

# BISHOP'S ITCHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting 4 November 2024

### Present:

Cllr Kettle (Chairman)      Cllr Dugmore      Cllr Horsman      Cllr Howatson  
Cllr Tagg-Wilkinson      Cllr Thomas (Vice Chairman)      Cllr Tressler

### In Attendance:

Karen Stevens - Clerk to the Council  
Val Powell – Cemetery Manager  
Cllr Natalie Gist – District Councillor (part of meeting)

### Public:

21

### 24/183 Apologies:

Cllr Colton (personal matter)  
Cllr Lamont (holiday)  
The above apologies were accepted.

### 24/184 Resignation of Co-opted Parish Councillor:

The parish council were advised of the resignation of Councillor Selena Ogden. It was recorded that Selena had made a huge contribution not only to the parish council but to the village since she took over the Butchers Arms becoming an instrumental part of the community.

Following procedure, Stratford District Council (SDC) have been notified of the resignation, a notice has been put on the noticeboard and the website giving notice that a casual vacancy has arisen. If by 20 November, a request for an election has not been received the parish council will be able to fill the vacancy by co-option.

It was **RESOLVED** to write a letter of thanks to Cllr Ogden before she leaves the village. Proposed Cllr Kettle, seconded Cllr Tagg-Wilkinson, all in favour.

### 24/185 Declarations of Interest:

Cllrs Dugmore and Horsman declared a personal interest regarding item 10 Annual Grant to Carnival Committee (not a pecuniary interest).

### 24/186 Dispensations:

None required.

### 24/187 Minutes:

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the ordinary parish council meeting held 7 October 2024 be accepted as a true and complete record of the meeting. Proposed Cllr Thomas, seconded Cllr Tagg-Wilkinson, all in favour.

### 24/188 Public Forum:

- Re item 11 – Audit of Dropped Kerbs: A resident advised that her eldest daughter has been in a wheelchair from a very young age. The wheelchair has recently been upgraded to include a battery therefore they can now push

her all the way up the hill but, because of the battery pack, it makes the wheelchair heavier and lower to the ground and it is almost impossible to get it up and down ordinary kerbs resulting in them pushing the wheelchair in the road until they can get to some form of dropped kerb. This is not satisfactory, and they are not the only people experiencing difficulties. Initially she had thought of contacting Highways and saying we need dropped kerbs in certain places, but she thinks this is a problem for the whole village and requires an audit of exactly where dropped kerbs are needed across the village,

- Re item 10 – Annual Grant to Carnival Committee: A member of the carnival committee advised that the support from the parish council over the last two years has been greatly appreciated. However, they are facing significant cost rises with insurance, first aid, staging etc. They will continue as a small group to fund raise as best they can and approach local businesses for sponsorship but there are more and more local community groups doing the same, so it is quite difficult to get companies to commit. Members of the previous carnival committee had mentioned that the parish council use to donate a nominal sum of £500 to the carnival committee automatically each year to help with the cost of insurance. The carnival committee would like to ask if this was something the parish council would consider reinstating to help with the annual insurance cost,
- Re item 7.i – Planning Application 24/02516/FUL (land Off The, Hambridge Road, Bishop’s Itchington, – Installation and operation of a 20MW Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), including access and associated infrastructure): A resident had been nominated to act as the spokesman on behalf of those present and they advised the following:-
  - Would like to bring to the attention of the parish council that the planning application for this storage facility has been submitted and the village is opposed against it,
  - A petition was started on Friday 1 November and in 3 days 180 residents have signed it,
  - Bishop’s Itchington Neighbourhood Development Plan (BINDP) 20022 to 2031. Although a large document, he highlighted some areas where he thought this facility was going against and hopes that the parish council will object to the planning application
    - a. Since census of 2011 Bishop’s Itchington parish has a residents population of 2082 people
    - b. One of the policies is under 3.3 whilst preserving the importance to open countryside, rural landscape, environmental assets is to be also considered, the infrastructure needed to support the growth. The location plan for it in the view of a lot of the villagers is totally inadequate. There is no mention of power in/power out which will have an impact on the village. The construction of it being in a rural location, single narrow country lane. Their traffic count is 60 vehicles to construct it – where are those vehicles going to go past the school or past the shops and centre of the village, totally inadequate in the opinion of residents
    - c. In the BINDP you support modern day housing , development and subsequent expansion of the village and it has taken place since 1960. As in Table 1, in the last decade over 390 new homes have been added to the village which has an impact on the village. Housing and development to ensure the housing or other development seamlessly integrates, preserves the existing rural environment,

