

MINUTES
OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT 8PM TUESDAY 28 MAY 2024
AT BISHOPSTEIGNTON COMMUNITY CENTRE, SHUTE HILL



2405.01 MEETING GOVERNANCE

.01 **Attendance:** Cllr. H. Merritt (Chair) Cllr. R. Gill Cllr. W. Vooght
Cllr. R. Gateshill Cllr. J. Grimble Cllr. J. Head
Cllr. D. Robbins Cllr. A. Keohane Cllr. J. Hooper (8/11)
Clerk: Mrs. K. Ford, District Cllr. MacGregor, County Cllr. Peart.
1 members of the public.

Apologies: Cllrs. E. Harris, Cllr. K. Benham (2/10). PCSO S. Bunce & PC. B. Chadwick.

.02 **Declaration of Interests:** None declared.

.03 **Order of Business:** No changes required.

.04 **Ratification of Minutes:** Draft minutes of the full Parish Council meeting held at Bishopsteignton Community Centre on 15.04.24, in Luton, were considered. It was proposed and seconded that these be approved as a true and correct record. Agreed unanimously therefore **resolved to approve** and to be signed by the Chair.

2405.02 OFFICIAL REPORTS

.01 **Police Report:** No report had been provided. No further questions were raised for officers. Cllr. Gill reported that PCSO. Bunce is regularly patrolling the Lawns and MUGA, known recently for mild anti-social behaviour, there have been no recent incident to report.

.02 **District Councillors Report:** Cllr. MacGregor provided the following report. No further comments or questions were raised.

1. The council agreed to a 'spend to save' structure change in the management of the district. Staffing losses and retirements over the last 4-5 years have left the management structure unwieldy and lopsided. There will be a change from the current reporting structure that will see the senior leadership team give more responsibility to heads of department, with 12 heads of department reporting into the 3 Senior Leadership Team members. These will reduce the direct reporting, speed up processes and improve service provision. Some roles will be promotions from within and some will be new faces brought in from outside the council. The first step on the process was approval of the structure and financing, the next is staff consultation.
2. Cllr Chris Clarence has stepped down from chair of the council after a very positive year.
3. There is a new Beach Management Plan underway which will be looking at current beach resilience and future developments that might be needed in light of climate change. I raised this as a matter of concern as there appears to be little engagement with stakeholders.
4. Teignbridge is undertaking a review of polling places and stations across the district which takes account of changes in population, development etc both in progress and planned ahead. I suspect it will have a limited impact on Bishopsteignton.
5. There are changes to postal voting. Any form handed in at Forde House or to a polling station must be handed in, in person and a form completed. Not required for a postal vote returned via the post. A maximum 6 postal votes can be handed in by one person.
6. The planning team is to be split into two separate areas with designated teams for each area. (See enclosed picture).

DATED:

CHAIRMAN:

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7. RSPB are potentially looking at installing a path at the Ashmill Farm land, to reduce the disruption to protected species. Discussions with TDC will be over linking the path to Broadmeadow playing fields for public access. Still in very early stages.
8. The Lido is due to open over the weekend. Repairs and preparation have been carried out.
9. The next six weeks are going to be hectic following the announcement of a General Election on Wednesday 22nd May for 4th July. Council work will continue.
10. Just to remind everyone that hasn't already applied, the Councillor Community fund has been refreshed and some already allocated. If you want funds please place as soon as possible.

.03 **County Councillors Report:** Cllr. Peart provided the following report. No further comments or questions were raised.

Eco- schemes have twin aims in fight against global warming.

The Tackling Climate Change- Flood Prevention Project { TCC }, pioneered by Climate Vision and involving residents, farmers, businesses, and government authorities has reached a significant milestone combining climate resilience with sustainable agriculture.

Luci Isaacson, director of Climate Vision, said Soil testing has revealed this innovative trial project has sequestered 17.84 tonnes of carbon in one year [13%] a significant leap from the [0.5%] increase that was expected in year one, providing ground – breaking insights into a net zero future, while tackling flooding, soil health and sustainable farming, practices.

