will hopefully be headlined by charitable status, see us raise funds towards the refurbishment of the toilets and settle into our new normal.

The Memorial Hall Committee thank the village as a whole for the continued support for our existing groups, we would also like to welcome new groups and new residents.

### **Bishops Itchington Village Badminton club (Memorial Hall):**

During the lockdown, we obviously followed government guidelines and didn't play, our last club night being on 18th March 2020.

Due to the hall committee re-organising the hall, we weren't then able to play in the autumn when things eased for a while until 4th November 2020. We then entered another lockdown and took up our rackets again in May 2021. We only had 2 weeks of play when the hall was shut for refurbishment. Rather than cancelling the club, we moved to the back garden and kept the club going just for the juniors, taking advantage of the fine sunny weather and mostly breeze-free conditions! This continued until we could finally access the hall again in August 2021 and invite both juniors and seniors back to regular club nights.

We then worked hard to re-establish a regular group on Wednesday nights, some of the previous regulars returning and some holding back.

Alongside the autumn return, BISA decided to establish a new Tuesday morning group for beginner ladies, and we slowly built our numbers so that now in Spring 2022, a lovely regular group meet to play, and the hall hire cost is usually covered. There is still room for new players to join us!

However, for Wednesday nights, on the approach to December 2021, we found we had quite low numbers and weren't always covering the cost of the hall hire. Hence Judith Christian Carter advertised our presence over the local community face-book pages in early January 2022.

We have had a huge response and interest! So much so that I had to increase the Wednesday night from 2 sessions to 3 and create WhatsApp groups for each session to limit numbers to 12 players at each. We have been pleased to welcome back players from pre-covid days but also new faces from other villages as well as our own. We generally have a junior session for younger children, a mixed group for teens and adults and then a session just for experienced or advanced adult players.

Indeed, as I write this, we are about to launch yet another badminton group which will meet in the hall on Tuesday nights, this time led by Katy-Mae-one of our new regular

Wednesday night players. This is to accommodate the adults who expressed an interest back in January after the Facebook advert but who didn't have a space on Wednesday nights due to the popularity. We are about to launch this new Tuesday evening group for adults in April and it may be that we will need to also have a second session as well, thus increasing the BISA badminton club to potentially 6 hours a week!

I am glad to say that we have managed to keep playing each week since last September, due to having club covid guidelines that the members are happy to follow. I am very grateful to BISA for their on-going support and a special thanks to all the club members who make it so enjoyable each week!

Linda Hassall

## **Friends of Bishops Itchington Primary School (FoBIPS):**

Our fundraising efforts (like others) were hampered by COVID in previous years, but we are delighted that our events this school year have been given the go ahead and we have been able to give the children some fun and excitement.



In September we launched our £10k for TECH target to help fund some desperately needed new technology for in school. We held our welcome BBQ which is a lovely family event which gives parents and children a chance to socialise on the school premises outside of the school day.

In October we held our Pumpkin Trail with the support of the Village Store who offered us their premises as a start and end point for the trail and once again we were supported significantly by many village or local businesses through sponsorship of our pumpkins. This event raised £804.70

In October we were able to install some new playground equipment and a reading shed which looks great in the school grounds.

We held a smaller than usual Christmas event which incorporated a raffle, café, a few small stalls, and the all-important Grotto experience with Father Christmas reading the children stories while they enjoyed their breakfast/lunch in the community centre. We would like to thank the Community Centre committee for their support for this event. We raised an amazing £1701.19 towards our £10k for TECH target.

In February the school held a Numbers Day event and we helped raise money for both the NSPCC and FoBIPS by asking children to dress up as numbers or wear numbers.

Our thanks again to the village community for dropping off donations of unused cosmetics or other suitable items for our Wonder Women Gift Room to celebrate Mother's Day which

this year raised over £500. We will be asking the community again for their support with our Marvellous Men Gift Room in May.

April – we managed to hold our first disco since December 2019 and what a great event it was. The children were so excited to socialise in a safe known environment with their friends and looked fabulous in their smart and sparkly outfits. There were some great moves on the dancefloor and behaviour was exemplary.

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> June will see us hold our first Summer Fayre since June 2019. The team are busy planning the return of this event and are looking forward to bringing everyone a family friendly fun event which everyone from the village is welcome to attend.

Throughout last year and this year, we have had some great support from the team at The Butchers Arms and their customers. The meat raffle has provided us with an extra £300.00 of funds and we are extremely thankful for this support.

The remaining events before the school year finishes will be our Marvellous Men Gift Room, Summer Disco, and a few cake sales. Keep any eye out for our posters regarding our summer Fayre event.

