

Whitchurch Parish Council

Clerk to the Council – Mr. Tony Skeggs

Minutes of the Meeting of Whitchurch Parish Council held at the St Johns Hall

On Monday 8th July 2024 at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllrs C Lincoln (Chair), S Ford, M Perry, and C Thomas.

Public Attendance: 3 members of the public, plus Buckinghamshire Council Cllrs A Bond & D Blamires.

Clerk: A Skeggs

Absent: None

24/78	<p>Apologies for Absence</p> <p>Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Alderman, R Grimes, and M Palin.</p>
	<p>Open Forum for Residents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A resident raised the issue of stones on the pavement outside Stone House, there was overhanging foliage at the bottom of the Sandpath and there was a blocked drain in Market Hill opposite Quaker Barn.• A resident congratulated the Parish Council on how tidy the village was looking.• No response had been received from the school regarding a grant application. It was suggested that the PTA could approach the Community Board.• Cllr Bond reported that the e-scooter trial had been suspended for July. The 2024 Community Board awards had just opened. There were three categories – Young Person, Group and Individual. Nominations can be by anyone, Parish Council, residents or community groups. In response to an earlier enquiry by the Chair, it was reported that the High Street resurfacing was completed on a like for like basis and no additional speed control measures had been requested.
24/79	<p>Members' Interests: Members were invited to declare disclosable pecuniary interests and other interests in items on the agenda as required by the Whitchurch Parish Council Code of Conduct for Members and by the Localism Act 2011.</p> <p>No new declarations raised.</p>
24/80	<p>Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on the 10th June 2024, were approved, and signed by the Chair.</p>
24/81	<p>Neighbourhood Plan</p> <p>The referendum had produced a result of 94% in favour of the Plan (252 votes in favour with 17 against). This meant that the Plan now would be used for all planning applications to ensure regulatory compliance. The Parish Council should reference the Plan when commenting on applications. There were “softer” items in the Plan that now needed to be considered as well as thinking of the next revision. The Steering Group would continue to engage with developers whilst reviewing how the Group would operate in the future. The Chair, on behalf of the Parish Council, expressed huge thanks to Keith Armour for all the work he had put in to achieve the Plan for the village.</p>

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24/82	<p>Restoration of the Recreation Ground</p> <p>Cllr Thomas reported on the meeting he had had with Bond Contracting on a solution for the recreation ground. The proposal was to scrape off the topsoil, use this to fill the ruts and then lay hard standing from the entrance. It was proposed by Cllr Thomas, seconded by Cllr Lincoln, to accept the quote of £1,200 plus VAT. This was unanimously AGREED.</p>
24/83	<p>Speed Measures</p> <p>a) After consideration it proposed by Cllr Lincoln, seconded by Cllr Thomas, to purchase a solar powered SID up to a value of £4,000 for the Whitchurch Hill / Bushmead junction. This was unanimously AGREED.</p> <p>b) Cllr Perry updated the meeting with the Speedwatch project. Four councillors were trained with one resident. Two other residents had yet to take the on-line training. The speed gun needed to be registered with the police, but it was hoped to hold the first roadside session during the summer.</p>
24/84	<p>Planters</p> <p>The idea of planters was considered a good idea, but it was decided that before any were purchased, a volunteer(s) was needed to do the watering, weeding and planting. It was AGREED to advertise in the village magazine and on the website.</p>
24/85	<p>Restoration of the School Bell Project</p> <p>In the absence of Cllr Alderman the Chair reported that the wood for the cote had been delivered to the carpenter. Both the cote and refurbished bell should be ready for installation in August. The fundraising was not going so well, with £1,400 raised to date.</p>
24/86	<p>Rural Services Network Group</p> <p>The Clerk had contacted Pitstone PC and Chinnor PC and had received feedback from both. It seems that once you become a member 12 months' notice is required to cancel your membership and the other factor seems to be the volume of emails that are sent to councillors. Both Councils have yet to see any tangible benefits. After consideration it was AGREED not to join the Rural Services Network Group.</p>
24/87	<p>Finance</p> <p>a) After consideration the quote of £1,605 to cut the two wildflower meadow areas was AGREED.</p> <p>b) The list of payments for July were APPROVED, details at the end of the minutes.</p> <p>c) The combined bank account position at the 30th June was NOTED.</p>
24/88	<p>Planning – The following applications were considered by the meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 24/01676/CPE – Flat 2 Grooms Cottage, Barrettstown Stud, Oving Road – <i>Certificate of lawfulness for existing 2 flats</i>. There was little information to enable an informed decision, so it was AGREED to OBJECT to the Certificate request as the dwelling was outside the settlement boundary as detailed in the Plan.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 24/01336/APP – 49 Ashgrove Gardens – <i>Erection of First Floor Extension and Retrospective Application for Raising the Roof Height of Two Storey Side Extension.</i> There seemed to be no difference between the two applications. The Clerk was to contact Development Control to establish the changes. <i>Since the meeting the Clerk had been informed that application 24/01336 was the amended application when compared to the original application 22/1809 so no further action was required from the Parish Council as it had already commented.</i>
24/89	<p>Points of Interest –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Ford along with Cllr Bond are to have a meeting with the Head of Housing at Buckinghamshire Council over an exchange request in Newman Close and the s.106 agreement in general.
24/90	<p>Date and Time of Next Meeting: The next meeting would be on Monday 2nd September 2024 starting @ 7.30pm with the October meeting being on the 7th October.</p>

