

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 January 2024 at 7.30pm.

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

Public Attendance: 5 members of the public, plus Buckinghamshire Council Cllr D Blamires.

Clerk: A Skeggs

Absent: None

24/01	<p>Apologies for Absence</p> <p>There were no apologies. However, the Chair informed the meeting that Cllr James-Priddy had resigned from the Parish Council due to work commitments. She was thanked for all her work whilst on the Council. The clerk then outlined the process for advertising the vacancy, which would be via the Parish Council website and noticeboards.</p> <p>Buckinghamshire Council Cllrs Bond and Cooper gave their apologies.</p>
	<p>Open Forum for Residents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cllr Blamires reported that there was a new Community Board manager, Michelle Parker. In 2024/25 Buckinghamshire Council were proposing to spend less on weeding and minor road repairs with parking fees being increased. They were looking at selling off some assets – the Council Offices in Amersham and County Hall in Aylesbury.• The Sandpath and North Marston Lane footpaths were covered in leaves making them slippery. A hedge was overhanging the Oving Road, cars were parking on Ashgrove Garden verges and the grass verge outside Swan Close was encroaching across the payment. All these issues would be taken up with the LAT.• The clerk gave a report from the police on recent activity on the village.
24/02	<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. No new declarations raised.</p>
24/03	<p>Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on the 11th December 2024, were approved, and signed by the Chair.</p>
24/04	<p>Newman's Close Flat Nomination</p> <p>Cllr Ford gave an update on the process since the flat had become available. The flat was still vacant but had been offered to an applicant from the Parish Council list. Cllr Ford expressed her thanks, especially to Cllrs Bond and Cooper, for all the work that had been put in trying to get the required outcome. It was agreed that a permanent solution needed to be in place for future vacancies.</p>
24/05	<p>Recreation Ground</p> <p>Cllr Ford updated the meeting with progress made on gaining ideas for new equipment. The school had yet to respond to her request for suggestions. Currently, football goals / nets</p>

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	were the most affordable suggestion.
24/06	<p>2024/25 Draft Budget</p> <p>The clerk circulated an updated draft budget for 2024/25. After consideration the following changes were made to the budget:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The General Village Upkeep budget was increased to £1,500. • A budget of £1,000 was included for providing some Christmas lights. <p>Consideration was then given to a 10% increase in the precept. After some discussion Cllr Ford made a proposal, seconded by Cllr Palin, to increase the precept by 5%. The vote was three for and three against, the Chair used her casting vote to vote against the proposal. The Chair then proposed an increase of 10%, this was seconded by Cllr Perry. The vote was three for and three against, the Chair used her casting vote to vote for the proposal. It was then proposed by Cllr Lincoln, seconded by Cllr Perry, that a Precept of £32,350 and a Budget of £42,200 be set for the 2024/25 financial year. This was AGREED with four in favour with two abstentions.</p>
24/07	<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 31st December was NOTED.</p>
24/08	<p>Neighbourhood Plan</p> <p>Buckinghamshire Council seemed to have submitted their questions at the Reg 16 stage rather than the Reg 14 stage which has delayed the process slightly and raised some questions that could have been picked up earlier. The final Inspector's report was expected in 2/3 weeks, which may lead to some adjustments to the Plan. Buckinghamshire Council then had five weeks to respond and accept before it was put to the referendum.</p>
24/09	<p>Planning - There were no planning applications for consideration.</p>
24/10	<p>Points of Interest</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speaker – The Historical Dept at Buckinghamshire Council were looking for a speaker to address the Buckingham U3A Local History Group with a talk on the history of Whitchurch. The clerk was to contact some possible candidates. • Streetlights – The following streetlights had been repaired opposite the garage in the High Street, outside the surgery, one in Ashgrove Gardens and on the junction of Ashgrove Gardens.
24/11	<p>Date and Time of Next Meeting: The next meeting would be on Monday 12th February 2024 starting @ 7.30pm.</p>

The meeting closed at 8.35 pm.

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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	On Hold
Forum	Investigate MVAS pole and socket on High Street	ClIr PA/CT	In Progress

BANK RECONCILIATION

Reconciled Bank Balance At	Account	Bank Balance	Total
31 st December 2023	Current Account	£15,265.06	
31 st December 2023	Playing Field Account	£431.34	
31 st December 2023	Deposit Account	£56,262.61	
31 st December 2023	Investment Account	£30,000.00	£101,959.01

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE LISTING

Income	£
Lloyds Bank – Interest in December.	£495.39
Salvation Army – Clothes Bank for November.	£41.22
HMRC – Reclaimed VAT to 30 November 2023.	£4,094.86
TOTAL INCOME SINCE THE LAST MEETING IN DECEMBER	£4,631.47

Expenditure	Payment	£
Invoices to be approved at Parish Council meeting.		
ClIr M Perry ⁽⁶³⁾ – Refreshments for Defibrillator Training. (Paid)	FPO	£18.55
The Ramblers Association ⁽⁶⁴⁾ – Donation Towards New Gate.(Paid)	FPO	£500.00
Buckland Landscapes ⁽⁶⁵⁾ – December Verges Grass Cutting.	FPO	£526.82
Buckland Landscapes ⁽⁶⁶⁾ – Removal of Tree and Brambles.	FPO	£900.00
Whitchurch PCC ⁽⁶⁷⁾ – Hall Hire for January 2024 PC Meeting.	FPO	£25.00
Clerk ⁽⁶⁸⁾ - Salary and Expenses for January 2024.	FPO	£489.17
TOTAL OF PAYMENTS FOR APPROVAL		£2,459.54
Direct Debits		
SSE Swalec ^(DD10) - Street Lighting for November.		£95.91
TOTAL OF DD PAYMENTS FOR NOTING SINCE THE DECEMBER MEETING		£95.91
For Information - Reclaimable Vat from 1 December for 2023/24		£339.42

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.