

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 12 December 2022 at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllrs C Lincoln (Chair), P Alderman, V James-Priday, M Perry, and C Thomas.

Public Attendance: One member of the public, and Buckinghamshire Council Cllrs A Bond and P Cooper.

Clerk: A Skeggs

Absent: None

22/126	<p>Apologies for Absence</p> <p>Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Ford and Palin. Buckinghamshire Council Cllr Blamires gave her apologies.</p>
	<p>Open Forum for Residents</p> <p>No points were raised.</p> <p>Buckinghamshire Council Report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community Board – Funding had been approved for new play area signs.• Road Closure – The A413 between the Dunton and Hoggaston roads would be closed from the 16th to the 23rd December from 10pm to 5am for carriageway repairs.• Sandpath – Still no date for the resurfacing by Buckinghamshire Council.
22/127	<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 declarations were made.</p>
22/128	<p>Approval of Minutes:</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on the 14th November 2022, were approved, and signed as a true record.</p>
22/129	<p>2022/23 November Finance Report</p> <p>The clerk presented the finance report as at the 30th November. It showed that payment for the speed cameras had yet to be made and that the street light expenditure was below budget. The clerk was to circulate the new and old tariffs for comparison. The forecast deficit for the financial year of £1,590 was NOTED.</p>
22/130	<p>2023/24 Draft Budget and Precept</p> <p>a) The clerk presented a draft budget for 2023/24. There were several budget heads that required consideration. The following was AGREED:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• There would be no more Neighbourhood Plan grant but a spend budget of £500 was included.• Budgets for Speed Awareness Initiative, Defibrillator, Website, and the Kings Coronation were included.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The budget of £1,000 for benches was maintained as was the budget for the play equipment. Street light maintenance would continue to rise due to the age of the lights. It was AGREED to look at the cost of converting to LEDs as Oving PC had done recently. <p>b) Buckinghamshire Council had released the tax base figure for 2023/24. The figure of 479.92 was the same as the current year. The clerk had queried this with Buckinghamshire Council. It was AGREED that the level of the precept would be considered at the January meeting.</p>
22/131	<p>Village Eco Group (VEG)</p> <p>The meeting considered the formation of a Village Eco Group. Cllr James-Priddy explained the aims would be to reduce the village carbon footprint, educate residents and protect the environment. Ideas would include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Community Garden and Larder. Car Sharing Scheme / Promote use of public transport. Eco Refill Shop. Green Bus Shelters. <p>The clerk had circulated the Terms of Reference that needed to be applied as it was a working group of the parish council. It was proposed, seconded, and AGREED that the working group be established.</p>
22/132	<p>Recreation Ground</p> <p>a) The clerk reported that Fenland Leisure had been and repaired the zip wire and the wooden runway at a cost of £1,420.50 plus vat.</p> <p>b) The play area resurfacing was being hampered by the weather, first too wet and now too cold. As soon as the weather improves the surface will be laid. A new barrier had been installed between the play area and the car park.</p>
22/133	<p>Trees</p> <p>a) The clerk had collected nine trees donated by HS2 (1 Hornbeam, 4 Alder and 4 Alder Buckthorn). It was AGREED that the hornbeam would go opposite the school, if the soil supported it, and the alder and alder buckthorn would be used to infill areas of the playing field.</p> <p>b) The clerk had received a request to cut back the tree branches in Mount Pleasant. It was AGREED that the clerk contact Buckland Landscapes for the best course of action.</p>
22/134	<p>Website</p> <p>Cllr Thomas gave an update on the website. Initial costs would be £200. It was AGREED that the domain name would be www.whitchurchpc.org. The clerk to supply the mandatory information that must be included.</p>

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22/135	<p>Finance</p> <p>a) The list of payments for December were APPROVED, details at the end of the minutes. b) The combined bank account position at the 30th November was NOTED.</p>
22/136	<p>Appointment of External Auditor 2022/23 to 2026/27</p> <p>It was NOTED that the Smaller Authorities Audit Appointments had appointed PKF Littlejohn as the external auditor for the parish council until 2026/27.</p>
22/137	<p>Planning</p> <p>The following planning applications were considered by the meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 22/03818/APP – Land at Bushmead Road – Erection of New Dwelling. It was AGREED that the parish council would OBJECT to the design of the building as it was out of keeping with other properties in the village, the windows overlooked the neighbours rather than the pond, the parking was obtrusive to the neighbours and there was potentially an access problem for the construction vehicles. It was noted that the landowner was living in a caravan on site. • 22/00265/APP – 12 Oving Road – Erection of Two Storey Rear Extension. The parish council had NO OBJECTIONS to the application. • 22/04100/VRC – 34 Oving Road – Variation of Condition 1. The parish council had NO OBJECTIONS to the change from dormer windows to skylights. It was NOTED that the placement of the chimneys on the other two properties had changed.
22/138	<p>Points of Interest</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Board – Attended by Cllrs Lincoln and James- Friday.
22/139	<p>Date and Time of Next Meeting: The date of the next meeting would be on Monday 9th January 2023 starting @ 7.30pm.</p>

The meeting closed at 8.43 pm.

The chair wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Chair's Signature Date.....

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BANK RECONCILIATION

Reconciled Bank Balance At	Account	Bank Balance	Total
30 th November 2022	Current Account	£8,551.89	
30 th November 2022	Playing Field Account	£4,066.49	
30 th November 2022	Deposit Account	£40,283.85	
30 th November 2022	Investment Account	£30,000.00	£82,902.23

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE LISTING

Income	£
Salvation Army – Clothes Bank for October.	£16.24
TOTAL INCOME SINCE THE LAST MEETING IN NOVEMBER	£16.24

Expenditure		
Invoices to be approved at Parish Council meeting.	Cheque	£
Royal British Legion (72) – Two Poppy Wreaths.	879	£100.00
ENC Ltd (73) – Streetlight Corner Oving Road / North Marston Lane	FPO	£477.60
Buckland Landscapes (74) – November Verges Grass Cutting.	FPO	£526.82
Whitchurch PCC (75) – Hall Hire for December PC Meeting.	FPO	£20.00
Clerk (76) - Salary and Expenses for December 2022.	FPO	£469.07
Fenland Leisure Products (77) – Repairs to Zip Wire & Runway	FPO	£1,704.60
TOTAL OF PAYMENTS FOR APPROVAL		£3,298.09

Direct Debits	£
SSE Swalec (DD3) - Street Lighting for November.	£126.12
TOTAL OF DD PAYMENTS FOR NOTING SINCE THE NOVEMBER MEETING	£126.12

For Information - Reclaimable Vat to date for 2022/23	£963.89
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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, pot holes, broken pavements, signage problems, overgrown foliage etc.

Here is the link www.fixmystreet.com If you do have the 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.