The meeting closed at 8.50 pm.

Chair's Signature Date.....

Actions List

Minute	Action Required	Action By	Progress
23/20	Investigate Christmas lights in the High Street.	Clerk	In Progress
23/90	Order three benches with Kings Coronation emblem.	Clerk	In Progress
24/71	Contact Caloo regarding gym equipment.	Clerk	Outstanding
24/72	Cllr Alderman to contact school re cote location.	Cllr Alderman	Completed
24/83a	Purchase solar powered SID	Clerk	

BANK RECONCILIATION

Reconciled Bank Balance At	Account	Bank Balance	Total
30 th June 2024	Current Account	£11,642.26	
30 th June 2024	Deposit Account	£57,596.08	
30 th June 2024	Investment Account	£30,403.89	£99,642.23

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INCOME AND EXPENDITURE LISTING

Income	£
Lloyds Bank – Interest in June.	£65.06
Lloyds Bank – Six Monthly Interest from Fixed Term Deposit.	£533.53
Salvation Army – Clothes Bank for May.	£16.77
TOTAL INCOME SINCE THE LAST MEETING IN JUNE	£ 615.36

Expenditure	Payment	£
Invoices to be approved at Parish Council meeting.		
Linnell Brothers Ltd ⁽²⁶⁾ – Wood for School Bell Cote.	FPO	£1,037.55
Buckland Landscapes ⁽²⁷⁾ – June Verges / Recreation Ground.	FPO	£846.81
Whitchurch PCC ⁽²⁸⁾ – Hall Hire for July 2024 PC Meeting.	FPO	£25.00
Clerk ⁽²⁹⁾ - Salary and Expenses for July 2024.	FPO	£539.10
Playground Facilities Ltd ⁽³⁰⁾ – Deposit for Play Equipment.	FPO	£5,916.24
TOTAL OF PAYMENTS FOR APPROVAL		£8,364.70
Direct Debits		
SSE Swalec ^(DD04) - Street Lighting for May.	DD4	£99.31
TOTAL OF DD PAYMENTS FOR NOTING SINCE THE JUNE MEETING		£99.31
For Information - Reclaimable Vat from 1 April for 2024/25		£3,296.78

FIXMYSTREET.COM

This is the website that Buckinghamshire Council recommends you use to report problems, which could be blocked road drains, potholes, broken pavements, signage problems, overgrown foliage etc.

Here is the link <https://fixmystreet.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/>

If you do need to report anything, then please put as much detail as possible and always upload some photographs. Reports with photographs will get resolved quicker than ones without.