

**MINUTES OF BISHOP'S HULL ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD AT THE
BISHOPS HULL HUB, BISHOP'S HULL,
ON THURSDAY 4th APRIL, 2024**

Seventeen members of the public attended. Mr Taylor, Chairman of the Parish Council, was in the Chair and Helen McGladdery – PC Clerk took the minutes

Meeting start ; 7.10pm

1. Apologies for absence

Amanda Gallacher

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 6th April 2023 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

3. To receive the Police Report

PCSO Lyndsay Smith was present and gave a verbal report. She advised that the police newsletter would now cover the whole of Taunton rather than just Bishops Hull. Crime stats for Bishops Hull remain low and is a very safe place. She advised of the illegal encampment of travellers at Silk Mills and advised legal paperwork has been served for them to leave. She is working with Bishops Hull Primary school mini police and have carried out some speed watch in the area. She advised of new initiative that can be found on the Police website.

4. To receive presentation on Community Resilience and Emergency Planning

Nicola Dawson – Somerset Council gave a verbal presentation on emergency planning and preparedness. She advised the need of a local plan to compliment the work that all other agencies carry out. It is important to highlight the risks and hazards in the Parish, register a safe place and co-ordinate a group of volunteers to help in an emergency. She advised that small grants are available for resources from an emergency box, sand bags or a shed to store supplies. She advised that the Clerk has already started work on a draft plan.

- Full presentation can be found at www.bishopshull.org.uk

5. To receive presentation on the proposed Sensory Trail

David Gurr gave a presentation of the Sensory trail plans. A sensory trail is all about stimulating and engaging the five basic senses of sight, smell, sound, touch and taste. The trail will also involve the installation of a ramp and steps from the play park down to the pavilion and Hub, the accessible ramp will have an incline very similar to the path from Bishop's Hull Hill to the front of The Hub.

- Full presentation can be found at www.bishopshull.org.uk

6. To receive the report from the Bishops Hull Flower Show

David Gurr gave a presentation detailing the flower show event. Last year it was held on a Sunday for the first time and was very successful. Tone Big band played at the event and was very well welcomed by attendees. He thanked Nancy and Josie for the baking and thanked Dilys who has now stood down after volunteering for many years. The significant change is that now the Flower Show has become part of the HUB. This year's flower show will be on Sunday 11th August at the Hub.

- Full presentation can be found at www.bishopshull.org.uk

7. To receive report from Netherclay Community Woodland

David Gurr gave a presentation on the work of the Friends of Netherclay. The woodland was planted in 2003 to forestry commission standard with over 7000 trees and shrubs planted it was owned at the time by Taunton Deane Borough Council. The friend's group was formed in 2018 and a Woodland management plan was implemented. Regular volunteers meet to carry out work at the Woodland along with the following groups carrying out some work: Taunton Green Parents (TGP) Cannington College Students & Tutors, SCAT – Bridgwater & Taunton College Bishops Hull Primary School and Family volunteers e.g. bulb planting Input is received from David Northcote-Wright of Somerset Wildlife Trust

- Full presentation can be found at www.bishopshull.org.uk

8. To receive the report from St Peter & St Pauls Church

Rev Phil Hughes gave a verbal presentation. He advised that the Church was always open to all resident in the Parish. Sunday and Wednesday services are well attended and these are also live streamed via YouTube, for residents who are unable to attend in person. They also carry out services in all the care homes in Bishops Hull, as well as regular links with the primary school. Over the winter months the church has also been registered as a warm space and the new "bridge" facility offers coffee mornings once a month.

9. To receive report from Bishops Hull Hub

Jon Lee Chairman gave an overview of the last year. The Hub has remained popular and is very well booked with regular events and one off events at the weekends. They have a team of over 40 volunteers involved with the running of the HUB, for which he gave his thanks. They hold monthly cafes, a youth club, quiz nights and run the 100 club, with prizes every month. They are in a sound financial position, but are cautious about spending to ensure the future sustainability. They currently have a vacancy for a voluntary booking's secretary.

10. To receive report from Bishops Hull Village Hall & Playing Fields Trust

Paul Bulbeck – Chair of the Trust was present and gave a verbal report. He explained the history behind the Trust, explaining it began over 60 years ago and the volunteers' raised funds and contributed to the building of the school halls, to enable community use. The trust has a 99 year lease with Somerset Council and are responsible for the playing fields. When the HUB was built the Trust noticed a drop in hall bookings and along with enforced restrictions on use of the school hall in January 2024 the Trust decided to withdraw from the School, Somerset Council were not in a position to financially compensate the Trust so it was agreed instead that the Freehold of the playing field would transfer to the Trust from Somerset Council. He advised the Parish Council had previously agreed to take on the play park (if certain conditions were met) and would lease the land for the sensory trail. There is now a variation to this that will be discussed at the Parish Council meeting. He confirmed that the Trust does not have any plans to merge with the HUB, and he has no intention of resigning as Chairman.

11. To receive report from the Frank Bond Trust

Carolyn Bulbeck – Chair of FBC was present and gave a verbal report. She advised that the FBC is thriving, membership has increased and it is open every week day from 9-5. They provide activities for the over 50's to try and combat loneliness and encourage socialisation. The monthly lunch club and weekly cafes are open to non-members. They have held extra events over the last year to include the Kings Coronation big lunch and Easter bingo. They always aim for income and expenditure to match and their finances are in a sound position.

12. To receive report from Somerset Councillors Ellis and Hunt

Cllr Hunt gave a verbal report and followed up on Carolyns report that the FBC is a great place for residents to enjoy activities. Further to the PCSO report he expressed his concern over the repeat illegal encampments at Silk Mills Park and Ride and advised he did meet with Somerset Council representatives to look at preventative measures, as every time it costs between £8,000-£12,000 to clear up and serve legal paperwork/security etc. He mentioned Laura and Lin Popes Yarn bomb at the post office and how well it had been received. He gave his thanks to the Parish Council Chairman and all local volunteers.

Cllr Ellis gave a verbal report detailing the Somerset Council poor financial position due to the increased costs of adult social care and gave an example of previously weekly cost of £500 per week which now costs £900 per week yet the support from central government hasn't increase at the same percentage. This financial year they were able to set a balanced budget by making cuts/selling assets and making redundancies. However if a balanced budget can not be made for the following year then a s144 notice would be served and central government would take control. She advised that Somerset now has 25 electric busses, funded by grants and the bus company. The Digital Innovation centre at Firepool will open in May and French Weir is now on the list to be considered for bathing water status.

13. To receive the Parish Council Chairman's Report

The Chairman gave a verbal report and thanked everyone for attending and all those who gave presentations. He gave thanks to all the organisations in the Parish, the Clerk and Councillors. He was pleased that all the organisations are working together, but there is still a need for volunteers, including two vacancies on the Parish Council. He thanked Tom and his team at the local stores for their hard work and friendly and welcoming, excellent customer service in the Parish. He talked about the positive impact devolution will have on the village as the PC take control of providing some services to the residents. He encouraged residents to make contact if they had any concerns or problems. He advised that the PC finances are in a sound position and Bishops Hull is a place to be proud of.

14. HAVE YOUR SAY

No items raised.

Meeting closed at 8.55pm

Mr Tony Taylor
Chairman