

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 13th November 2023 at 7.30pm.

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

Public Attendance: 6 members of the public, plus Buckinghamshire Council Cllrs A Bond and P Cooper.

Clerk: A Skeggs

Absent: None

23/124	Apologies for Absence Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr C Thomas. BC Cllr Blamires also gave her apologies.
	Open Forum for Residents <ul style="list-style-type: none">• At the last meeting a resident from the Oving Road raised the issues of the Oving Road for pedestrians and asked for an update. Cllr Bond gave the views of Buckinghamshire Council with a possible solution being to make an access on the verge opposite Victoria Street. The Parish Council would investigate to see if it was a viable proposal.• A resident raised the problem of wet / slippery leaves on the Sandpath and Weir Lane. Cllr Bond would contact the LAT to arrange for the leaves to be cleared.• A gate had appeared at the back of Stonehouse which gave access to the orchard area of the playing field. Clerk to write to the resident for an explanation. An access had also appeared at the end of the fields off Newman's Close.• Cllr Bond informed the meeting that the Census information was available. The surfacing of Whitchurch High Street would now take place in January 2024. Cllr Cooper said it was important to get residents participating in the defibrillator training.
23/125	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. No new declarations raised.
23/126	Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on the 9 th October 2023, were approved, and signed by the Chair.
23/127	Oving Road Traffic Issues This was covered during the Open Forum part of the meeting.
23/128	Replacement / Refurbished Benches The latest on the project was that the refurbishment of the metal benches would now take place in the Spring. The existing wooden benches needed to be removed and concrete bases put down. Cllr Palin agreed to ask Mr Millard if he could lay the bases. The new benches needed to be ordered and delivered before the old benches are removed.

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23/129	<p>Street Lighting</p> <p>a) JFC Developments, the developers of Newman’s Close, had asked the Parish Council for its views on the new streetlights. It was AGREED that they should be LEDS and match the existing ones in Newman’s Close.</p> <p>b) Consideration was then given to replacing all streetlights to LED. The clerk had received a quote from one company. It was AGREED to get more information from other companies for comparison.</p>
23/130	<p>Recreation Ground</p> <p>a) The Chair updated the meeting on the proposed landscaping works. Due to the very wet weather the works would be deferred until the Spring.</p> <p>b) Cllr Ford updated the meeting with progress made on gaining ideas for new equipment. More consultation was still required. Cllr Ford was to contact the school and Cllr James-Priday agreed to put a post on Facebook asking for suggestions. The Chair reminded the Council that the football pitch was subject to a covenant which meant it had to be used for football.</p>
23/131	<p>2024/25 Draft Budget</p> <p>The clerk circulated a copy of a draft budget for 2024/25. The Chair asked councillors to think about the areas highlighted and to bring any other projects to the December meeting.</p>
23/132	<p>Finance</p> <p>a) The list of payments for November were APPROVED, details at the end of the minutes.</p> <p>b) The combined bank account position at the 31st October was NOTED.</p> <p>c) It was NOTED that NALC had agreed the 2023/24 pay award for council staff, effective from the 1st April 2023. It was AGREED to implement the pay award.</p>
23/133	<p>Neighbourhood Plan</p> <p>The Chair reported that Regulation 16 consultation had ended on the 28th September. There had been some feedback from Buckinghamshire Council that would be presented to the Inspector. The Inspector had responded with some initial questions which the Parish Council would respond to.</p>
23/134	<p>2024 Meeting Dates</p> <p>It was AGREED to continue with holding meetings on the second Monday of the month, commencing at 7.30pm. There would be no meeting in August.</p>
23/135	<p>Planning</p> <p>The following planning applications were considered by the meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 23/03095/VRC – 46 Oving Road – Removal of Conditions 3 & 4 (Agricultural Occupancy) relating to Application 50/00021/AR (Erection of Agricultural Dwelling). No Objections were raised to this application. • 23/03070/APP – 1a Ashgrove Gardens – Raising of Roof to Create First Floor Living

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	<p>Accommodation and Front & Rear Dormers. Replacement and Repositioning of Porch, Detached Garage and Workshop/Office with Gym. Following a site visit by the Planning Group there were a few concerns:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location of the office/workshop/gym was very close to the neighbouring property. • No dimensions on the plans. • Black weather boarding – Not in keeping with the surrounding properties. • Plans indicated that the new height would be higher than the existing two storey gable. <p>It was AGREED to defer any comments until a second site visit was taken.</p>
23/136	<p>Points of Interest</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Butterfly Survey – In July a butterfly survey had been carried out in the playing field. Nineteen different species were identified including the White Admiral, Gatekeepers, Skippers and Peacocks. • Old School Bell - Cllr Alderman has taken possession of the Old School Bell and was trying to get more information on its history. It needed to be refurbished and a suitable location was required to display it. Cllr Ford agreed to contact the school. • Newman's Close - A one bed flat had was available. The Parish Council had submitted its list of applicants and was now waiting to hear who it had be allocated to. • BALC Conference – Cllr Perry updated the meeting on the Communities and Enrichment Conference which had included various sessions highlighting Summer Activities / Grants / Allotments and Emergency Planning.
23/137	<p>Date and Time of Next Meeting: The next meeting would be on Monday 11th December 2023 starting @ 7.30pm.</p>

The meeting closed at 9.05 pm.

Chair's Signature Date.....

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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
23/105	Consult on Equipment Options for the Rec. Ground.	Cllr Ford	In Progress
Forum	Investigate MVAS pole and socket on High Street	Cllr PA/CT	In Progress

BANK RECONCILIATION

Reconciled Bank Balance At	Account	Bank Balance	Total
31 st October 2023	Current Account	£14,415.44	
10 th November 2023	Playing Field Account	£5.92	
10 th November 2023	Deposit Account	£56,192.64	
31 st October 2023	Investment Account	£30,000.00	£100,614.00

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE LISTING

Income	£
Lloyds Bank – Interest for October and November.	£113.61
Salvation Army – Clothes Bank for September.	£11.70
TOTAL INCOME SINCE THE LAST MEETING IN OCTOBER	£125.31

Expenditure	Payment	£
Invoices to be approved at Parish Council meeting.		
Whitchurch WI ⁽⁴⁷⁾ – Grant towards 100 th Birthday Event.	FPO	£220.00
Buckland Landscapes ⁽⁴⁸⁾ – October Verges Grass Cutting.	FPO	£526.82
Whitchurch PCC ⁽⁴⁹⁾ – Hall Hire for November 2023 PC Meeting.	FPO	£20.00
Clerk ⁽⁵⁰⁾ - Salary and Expenses for November 2023.	FPO	£669.92
Royal British Legion ⁽⁵¹⁾ – Two Poppy Wreaths for Remembrance.	FPO	£75.00
NALC ⁽⁵²⁾ – Make the Planning System Work Training - Chair.	FPO	£52.04
NALC ⁽⁵³⁾ – Winning Strategies for Funding Training - Chair.	FPO	£52.04
BALC ⁽⁵⁴⁾ – Demystifying Planning – Cllr Alderman.	FPO	£60.00
BALC ⁽⁵⁵⁾ – Climate Change Conference 2022 – Three Cllrs.	FPO	£75.00
Whitchurch PCC ⁽⁵⁶⁾ – Hall Hire for Defibrillator Training.	FPO	£40.00
TOTAL OF PAYMENTS FOR APPROVAL		£1,790.82
For Information - Reclaimable Vat to date for 2023/24		£4,094.86

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.