d. Policy also states protected views, and, in that policy, there is a picture of the allotment entrance overlooking the fields, the brook and the hill and that is where the proposed location is. It is a protected view, and it needs to be stopped. There are other locations that can be used. HS2 has compulsorily purchased so many acres of land around Warwickshire that can be utilised to locate a facility like this. Yes, it might be needed somewhere but at the end of the day you do not dig a farmer's field up to put this in.

- It was done underhandedly, the first anyone knew of this was a post on Facebook, there was no planning application notices put up on site and no one in this village knew about it until the Facebook post,
- Would like to ask where the power source is coming from that is going to be stored there and where is it going to go to. It has no benefit to the village as a whole
- The impact on the local wildlife. They are going to drop it in the ground 5 meters. You are going to have a constant humming. You have got all the wildlife down there (muntjaks, herons, kingfishers etc) and this is going to have a massive impact on this village, and you are taking away the natural wildlife for something that gives this village no benefit whatsoever,
- Noise – once constructed they are proposing putting up sound fencing so that's going to be humming away and that will have an impact on the nearby houses but also the natural wildlife to the area.

Other comments were made by members of the public included:

- Concern regarding flooding in that field and where the public footpath will go. When we do have rain and it does not have to be heavy, there is a quarter of that field that gets flooded along with the public footpath that runs along there to the bridge. This is concerning as he has read an article that one of these units take up a quarter of an acre so that would be another quarter of the field gone,
- Lowering the unit into the ground 5 meters means that the earth will presumably be excavated to allow this. Is the earth going to be used to build a bund around the structure – this may keep water out of the facility but may direct water further downstream and cause even worse flooding
- Already mentioned that this view is sited in the BINDP as a significant view to the village, it is so significant that there is a bench for people to sit on to look at the view. The plans do say it will be sunk into the grounds, but they are also going to put a 2-meter-high barrier fence around it so if you go and sit on the bench you are going to be looking at a barrier fence and their plan to mitigate it with trees will take a seriously long time,
- Supposedly these batteries are lithium batteries. What are the by-products, would any by-products leach into the ground/brook?

Cllr Kettle gave a summary:

- There are three main documents which you would need to consider when drafting responses:
  - Stratford District Council's (SDC) Core Strategy 2011 – 2031. This sets out all the policies which planning officers will use to determine any application therefore in objecting/supporting it is a far stronger argument if it is based on the policies in the Core Strategy (can be read/downloaded on SDC's website). Saying 'I do not want it in my backyard' is not a valid planning reason to object or even to support it,

- The second document is the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) which is the national version of the SDC Core Strategy. Any policy that you believe this application breaches, you need to quote,
- BINDP – although important to the village, in terms of SDC, it is the third tier of documentation,
- SDC wants to receive individual letters saying why you object/support an application, not a petition signed by hundreds of people.
- The point was raised that the date for the planning is very short and not everyone has access to computers where they can go on to the planning portal and log a complaint, issue with it or an objection hence residents had asked for a petition they could sign. The petition will be handed in to SDC,
- Once an objection has gone in, people can write in up to five minutes before the meeting takes place. The critical issue is for the parish council and the ward member as to whether they support or object to any single application.
- It was clarified that the 8 November is the date for standard consultations (i.e. for the parish council to respond), the target date for determination, which as stated above you can send in comments up to five minutes before the meeting) is 28 November, so people have got until then to submit comments.
- The important thing is, you need to get your view into SDC whether it is in favour or against the application and all that matters is whether it is supported by policies or whether it is contrary to policies in the SDC Core Strategy or NPPF.
- The parish council will be debating the application this evening and will reach a decision as to whether it is in line with policies in SDC's Core Strategy and NPPF or is contrary to the policies.

