

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 9th October 2023 at 7.30pm.

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

Public Attendance: 7 members of the public, and Buckinghamshire Council Cllr A Bond.

Clerk: A Skeggs

Absent: None

23/111	<p>Apologies for Absence</p> <p>Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr V James-Friday. BC Cllrs Cooper and Blamires also gave their apologies.</p>
	<p>Open Forum for Residents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A resident from the Oving Road highlighted the difficulty she had exiting her property on foot. There was no footpath so she was forced to walk along the Oving Road amongst the fast-flowing traffic so she can reach the steps on the other side. A solution would be to put a set of steps diagonally opposite her property. Councillors were asked to think of possible options so it could be considered on the November meeting.• A resident made a request on behalf of his children for small, sided goals with nets for the playing field. Cllr Ford replied that it would be considered along with the other suggestions.• A resident asked that a speed indicator camera be placed at the junction of Bushmead Road and the High Street, facing down the Aylesbury Road. Cllr Bond said that there was a socket for a post close to the bus shelter. Parish Council to investigate.• Cllr Bond informed the meeting that resurfacing of the High Street would take place overnight between the 8th and 14th December and the weeding of the central reservations would be carried before then.
23/112	<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>
23/113	<p>Approval of Minutes:</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on the 11th September 2023, were approved, and signed by the Chair.</p>
23/114	<p>2022/23 External Audit Report</p> <p>a) The external audit report for 2022/23 was considered and NOTED that two comments had been made but nothing had been drawn to the Councillors attention. It was unanimously AGREED to accept the external auditor report.</p> <p>b) It was NOTED that the "Notice of the Conclusion of the Audit" had been issued. The Notice was now required to be displayed on the website and noticeboards.</p>

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23/115	<p>Civility and Respect</p> <p>Cllr Perry introduced the item highlighting that Civility and Respect covered everyone from councillors, clerk, employees, residents, and volunteers. Every individual should show respect by listening, paying attention, having consideration of other people's feelings, showing appreciation and being kind. By signing up to the pledge it showed that the Parish Council was committed to treating everyone with Civility and Respect. It was proposed by Cllr Perry, seconded by Cllr Lincoln and unanimously AGREED to sign the pledge.</p>
23/116	<p>Defibrillators</p> <p>Now that the two new defibrillators were in place, training would be arranged for councillors and the public at the Village Hall over the next month. Dates would be advertised in the newsletter and on social media. The Parish Council AGREED to make a donation to the charity running the training.</p>
23/117	<p>Remembrance Day</p> <p>It was proposed, seconded and AGREED to purchase two poppy wreaths for Remembrance Sunday.</p>
23/118	<p>Finance</p> <p>a) The list of payments for October were APPROVED, details at the end of the minutes. b) The combined bank account position at the 30th September was NOTED. c) The monitoring report and the suggested budget movements was NOTED.</p>
23/119	<p>Neighbourhood Plan</p> <p>a) Keith Armour reported that Regulation 16 consultation had ended on the 28th September and no concerns had been raised. A request had been made to Buckinghamshire Council to include the Bushmead Road residents on the Hardwick Parish side to vote in the referendum. This would be decided by the inspector. The independent inspection should start in October and would be a 6–8-week process. b) Buckinghamshire Council had notified all Parishes that 5-year housing supply had dropped to 4.5, which meant more pressure on villages to accept more houses. The new supply figure could favour developers, but Whitchurch was in the best possible place having an emerging Neighbourhood Plan, which offered protection compared to villages with a developing Plan or no Plan at all.</p>
23/120	<p>Planning</p> <p>There were no planning applications for consideration.</p>
23/121	<p>Points of Interest</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The hire rates for the St John's Hall will increase to £12.50 per hour from the 1st January 2024. • Cllr Perry congratulated Cllrs Alderman and Lincoln for completing the Speed Watch training.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A resident was keen to establish a Youth Club in the Village so would be attending the next Parish Council meeting to talk about it.
23/122	Date and Time of Next Meeting: The next meeting would be on Monday 13 th November 2023 starting @ 7.30pm.
	<p>Confidential Item</p> <p>Under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and press be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following item of business as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the confidential nature of the business to be considered.</p>
23/123	<p>Civility and Respect</p> <p>The meeting considered examples on how the Civility and Respect process could have been applied to some recent issues that had arisen in the Village. The use of social media was discussed, and councillors were reminded that there was a distinction between a Council view and a personal view so care should be taken when expressing a view.</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
23/103	Investigate Christmas Tree on the High Street.		On Hold
23/105	Consult of Equipment Options for the Rec. Ground.	Cllr Ford	In Progress
Forum	Investigate MVAS pole and socket on High Street	Cllr PA/CT	In Progress
23/116	Rearrange defibrillator training.	Cllr Perry	Completed

BANK RECONCILIATION

Reconciled Bank Balance At	Account	Bank Balance	Total
30 th September 2023	Current Account	£17,040.72	
30 th September 2023	Playing Field Account	£5.90	
30 th September 2023	Deposit Account	£56,079.05	
30 th September 2023	Investment Account	£30,000.00	£103,125.67

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INCOME AND EXPENDITURE LISTING

Income	£
Lloyds Bank – Interest for September.	£52.99
Buckinghamshire Council – Second Instalment of Annual Precept.	£14,550.00
Salvation Army – Clothes Bank for August.	£27.54
TOTAL INCOME SINCE THE LAST MEETING IN SEPTEMBER	£14,602.99

Expenditure	Payment	£
Invoices to be approved at Parish Council meeting.		
ENC Ltd ⁽⁴²⁾ – Installation of Defibrillator at Surgery.	FPO	£936.00
Buckland Landscapes ⁽⁴³⁾ – September Verges Grass Cutting.	FPO	£526.82
Whitchurch PCC ⁽⁴⁴⁾ – Hall Hire for October 2023 PC Meeting.	FPO	£20.00
Clerk ⁽⁴⁵⁾ - Salary and Expenses for October 2023.	FPO	£520.42
PKF Littlejohn ⁽⁴⁶⁾ – External Audit of 2023 Annual Returns.	FPO	£504.00
TOTAL OF PAYMENTS FOR APPROVAL		£2,507.24

Direct Debits	£
ICO ^(DD7) – Annual Data Protection Licence.	£35.00
SSE Swalec ^(DD8) - Street Lighting for September.	£129.74
TOTAL OF DD PAYMENTS FOR NOTING SINCE THE SEPTEMBER MEETING	£164.74

For Information - Reclaimable Vat to date for 2023/24	£3,989.72
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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.