One plea from us – please can you make contact with us if you wish to use our noticeboards to display posters that are relevant to school age pupils. If we have the space, we are more than happy to accommodate your poster.

The FoBIPS team work extremely hard to provide fun and entertaining events that help raise vital funds for our school and we are extremely proud that we have already raised £5,000 towards our £10k for TECH target. We are as always grateful for the support from both the school community and the businesses and residents of our village.

Donna Davenport  
Chair of FoBIPS  
[Fobips@gmail.com](mailto:Fobips@gmail.com)

## **B I Community Centre:**

In the last year we have begun to rebuild social activities and use of the Centre as far as COVID restrictions have allowed during that time. From the New year we have seen regular use of the centre and increasing developments socially.

The committee has reduced as we have lost a further two members in Julie Clamp and Sandra Scowley but those who remain continue to meet regularly to look at maintenance needs and new opportunities for the centre to grow and continue to be a central hub in the local community.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Colin White (Treasurer), Pete (Peter Wilson) (Secretary) and Amanda Worrall for their continued input and support without which there would be no ability to continue operations at the centre.

We would welcome new committee members and please come forward if interested in getting involved.

I would like to take this opportunity to also thank Jenny Buckingham who has now left the committee but continues to support the centre in a voluntary capacity and who still manages the allotments, for all her years of commitment and hard work in supporting the Community Centre and Blue butterfly café.



The pop-up Post Office has continued throughout the pandemic offering vital services to our community.

The Entrust charity and their trainees continue to run the café from the Centre twice a week and it is great to see the longevity this is enjoying with the support of the local Community. Their session on a Monday includes Mini Movers a dance class for toddlers. This week they also launched a new poetry book called 'Unconditional Love,' and held readings at the centre. The poetry book has been written by parents, grandparents, foster carers, young people, and children with additional needs.

Prior to COVID-19 the centre was beginning to take shape and thrive in offering a wide and diverse level of activities and services to the local community we hope to now continue this as restrictions have been lifted. The Youth group has not yet restarted largely due to a lack of volunteers however we are now looking at funding options to bring someone into co-ordinate these sessions which will generate income and therefore in the long term will support the co-ordinator's role. We understand how valuable the youth club is in offered our young people in the community a safe, social space where they can meet and enjoy some fun times and activities together.

Within the last year there has been continued maintenance and updating to the Centre. The ceiling was replaced in the hall, and the walls were repaired and decorated. There is a new sound system which covers the café, the hall and can service outside. This also includes a mobile microphone. A large whiteboard has been put up along with two smart TVs – one for viewing and one for computer games. There are also two new sofa/chair sets for each area. WIFI is now available at the Centre and has proved very popular especially for those who like to have an alternative to the working at home environment. Community members can now work from the café and have refreshments there twice a week from 9-1pm when entrust run the cafe.

We are always conscious of our maintenance obligations and are considering further upgrades such as back door and windows however these are a considerable financial outlay, and such expenditure is therefore likely to happen when absolutely needed. We have painted and refreshed the outside of the Centre and Pete has also built beautiful new planters for the front of the centre to replace those which although having lasted us

well had seen better days. Pete has been offering opportunities to support a young person to complete their Duke of Edinburgh and this young person also helped build the new planters.

The allotments continue to be well used and supported and provide a much-needed sanctuary for those who use it. Thanks to Jenny, her son Anthony and again Pete for all their hard work in managing this area of the community centre.

All of the improvements have been made primarily to service existing groups but also to increase the 'bookability' for future and additional groups.

A huge thank you to Colin for accessing the much-needed funding to ensure the centre is able to continue to run post lockdown.



The centre continues to be well placed to contribute to the wellbeing of the community and creates lots of social opportunities for a diverse range of age groups. Bookings remain regular both for weekly planned activities as well as private bookings.

We have enjoyed some exciting ventures over the last year despite the pandemic, Frankie Meredith's play, 'The Petticoat Council,' took place on the 17<sup>th</sup> of June and two performances were well supported on the day by the local community despite the pouring rain during the first. This was of huge significance given the associated history with Bishop's Itchington and there was a feature on the BBC about this production and its connection to the producer and Bishops Itchington with some filming taking place at the centre and in the village.

As many of you will know, the story explores a group of women from Bishop's Itchington who became the first female majority council in the UK in 1949. We were able to welcome some of their family members on the evening who had travelled to the village especially.

We provided subsidised children's activities and events throughout the whole of the six-week summer Holiday for children and their families from the ages of 0-16. This included everything from dance, art, creative writing, first aid, nature and den building activities, yoga and stay and plays to a teenage hub. We loved seeing the centre being a real hub of the local community and fulfilling its full potential. We were really conscious of how isolated our young people and families had been, and we wanted to support missed developmental opportunities. Engagement with this was really positive and well received and we continue to work with Ruby from Bounce and Beat to facilitate children's activities during Holiday periods. The next will be taking place over the first four days of the Easter break with more planned for this Summer too.