**24/189 Audit of Dropped Kerbs within Bishop's Itchington:**

Following discussion, it was agreed that as a starting point, a map needs to be produced showing where dropped kerbs are currently located within the village. Cllr Thomas agreed to lead on this with help from the resident who raised the issue

Cllr Gist arrived.

**24/190 Planning Matters:**

- i. To consider the parish councils response to the following planning application:

**24/02516/FUL**

Land Off The, Hambridge Road, Bishop's Itchington, – Installation and operation of a 20MW Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), including access and associated infrastructure

The portfolio holder for planning gave some observations:

- Noise consideration – Noise Impact Assessment (NIA) identifies a 3 to 6 decibel increase in noise levels (means the sounds somewhere between doubles and quadruples). Background assessments of it indicated about 31db background noise around there which would normally be considered for an indoor location where people sleep therefore all considerations need to be done bearing in mind the current extreme tranquillity of that location. Paragraph 5.6 of the NIA actually calls this 3db to 6db increase as a potentially adverse impact. Paragraphs 5.9 and 5.10 of the same documents refer to

measurements that they call better than desirable or better than limits respectfully but that in the context here is that is a very quiet location, what is desirable and acceptable would be limits you might find in a city.

- Visual impact. Have looked at the design and access statement and interestingly paragraph 5.4 tries to disengage the BINDP completely by a misleading statement that says the site is outside the NDP boundary which is false as the NDP effects the entire parish. Policy BINDP5 which specifically calls out the view from along Hambridge Road as a view for preservation. That sites figure 13 appendix 1 of the same document shows a photograph which is basically the scene, the centre of which would be the site of this installation. Confused by some of the documents included because looking at the application itself, the elevations tab refers to an inverter that is almost 7 meters tall so not sure how well that will be hidden by a 2.4-meter fence. Likewise, even the battery structures are taller than the proposed fence at nearly 3 meters tall. Could not understand the 4.5-meter water tanks that are their because they do not appear on the drawn plan (not sure if they are buried or whether it is an error on the elevation.

The visual impact from Hambridge Road if you take it traveling in a westward direction (coming from the east into the village), you basically look at that surface of the hill as you approach the bridge, so he suggests that is quite an incongruous inappropriate industrialisation of that setting. Policy CS6 refers to this and there will be other policies.

Other comments:

- From work done formulating BINDP, should be able to put substantial evidence together to object to the application. May need a small group to work on the objection.
- The parish council know the need and have supported solar farms in the past, but these have been sited appropriately,
- Environmental harm aspect – poor state of our rivers. The river is something that must be within our biodiversity action plan. There are small egrets migrating and kingfishers that suggest there is wildlife there and could probably be enhanced
- There are incidences of battery fires and a pollution incidence just above the river would be catastrophic and would reside in the environment for many years as well. Not a sensible place to site something that has a risk.
- Historical context of the area and it says it has a medium to high possibility of Romano British and this relates back to our policies regarding national heritage as well as nature protection
- Land has an amenity value as well
- Transportation document associated with the building of the facility (approximately a 12-month period) states that the HGV's will be coming in along the M50 and A423 – M50 is nowhere near here and the A423 is the Coventry to Southam Road so fundamentally flawed from the start. There is no mention of how the power will be coming into or out of the site. There is a document on the House of Commons Library called Battery Energy Storage Systems and it includes interesting data bearing in mind that the idea of battery storage is that with increasing reliance on solar and wind farms which fluctuate a lot,

they need somewhere to store the excess energy but in this document, it says there are 56 operational sites currently of which the average capacity across them is 28.6 megawatt storage, there are currently 378 in the planning stage and of these 378, the average capacity is going to be 55.6 megawatts. This site is 20 megawatts so is this really going to have any significant benefit to electricity supply in this country? Does not make sense,

- Cannot understand the location in terms of where you would pick up the grid,
- The planning document does mention that the BINDP has been considered but there is no mention of the fact that this is one of the protected views within the BINDP
- No public notice put up in the vicinity and there has been no due notification of this to the public. Cllr Gist was asked to investigate when/where notices were placed. There is nothing on SDC's planning website stating the date notices were put up,
- Regarding the plans, there is not a single elevation view of what the site will look like. It was advised that there are photo montages and also an elevation image that is embedded in one of these where it is superimposed on,
- Number of policies have been identified in the NDP and the core strategy including Water, environment and flood risk (CS4), landscape (CS5) – it is not a formally protected landscape but is in the BINDP.

