

Chairman Cllr. Harvey Neve

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

Present: Cllr. H. Neve, (Chair), Cllr. J. Brownlee, Cllr. M. MacCallam, Cllr. P. Maddison
Green, Cllr. P. Musgrove Cllr. G. Turner

A. Hall (Parish Clerk)

ITEM NO.	MINUTES	ACTION
1.9/23	Notice of Meeting - it was moved by Cllr. H. Neve to open the meeting at 7.00pm	
2.9/23	Apologies: Cllr. J. Burrows (Work), Cllr. V. Cooke (Holiday), Cllr. G. Jacobs (Attending an event)	
3.9/23	Declarations of Interest - for the item 9.9/23 b) ii) - Cllr Brownlee has declared an interest regarding the Village Hall.	
4.9/23	Minutes - The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 12 th July 2023 were accepted. Resolved: to accept and approve the minutes. Items raised from the minutes: 1. Speed strips had been installed but not in the places expected. Members awaited the outcome of these speed strips.	
5.9/23	Public Participation No members of the public were in attendance. However, a couple of issues had been given to Members to raise at the meeting: 1. Concern about the trees on Bank Top and the problems being caused to residents. As these trees are in a conservation area we should discuss any work with DCC, although there is no TPO on the trees. Advice to be sought from Tree Officer at DCC. 2. There is an issue on The Green relating to bushes scratching cars, overgrown and large trees. We are aware that discussions have taken place with DCC and Livin regarding these issues and that some work is going to happen. This is to be monitored. 3. State of paths in the area - cracked paths and untidy. The Clerk requested that Members take photographs of the issues and give specific location details so that these can be reported to DCC. Alternatively Members can report these directly to DCC through DoltOnline themselves.	AH
6.9/23	County Councillor's Report Cllr. Peeke was unable to attend the meeting.	
7.9/23	Outdoor Activities a) The Park Regeneration i) Pre-start meeting held on 12/9/2023, attended by Clerk and Cllr Brownlee, with site manager from H&S Installations and Paul Taylor from Kompan. All documentation and H&S information expected by the end of the week. This will be circulated to Members when received. Start date of 2/10/2023 agreed.	

	<p>ii) Extra funding had been secured from County Durham Foundation for £5,000.</p> <p>iii) There is an option for an improved wet pour for the new areas, which was funding dependent. Members felt this was important and should be agreed in principle to approve. Resolved: Approve improved option for wet pour</p> <p>b) Skill Mill - Members were informed that our initial application to the AAP for £7,740 (plus £500 from Parish Council) had been approved and we can now move forward to submit a full application by 20 Oct 2023.</p> <p>c) Environment Contract - Clerk arranging to meet with Scott (SE Landscaping) to clarify all of the work that his does. Plan from these discussions to be brought to the Council. Note to be made of the piece of land next to the school house, opposite the village hall.</p> <p>d) Events</p> <p>i) Issue raised regarding Fireworks Display - the post office will not be able to sell the firework tickets this year due to the handover to the new owners. Options were discussed but it was agreed that it could be pay on the gate on the night. Members were given options of the fairground rides. The Merry Tipple had been approved for the night. Resolved - to confirm the Carousel and Bungee rides for firework night and confirm The Merry Tipple.</p> <p>ii) Michaelmas Fair - confirmed that all service providers had been confirmed and risk assessments / PL Insurance had been obtained. Cllr Neve to post information regarding the event through social media. Posters were provided to be delivered to all homes in Bishop Middleham and Mainsforth. It was felt that children to be given sweets when they attend, Clerk to purchase. Safety Plan and all risk assessments and providers documents to be passed to Cllr Neve (lead on the day) prior to the event. PA system to be set up. 1pm start Resolved - to invite Ferryhill Town Band if they wish to perform at the event.</p>	<p>AH</p> <p>AH</p> <p>AH</p> <p>AH</p> <p>AH</p>
8.9/23	<p>Health and Safety - one issue raised regarding 3 boards being missing from the bridge on the 3 mile walk. Clerk to contact SE Landscaping for a cost to repair.</p>	<p>AH</p>
9.9/23	<p>Finance</p> <p>a) Payments and receipts had been circulated to all Members prior to the meeting - no issues were raised.</p> <p>b) Members were also updated on the new bank account - following further issues with Barclays bank, an application had been submitted to Unity.</p> <p>c) Leases</p> <p>i) Savills are arranging for an arboriculturist to carry out an assessment of the tree on the bank side behind the 2 houses. Members felt once this situation had been resolved to start discussions regarding the way forward with the lease or a maintenance agreement with Savills for the grass cutting and bed maintenance.</p> <p>ii) DCC lease for land behind Village Hall - information had been shared through Cllr Brownlee regarding the Village Hall taking over the lease. Cllr Brownlee confirmed the Village Hall committee did not wish to move forward with this process.</p>	<p>AH</p> <p>AH</p>

	<p>Members felt it was important this area needed renovated and should be looked at in the future.</p> <p>Resolved: to leave the area as it is for the moment, the Parish Council would keep the lease going and look to develop the land next year.</p> <p>iii) Cllr Maddison Green had been appointed the Social Enterprise Business Advisor for County Durham for BIC (The North East Business and Innovation Centre), based in Sunderland. The BIC has office / working space based over the area for small businesses to utilise. The BIC helps anyone with a business idea to move forward. Cllr Maddison Green can help to take this forward.</p> <p>Resolved: information to be forwarded to all Members regarding this project to pass on and promote.</p>	AH
10.9/23	<p>Policies</p> <p>Members had been sent the Health and Safety Policy to read before the meeting. No issues were raised.</p> <p>Resolved: To approve and adopt the Health and Safety Policy.</p>	
11.9/23	<p>Changing the name of the Parish Council - A response had been received from Democratic Services regarding the change of name. To give Durham County Council grounds to approve, it is advised to consult with groups, Councillors, our local MP to gather support. It was discussed that information could be put out on social media, maybe carry out a poll on facebook, information at Michaelmas Fair. Once received a report can be produced and sent to Durham County Council. The Clerk and Chair to look at the wording for the consultation. It was felt important to ask a previous chair of the Parish Council for their opinion on this. Contact details to be forwarded to the Clerk.</p>	AH
12.9/23	<p>Member Sharing</p> <p><u>Cllr Musgrove</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Put forward an idea to utilise old red phone boxes in both Mainsforth and Bishop Middleham and use as a lending library. To be looked at and brought to a future meeting. Just after the motorway bridge, on low road, dirt had been piled up blocking the PROW. Members advised to get photographs and report to DCC and/or pass to the Clerk. <p><u>Cllr Maddison Green</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bus shelters - could these be used for lending library, are could they be spruced up as they are not pleasant. To bring to future meeting. 	
13.9/23	<p>Next Meeting:</p> <p>Wednesday 11th October 2023 at 7pm</p>	

The meeting closed 9pm

Signed: - Chair.

Date: 11th October 2023