We are stable financially and look forward to further contributing to the village life in the future. We are always open to new ideas, input, and support. We are really pleased to

have been informed that Follet's have agreed to extend the lease of the building to the community for a further five years and we will use this time to continue to positively contribute to the local Community.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the local community, our volunteers, (those not so far mentioned being Mark Davenport, Jaris Garland, and Anthony Cree for all their help with centre improvements), our cleaner Carla, the committee members, the Parish Council represented by Chris Kettle, Follet Property Holdings Ltd for leasing us the building for use by the local Community and to all those who utilise the Centre. We thank you all and look forward to future ventures together.

On behalf of the Bishop's Itchington Community Centre Committee.  
Orlaith Horsman (Interim Chairperson).

### **Bishops Itchington Men's Shed – Apiary project:**

Thanks to kind donations and the generosity of the members' time, the Bishops Itchington Men's Shed are delighted to report that the Apiary project has now started. We have now received the funds to setup two beehives with bees' colonies in the grounds of Brookside ECI Farm, Gaydon Road.

In addition, we have purchased six beekeeper suits. Here is a picture of the suits being 'tested'.



With the warmer weather, the bees are now exploring the Farm orchards and herb gardens. We hope to have an opening event soon to help advertising the project to the bishop Itchington village residence, promoting the Men's Shed and recruiting new members. **We look forward to inviting you to the opening event.**



Best regards  
Iveagh Carter  
Bishops Itchington Men's Shed  
Chairman

## St Michaels Church:

St Michael's church continues to emerge from the pandemic restrictions, still encouraging safety as the virus continues to be infectious in our local area. We have a regular service at 10.30 every Sunday as before, with optional face masks and encouragement to care for each other ... these services are a mixture of live and video material and followed by refreshments. We have children's activities in most services as well as our monthly Quality Time on the first Sunday which is specially for families. If you haven't tried it, do come along !



We also offer two online services each week on my YouTube channel - one which replicates the Sunday service, and one midweek shorter reflection. If you want to jump in on these, there are links on the church website and Facebook pages, and if you subscribe, you will get a link when a new one is posted.

We are aware of the increasing needs around us, and the Foodbank team continues to support people in our local area. There is also a pastoral team set up around the Rainbow colours, influenced by the way the rainbow became a symbol of support at the start of the pandemic two years ago.

So, within the uncertainties that still surround life at the moment, St Michael's is up and running and looking forward to Easter hope!

Although we are unable to leave the church open all the time, if anyone does want to use the church at any time, do please contact the vicarage (613466) and we will be pleased to help in any way we can.

Rev Martin Green



### Record of Councillors' Attendance 2021/22

There was a total of 17 parish council meetings during the council year May 2021 to April 2022. These included 1 annual meeting, 11 were ordinary meetings and 5 extraordinary meetings.

Councillor	Annual Parish Council Meeting Attended	Number of Scheduled Meetings Attended	Number of Extraordinary Meetings Attended	Total Number of Meetings Attended	Overall Percentage Attended
Cllr Adam gmore Chairman	1/1	11/11	5/5	17/17	100%
Cllr Judith Christian- Carter Vice-Chairman	1/1	11/11	5/5	17/17	100%
Cllr Sharon Bougoussa	1/1	1/2	Resigned 12 July 2021	-	-
Cllr John Gates	1/1	10/11	5/5	16/17	94%
Cllr Chris Kettle	1/1	10/11	5/5	16/17	94%
Cllr Dawn Mann	1/1	1/1	Resigned 14 June 2021	-	-
Cllr Michael Mann	1/1	9/9	5/5	Resigned 14 March 2022	-
Cllr Norman Thomas	1/1	10/11	5/5	16/17	94%
Cllr Steve Tressler	1/1	11/11	4/5	16/17	94%





47,000.00	National Income Bond b/f					47,000.00	
-	Transfer to NS Income Bonds					0.00	
47,000.00	National Income Bond c/f					47,000.00	
107,776.33	Current Account b/f					261,267.45	
107,228.66	Receipts					264,351.14	
( 138,390.03)	Expenditure					92,618.20	
(31,161.34)	Net movement in year					0.00	
-							
107,776.33	Current Account c/f					261,267.45	
	Pavilion Fund c/f						
<b>185,390.03.70</b>	<b>Net funds c/f</b>	-	-	-	-	<b>308,267.45</b>	