It was **RESOLVED** to object to planning application 24/02516/FUL as it is inconsistent with policies CS 4, CS 5, CS6, BINDP 5. Cllr Dugmore to draft a response to SDC Planning with input from Cllrs Thomas and Tagg-Wilkinson. Proposed Cllr Thomas, seconded Cllr Howatson. All in favour

ii. The decisions of the following planning applications were noted:

**a. 24/02443/TPO**

17 Bishops Gate, Bishop's Itchington, CV47 2UT: T2 Common Ash –  
Maintain at current height and spread as per report

**Consent for Arboricultural Work**

**b. 24/01689/FUL**

The Workshop, Ivy Villa, 20 Poplar Road, Bishop's Itchington, CV47 2RQ  
– Change of use from commercial workshop for mechanical car repairs to  
ancillary use associated with Ivy Villa dwelling

**Permission with Conditions**

**c. 24/01558/FUL**

The Old Grain Barn, Mill Pit Farm, Hambridge Road, Bishop's Itchington  
CV47 2RZ – Proposed Link Extension

**Permission with Conditions**

**d. 24/00745/FUL**

Spring Paddocks, Gaydon Road, Bishop's Itchington, CV47 2QX -  
Demolish existing timber stable block and construction of a hay/straw  
storage barn and garaging for a horse box. Construction of a single storey  
grooms dwelling within the footprint of existing stable block

**Refusal**

iii. **24/02258/TPO**

Bishops Hill Nature Reserve, Ropeway, Bishop's Itchington – To remove a number of trees that are blocking the line of site between two of the airwave emergency services telecom sites.

The withdrawal of this application was noted.

**24/191 County and District Liaison:**

**Stratford District Council (SDC)** – A report had been circulated and included:

- The State of the District
- Winter Fuel Payment reminder
- Community Climate Change Fund is now open for expressions of interest
- The Online View
- Community Safety – Virtual Reality Knife Crime Programme
- Hate Crime Survey – closes 27 November 2024

**Warwickshire County Council (WCC)** – A report had been circulated and he added:

- The pavement in Chapel Street (going down towards the playing field) will be upgraded in the next few weeks
- WDC have also wrote to the government regarding the impact of removing the Winter Fuel Payment to all senior citizens particularly in rural areas

**24/192 Formal Complaint from Mr and Mrs Young:**

The minutes of the Complaints Committee of 5 August 2024, can only be approved/signed by the members of that committee and therefore, due to absence of Cllr Colton, they are unable to be approved/signed. As this needs to happen at a public meeting it was proposed that if all three members can attend, a meeting of the Complaints Committee be set for Monday 11 November 2024.

**24/193 Annual Grant to Carnival Committee:**

Following discussion, it was **RESOLVED** that the parish council identify an immediate grant of £500 for the next renewal of the Public Liability Insurance out of the current budget and commit that we will have in the budget discussion going forward that there will be an understanding that a sum in the region of £500 will be put forward as part of the budget in subsequent years. Proposed by Cllr Kettle, seconded Cllr Tagg-Wilkinson, all in favour.

**24/194 Speeding Traffic using Ladbroke Road and Old Road:**

The Clerk was asked to contact WCC to find out what deals we can get for a speed survey in the village and if there are any packages/discounts and to report back at a future meeting.

**24/195 Finance:**

1. To receive monthly financial report for October 2024: This was noted (Appendix A).
2. To receive bank reconciliation reports for October 2024: Cllr Kettle advised that he had checked this and it is correct.
3. To approve accounts for payment 4 November 2024:

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the Accounts Payable 4 November 2024 (Appendix B). Proposed Cllr Thomas, seconded Cllr Tagg-Wilkinson, all in favour. Cllrs Dugmore and Thomas agreed to authorise the payments.

