

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 7th October 2024 at 7.30pm.

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

Public Attendance: 2 members of the public, plus Buckinghamshire Council Cllrs Bond, Blamires and Cooper.

Clerk: A Skeggs

Absent: None

24/104	Apologies for Absence Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr P Alderman.
	Open Forum for Residents <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dan Skinner from Gade Homes, preferred developer of the Kempson House site presented the plans for the development. He set out a possible timeline for development on the site, starting with a public consultation in February 2025 moving to a full application being submitted in April/May 2025 and a start on site in early 2027.• The resident of Manor Farm spoke on the planning application to be considered later and reason for it.• Cllr Thomas that the drains near Weir Lane needed clearing, the Sandpath was covered in leaves and the stones had appeared again in Oving Road. The lamppost outside 51b High Street needed to be cleared of ivy.• Cllr Blamires reported that the Government changes to the NPPF could mean an extra 100,000 houses needing to be built in Bucks and that this might take the form of a New Town somewhere in Bucks. The Council had started work on the 2025/26 budget, which was out for consultation. There was also an Infrastructure consultation that closed on the 13th October.
24/105	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. There were no new declarations.
24/106	Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on the 9 th September 2024, were approved, and signed by the Chair.
24/107	Village Appearance Cllr Palin had circulated some ideas and identified areas of the village which could be improved with planting. Cllr Bond informed the meeting that a cultivation license would be required for planting directly into the verges but would not be needed if planters were used. It was suggested that planters could be put around the "Whitchurch" signs. Cllr Bond was to contact Highways for the exact permissions needed.

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24/108	<p>Street Lighting</p> <p>a) The quote of £3,632 to replace the rotting street light post outside no.17 High Street was considered. It was AGREED that UKPN be contacted and asked to replace the post, or the Parish Council would replace it and recharge them.</p> <p>b) Several residents had contacted the Parish Council regarding the new streetlights in Newman Close phase 2 commenting on the number and how bright they were. After consideration it was AGREED to contact the developer to see what measures could be taken to reduce the number and brightness. The use of bat/moth friendly lighting was discussed.</p>
24/109	<p>Defibrillators</p> <p>It was AGREED to purchase child sized defibrillator pads for the three defibrillators in the village.</p>
24/110	<p>Bucks Home Choice</p> <p>Cllr Ford said there was still no update as Buckinghamshire Council had not been in contact with her.</p>
24/111	<p>Planning – The following applications were considered by the meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 24/02395/VRC – Greenfield Barn, Oving Road – <i>Variation to condition2 (plans) and 9 (soft landscaping) relating to application 20/03073/APP</i>. After consideration that there were no planning points that could lead to an objection, it was proposed that No Objections be raised but the following comments be submitted – “In order to reduce the visual impact that the wood burner flues be black and not silver, and the solar panels be non-reflective black panels”. This was AGREED with four in favour and two abstentions. • 24/02733/CPE – 52 Ashgrove Gardens – <i>Certificate of lawfulness application for existing workshop</i>. No Objections were raised to this application. • 24/02894/APP – Manor Farm, Buckingham Road – <i>Extension to a commercial building</i> - No Objections were raised to this application. • 23/03070/APP – The Ivy Realm, 1A Ashgrove Gardens - <i>Raising of roof to create first floor living accommodation, front and rear dormers. Two storey side extension. Replacement and repositioning of porch. Detached double garage and workshop / office and gym</i>. There were no additional comments to those already submitted.
24/112	<p>2023/24 External Audit Report</p> <p>a) The external audit report for 2023/24 was considered and it was NOTED that 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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24/113	Finance <p>a) It was NOTED that the Clerk had, under delegated authority, accepted two quotes from Core Clean. One for £200 to clean the signage around the village and one for £250 to clean the play equipment and benches.</p> <p>b) Buckland Landscapes had submitted a quote for £1,290 to lay hard standing for the new benches. After consideration this was APPROVED. <i>The Clerk informed the meeting that the three benches had been ordered.</i></p> <p>c) The list of payments for October were APPROVED, details at the end of the minutes.</p> <p>d) The combined bank account position at the 30th September was NOTED.</p>
24/114	Points of Interest – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Achieving Biodiversity Conference – Cllr Palin had attended and had found it very useful. It was suggested that the Church could be contacted to see if they would be interested in a wildflower in the churchyard.
24/115	Date of Next Meeting: The next meeting would be on Monday 11 th November, starting at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm.

Chair's Signature Date.....

Actions List

Minute	Action Required	Action By	Progress
23/90	Order three benches with Kings Coronation emblem.	Clerk	Completed
24/84	Advertise for volunteers to water Planters.	Cllr Lincoln	Outstanding
24/108	Contact UKPN on High Street lamp post.	Clerk	Completed
24/108	Contact developer of Newman Close phase 2.	Clerk	Completed
24/109	Purchase child sized pads for defibrillators.	Clerk	Completed

BANK RECONCILIATION

Reconciled Bank Balance At	Account	Bank Balance	Total
30 th September 2024	Current Account	£3,872.17	
30 th September 2024	Deposit Account	£66,000.00	
30 th September 2024	Investment Account	£30,403.89	£100,276.06

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INCOME AND EXPENDITURE LISTING

Income	£
Lloyds Bank – Interest for September.	£49.02
Salvation Army – Clothes Bank for August.	£7.28
Various – Donations to School Bell Project.	£55.00
Buckinghamshire Council – Second Half of Precept.	£16,175.00
TOTAL INCOME SINCE THE LAST MEETING IN SEPTEMBER	£16,286.30

Expenditure		
Invoices to be approved at Parish Council meeting.	Payment	£
Clerk ⁽⁴¹⁾ - Salary and Expenses for September 2024. Paid	FPO	£565.85
Core Clean ⁽⁴²⁾ – Cleaning of Village Signage. Paid	FPO	£200.00
Core Clean ⁽⁴³⁾ – Cleaning of Play Equipment, Seats & Tables. Paid	FPO	£250.00
Buckland Landscapes ⁽⁴⁴⁾ – Sept’ber Verges / Recreation Ground.	FPO	£846.81
Whitchurch PCC ⁽⁴⁵⁾ – Hall Hire for October 2024 PC Meeting.	FPO	£25.00
Caloo ⁽⁴⁶⁾ – Inspection and Repair of Gym Equipment.	FPO	£534.00
PKF Littlejohn ⁽⁴⁷⁾ – External Audit Fees for 2023/24 AGAR.	FPO	£252.00
T Adams ⁽⁴⁸⁾ – Construction & Fitting of School Bell Cote.	FPO	£750.00
Playground Facilities Ltd ⁽⁴⁹⁾ – Balance for Play Equipment.	FPO	£13,804.56
Bonds Contracting ⁽⁵⁰⁾ – Hard Standing for Playing Field Entrance.	FPO	£1,440.00
BALC ⁽⁵¹⁾ – Biodiversity Conference.	FPO	£10.00
TOTAL OF PAYMENTS FOR APPROVAL		£18,678.22
Direct Debits		
ICO – Annual Data Protection Licence.	DD7	£35.00
SSE Swalec - Street Lighting for August.	DD8	£99.31
TOTAL OF DD PAYMENTS FOR NOTING SINCE THE SEPTEMBER MEETING		£134.31
For Information - Reclaimable Vat from 1 April for 2024/25		£7,256.39

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.