The Government recognise how private investment can help fund a range of what is known as ecosystem services such as flood management and providing for bees – here we can provide evidence and data to support that pathway, while inspiring local firms to actively work on reducing their environmental footprint.

Tregoad Holiday Park, near Looe, invested £2,500 to sow herbal ley seeds at Higher Kestle Farm, St Ewe, which germinated in the drought of 2022. Herbal ley with its deep roots, brings numerous benefits – mitigating flooding by holding rainfall in its growth while enhancing soil and animal health.

The project has been supported by the UK Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. With climate change forecast to bring warmer, wetter, winters, along with an increased risk of localised intense summer rainfall, this project aims to demonstrate how a whole catchment-based approach can support community resilience.

Farmers are already committed to supporting the scheme to help ensure land management practices reduce run- off.

2405.03 FINANCE

.01 **Payments:** It was proposed and seconded, agreed unanimously, and therefore RESOLVED that payments transacted by the clerk across the period 10.04.24 to 22.05.24, be approved retrospectively.

.02 **Financial Statement:**

- a. A virement report for 01.04.24 which had been circulated to members prior to the meeting was considered.
- b. A financial statement for the period ending 30.04.24 was NOTED by members and signed by the Chair. Clerk to publish these on the BPC website.

.03 **Annual Governance & Accountability Return:**

- a. Internal Audit, page 3: This was NOTED with no queries.
- b. Accounting Statement for 2023-24 (Section 2, page 5): It was proposed and seconded that this be approved as a true and correct record and it be signed by the chair and submitted to the external auditor, PKF Littlejohn LLP. Unanimously agreed therefore RESOLVED.

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- .04 **BPC Grant:** Members reviewed an application for funds for Bishopsteignton Healthy Living Group, to provide a thank you event for volunteers. Clerk instructed to transfer grant as awarded.

2405.04 COUNCIL STRATEGY & GOVERNANCE

- .01 **Policy Review:** The following policies were reviewed by the council.
- a. BPC Publication Scheme (P020) – existing policy, updated.
 - b. Risk Assessment Schedule (P.014) – revised schedule, no updates required.
- Several amendments on both policies were discussed and agreed. It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED to adopt both policies with immediate effect. The Clerk to upload to the website.

2405.05 MEMBERS REPORTS

- .01 No written reports were provided by members.
- .02 Cllr. Keohane gave a verbal report having recently attended a Bishopsteignton Twinning event, held during the visit of friends from La Roche Maurice, France. IT was a successful event and BPC were thanked for the grant awarded in April.
- 03 Cllr. Merritt informed members he will be attending one of the face-to-face Teignbridge Town & Parish Planning Forum sessions on offer in June. Another member is welcome to attend. To be discussed further by the BPC Planning committee at its meeting to be held 03.06.24.

2405.06 CLERKS REPORT: The report of all ongoing BPC business and activity was provided to members and the public prior to this meeting. The following further matters were raised by the clerk:

- .01 **Bishops Avenue Railings Insurance Claim:** Following ongoing queries & conversation with the claim handlers the claim has been approved. Awaiting agreed payout of £2.700. The Asset Management Committee can now consider next steps to replace the damaged railings, to be discussed at its meeting to be held 10.06.24.
- .02 **D-Day 80th Anniversary:** The clerk reported a team of volunteers have come forward and wish to light the beacon inline with the national process. Consultation with landowners, a risk assessment and other organisation is ongoing to ensure this can happen. Members expressed their thanks on behalf of the community.
- .03 **BPC Representative at the Local Plan Review Hearing:** Members were reminded of the upcoming review hearing with HM Planning Inspectorate appointed independent examiner and that BPC can send a representative to the hearing. To be considered further by the BPC Planning Committee at its meeting to be held 03.06.24.

2405.07 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Mrs. Cawthraw stressed further concerns over the lack of action from Teignbridge District Council regarding the amendment or removal of the covenant for building on The Lawns. A meeting had been arranged with MP. Anne-Marie Morris, for the clerk to attend also, however this is now cancelled due to general election purdah. Mrs. Cawthraw has been promised by Cllr. Wrigley that the matter can be resolved but he was not prepared to put this in writing.

THE CHAIR CLOSED THE MEETING AT 21.13