#### **24/196 Portfolio Holders Update:**

Cllr Thomas reported on the Playground/Playing Fields

- Play area, hardcourts and playing field have had their annual safety inspection. Nothing of real significance highlighted,
- The fencing down left hand side of the playarea is in need of replacing,
- Fencing between the football pitch and the field beyond needs to be repaired,
- Bottom fence in playarea has been repaired,
- Couple of items of concern –
  - i. path going in to the playarea is wearing away due to rain from the car park flows into the playarea,
  - ii. the bottom fence to the hardcourts is leaning out and the surface adjacent to the fence is sloping down pointing to either subsidence or landslippage. Currently monitoring the situation.

#### **24/197 Reports and Questions:**

- Cllr Horsman was congratulated for all her efforts and the efforts of her team have put in to The Village Store as a new business in the village to receive the accolade of Business of the Year – Best New Business
- Cllr Kettle made Councillors aware of a possible illegal travellers site at Ladbroke
- Dog Fouling in Fisher Road is excessive – Cllr Gist to report it to the Environmental Health team,
- Footpath along Gaydon Road to Co-op – breaking up in places, is quite narrow and the grass encroaching. There is now increased pedestrian footfall using it now,
- Cllr Horsman asked that the clerk notify Mr and Mrs Young of the Complints Committee Meeting date and time as soon as it is arranged.

**24/198 A motion was passed for the Exclusion of Public and Press under Section 100A of Local Government Act 1972** (Proposed Cllr Dugmore, seconded Cllr Howatson, all in favour):

#### **1. To discuss and agree quotes for:**

- i. Ladbroke Road trees and vegetation:  
Following discussion it was **RESOLVED** that the tender from Arbscope be accepted.
- ii. Hedge in playing field adjacent to the track to Dadglow Farm:  
Following discussion, the clerk was asked to obtain two further quotes for this work
- iii. Replacement Laptop for Clerk:  
It was **RESOLVED** that a new laptop as per the price/specification supplied be purchased.  
Costs of a monitor and docking station to be obtained



**2. To discuss and agree the content of the apology letter to Mr and Mrs Young**

Following discussion it was **RESOLVED** to amend the apology letter as discussed and send it to Mr and Mrs Young

**24/199 Date of Next Meeting**

The next ordinary meeting of the parish council will take place on Monday 2 December 2024 at 7.30pm at the Community Centre.

**Meeting closed at 21:55**

Signed.....Chairman Date.....

## APPENDIX A:

### Financial Budget Comparison

Comparison between 01/04/24 and 31/10/24 inclusive. Includes due and unpaid transactions.

Excludes transactions with an invoice date prior to 01/04/24

	Budget 2024/2025	Reserve Movements	Actual Net	Balance	
<b>INCOME</b>					
<b>Bishops Itchington Parish Council</b>					
10	Precept	£110,000.00	£0.00	£110,000.00	£0.00
20	Council Tax Support Grant	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
30	Burials	£2,500.00	£0.00	£1,310.00	£-1,190.00
40	Sec 136 & Other Reimbursements	£1,300.00	£0.00	£0.00	£-1,300.00
50	Playing Field	£500.00	£0.00	£420.80	£-79.20
60	Interest - Current	£12,500.00	£0.00	£1,048.39	£-11,451.61
61	Interest - Pavilion Fund	£0.00	£0.00	£1,215.35	£1,215.35
70	Grants	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
80	Misc	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
90	VAT Refund	£0.00	£0.00	£11,331.25	£11,331.25
100	Pavilion Fund	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
<b>Total Bishops Itchington Parish Council</b>		<b>£126,800.00</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£125,325.79</b>	<b>£-1,474.21</b>
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>£126,800.00</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£125,325.79</b>	<b>£-1,474.21</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>					
<b>Bishops Itchington Parish Council</b>					
200	Salaries & Expenses	£39,943.00	£0.00	£20,058.57	£19,884.43
210	Councillor Allowances	£500.00	£0.00	£0.00	£500.00
220	Administration	£12,565.00	£0.00	£8,637.72	£3,927.28
230	Grounds Maintenance	£28,202.00	£0.00	£15,219.01	£12,982.99
240	Cemetery & Churchyard	£6,445.00	£0.00	£2,702.27	£3,742.73
250	Playing Field	£16,886.00	£0.00	£1,149.31	£15,736.69
260	Grants	£10,000.00	£0.00	£2,108.48	£7,891.52
270	Neighbourhood Plan	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
280	Other Expenditure	£500.00	£0.00	£0.00	£500.00
290	VAT	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
300	Contingency	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
310	Parish Office	£5,720.00	£0.00	£3,080.00	£2,640.00
320	Pavilion Project	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
<b>Total Bishops Itchington Parish Council</b>		<b>£120,761.00</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£52,955.36</b>	<b>£67,805.64</b>
<b>Total Expenditure</b>		<b>£120,761.00</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£52,955.36</b>	<b>£67,805.64</b>
Total Income		£126,800.00	£0.00	£125,325.79	£-1,474.21
Total Expenditure		£120,761.00	£0.00	£52,955.36	£67,805.64
<b>Total Net Balance</b>		<b>£6,039.00</b>		<b>£72,370.43</b>	

