

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 11th September 2023 at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllrs M Perry (Chair), P Alderman, S Ford, and M Palin.

Public Attendance: Six members of the public, and Buckinghamshire Council Cllrs Bond and Blamires.

Clerk: A Skeggs

Absent: None

23/99	<p>Apologies for Absence</p> <p>Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs C Lincoln, V James-Friday and C Thomas. BC Cllr Cooper also gave his apologies.</p>
	<p>Open Forum for Residents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A resident reported that there were no lights in the bollards on the traffic islands in the High Street. Cllr Bond volunteered to investigate this. <i>It appears that they now use reflective strips rather than bulbs.</i>• A resident had asked why there was no speed camera on the High Street whilst there was one on the Bushmead Road. The clerk was to reply.• The defibrillator for the Surgery was due to be installed this weekend.• There were issues with the grass cutting, with missed cuts, and no weeding. This would be addressed when the Chair met with Buckland Landscapes.• Residents were concerned about the short consultation period for the FP47 diversion.• The applicant for the FP47 addressed the meeting about perceived inaccuracies, the lack of engagement with the Parish Council and the reasoning behind the diversion application. He reported that he had removed the bathroom window privacy element.• Cllr Bond requested an invite to the defibrillator publicity photograph. Cllr Blamires had produced a report to improve the access for parents to advice about SEN provision.
23/100	<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>
23/101	<p>Approval of Minutes:</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on the 10th July 2023, were approved, and signed by the Chair.</p>
23/102	<p>Kings Coronation Benches</p> <p>a) After consideration it was proposed by Cllr Palin, seconded by Cllr Ford that the quote of £660 plus parts to renovate the three metal benches from G Millard be accepted. This was unanimously AGREED.</p> <p>b) There had been a request from a resident to re-cycle the three benches that were being replaced. It was AGREED to see how easily they came out of the ground. The Parish</p>

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	<p>Council would need to know where the benches were being re-cycled and had to be at nil cost.</p> <p>c) It was AGREED to make an application to the Community Board. Clerk to arrange.</p>
23/103	<p>Christmas Lights</p> <p>Two quotes had been received to install Christmas lights on the streetlights along the High Street. However, a problem had arisen over ownership of the light columns. It was AGREED that further work was required and that it was best to concentrate on providing the lights in 2024. An alternative was to provide a Christmas tree on the High Street / Oving Road junction. Buckinghamshire Council Cllr Blamires would get details of who provided the tree in Winslow Market Square.</p>
23/104	<p>Best Kept Village Competition</p> <p>The Chair reported that the Parish Council had been awarded a “Certificate of Merit” after scoring 196 out of 200. She thanked everyone keeping Whitchurch pretty and tidy. It was suggested that more floral displays were key. Despite the high score the group winners were Castlethorpe.</p>
23/105	<p>Recreation Ground Improvements</p> <p>Several options had been put forward for new / improved equipment in the recreation ground. It had been suggested that rather than the Parish Council making the decision that the residents be asked their views. After consideration it was AGREED that a Task and Finish Group be created consisting of two councillors, adults and teenagers. Cllr Ford, Alderman and Palin volunteered to be part of the group.</p>
23/106	<p>Finance</p> <p>a) The list of payments for August and September were APPROVED, details at the end of the minutes.</p> <p>b) The combined bank account position at the 31st August was NOTED.</p> <p>c) During the recess for health and safety reasons it was necessary to replace a street light column in Market Hill at a cost of £4,188 (inc. VAT). The meeting AGREED to approve the cost of the installation.</p> <p>d) It was NOTED that the annual insurance premium had been paid, cost of £1,133.</p>
23/107	<p>Neighbourhood Plan</p> <p>The Chair gave an update on the Plan. Buckinghamshire Council had initiated Reg.16 and so the 28th of September was the last chance to make comments. All the documents were on the Parish Council website. Any responses would be forwarded to the independent examiner. The Plan would be tested against the Localism Act and if passed it would go a referendum and just needs a Yes vote to be adopted.</p>
23/108	<p>Planning</p> <p>The following planning applications were considered by the meeting:</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 23/02324/APP – 51B High Street – Demolition Existing Garage. Erection of Additional First and Rear Ground Extensions. No Objections were raised to this application. It was pointed out that any covenants were not a planning consideration.
23/109	<p>Points of Interest</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The FP47 redirection notice had been posted. Consultation ends 13th of September. • The Chair reported on a Code of Conduct, Civility and Respect seminar that she and Cllrs Ford and Plain had attended. It covered how complaints were handled, misuse of position, social media and to deal with these issues. There was a Civility and Respect Pledge that Councils could sign up to. The Clerk would bring details to the next meeting.
23/110	<p>Date and Time of Next Meeting: The next meeting would be on Monday 9th October 2023 starting @ 7.30pm.</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	On Hold
23/90	Order three benches with Kings Coronation emblem.	Clerk	In Progress
23/102	Confirm acceptance of quote from G Millard.	Chair	Completed
23/103	Investigate Christmas Tree on the High Street.		In Progress
23/105	Consult of Equipment Options for the Rec. Ground.	Cllr Ford	In Progress

BANK RECONCILIATION

Reconciled Bank Balance At	Account	Bank Balance	Total
31 st August 2023	Current Account	£5,621.46	
31 st August 2023	Playing Field Account	£5.25	
31 st August 2023	Deposit Account	£56,026.71	
31 st August 2023	Investment Account	£30,000.00	£91,653.42

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INCOME AND EXPENDITURE LISTING

Income	£
Lloyds Bank – Interest for July and August.	£81.20
Buckinghamshire Council – Community Board Grant for New Park Signage.	£687.00
Salvation Army – Clothes Bank for June (£8.75) and July (£22.68).	£31.43
TOTAL INCOME SINCE THE LAST MEETING IN JULY	£799.63

Expenditure	Payment	£
Invoices to be approved at Parish Council meeting.		
Cllr C Thomas (29) – Reimbursement of website domain. Paid	FPO	£140.19
First Rescue & Training Supplies (30) – Defibrillators & Boxes. Paid	FPO	£3,252.00
Gallagher Insurance (31) – Annual Insurance. Year 2 of 3. Paid	FPO	£1,133.57
ENC Ltd (32) – New LED Light and Column at 2 Market Hill. Paid	FPO	£4,118.40
Buckland Landscapes (33) – July Verges Grass Cutting. Paid	FPO	£526.82
Clerk (34) - Salary and Expenses for August 2023. Paid	FPO	£475.42
C Lincoln (35) – Reimbursement for Land Registry Fees. Paid	FPO	£12.00
Buckland Landscapes (36) – August Verges Grass Cutting.	FPO	£526.82
Whitchurch PCC (37) – Hall Hire for September 2023 PC Meeting.	FPO	£20.00
BALC (38) – Code of Conduct Seminar – Cllrs Ford and Perry.	FPO	£140.00
BALC (39) – Code of Conduct Seminar – Cllr Palin.	FPO	£70.00
Buckland Landscapes (40) – Mowing of Wildflower Area.	FPO	£1,834.80
Clerk (41) - Salary and Expenses for September 2023.	FPO	£461.92
TOTAL OF PAYMENTS FOR APPROVAL		£12,711.94

Direct Debits	£
SSE Swalec (DD5)- Street Lighting for July.	£122.20
SSE Swalec (DD6)- Street Lighting for August.	£129.74
TOTAL OF DD PAYMENTS FOR NOTING SINCE THE JULY MEETING	£251.94

For Information - Reclaimable Vat to date for 2023/24	£3,289.38
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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.