## APPENDIX B

<b>Bishop's Itchington Parish Council</b>					
<b>Accounts Payable 7 November 2024</b>					
<b>To Whom Payable</b>	<b>Ref No</b>	<b>Ex Vat</b>	<b>Vat Payable</b>	<b>Totals</b>	
<i>Urgent accounts paid since last meeting requiring the formal approval of the council</i>					
E Biddle (office rent 01/10/24)	s/order	£ 440.00	£ -	£	440.00
Three Business (mobile sim 23/10/24)	d/debit	£ 4.17	£ 0.83	£	5.00
E.ON Next (pavilion electricity 16/10/24)	d/debit	£ 45.99	£ 2.30	£	48.29
OneCom Ltd (Telephone/Broadband 30/09/24)	d/debit	£ 90.82	£ 18.16		108.98
Pullins Bannocks (outstanding balance for headstone reinstatement 30/10/24)	241022	£ 325.84	£ 65.17		391.01
Waterplus (Water at Pavilion from 15 July 2024 to 15 October 2024)	241021	£ 158.98	£ -		158.98
Unity Bank (Service Charge 31/10/24)	241019	£ 8.10			8.10
	<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>£ 1,073.90</b>	<b>£ 86.46</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>1,160.36</b>
<i>Accounts for payment on 4 November 2024</i>					
Salaries	241101	£ 2,171.84	£ -	£	2,171.84
HMRC (PAYE)	241102	£ 644.32	£ -	£	644.32
WCC Pension Fund	241103	£ 644.88	£ -	£	644.88
Black Sheep Services (Repairs to fencing)	241104	£ 483.88	£ 96.77	£	580.65
Claranet (Corporate Domain Registration (November))	241105	£ 5.20	£ 1.04	£	6.24
Expenses K Stevens (Mobile Sim, Wooden Crosses, Water butt base, Hook, Envelopes )	241106	£ 174.64		£	174.64
Expenses Cllr N Thomas (Polyfiller )	241107	£ 4.99		£	4.99
Expenses Mrs Waterman (Compost, plants & bulbs for village planters)	241108	£ 126.90		£	126.90
Geosphere Ltd (Parish Online Mapping October 24 to October 25)	241109	£ 80.00	£ 16.00	£	96.00
Play Safety (Annual Inspections Playarea, hardcourts & playing field)	241110	£ 270.00	£ 54.00	£	324.00
PWC (Bus Shelter Cleaning - Invoice 221)	241111	£ 45.00		£	45.00
Thomas Fox Landscaping (Mowing/Strimming/hedgecutting)	241112	£ 1,843.83	£ 368.76	£	2,212.59
	<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>£ 6,415.48</b>	<b>£ 536.57</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>7,032.05</b>
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£ 7,489.38</b>	<b>£ 623.03</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>8,192.41</b>