

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 14 March 2022 at 7.00pm

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

Public Attendance: Six members of the public plus Buckinghamshire Council Cllrs Balmires & Cooper.

Clerk: A Skeggs

Absent: None

22/26	<p>Apologies for Absence Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr V James-Friday.</p>
	<p>Open Forum for Residents The following points were raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Playarea – A resident commented on the condition of the play area, that the playing field needed proper drainage and the use of s.106 funds.• Ukrainian Crisis - A resident asked what the parish council was doing in response to the crisis. The advice from Buckinghamshire Council was to donate money rather than goods.• Oving Road - It was suggested that a 7 ½ tonne weight limit be imposed on the road.• Buckinghamshire Council – Cllr Balmires reported that the planning committee had refused the Lockhart's Farm application but that it would go to appeal. Cllr Cooper reported that there was a review of the Community Boards and that parishes had been invited to a meeting to give their views. The clerk replied that no invitation had been received. A Freight Strategy consultation was in progress.
22/27	<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. Cllr Lincoln declared an interest in item 22/36 - application 22/00545/APP and Cllr Perry declared an interest in item 22/37.</p>
22/28	<p>Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on the 14th February 2022, were approved, and signed as a true record.</p> <p><u>Matters Arising</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The draft minutes as published in the parish magazine referred to the wrong property in Little London, for which the parish council has apologised. The approved minutes have been corrected.
22/29	<p>Queen's Platinum Jubilee June 2022</p> <p>a) Cllr Palin gave an update on the progress so far:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• There would be a barn dance at Creslow Manor.• Cream teas in the village hall,• A choir had been booked,

Whitchurch Parish Council

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A beacon would be lit, • Colonel Custard had been booked to entertain the children. <p>b) Cllr Ford reported on the Jubilee tree. The deadline for free saplings had been missed but orders for October trees could be placed after the 4th April. Buckinghamshire Council have said it will cost between £700 & £1,000 to plant a tree on their land. This was now under review by Buckinghamshire Council. Cllr Ford had identified several sites for a cluster of trees, the locations she would report at the next meeting.</p>
22/30	<p>WWEG</p> <p>a) WWEG had requested creating a wildflower area around the bench in Weir Lane. After consideration, this was AGREED on the condition that clear access to the bench was maintained. WWEG to be informed that the wildflower areas at Church Headland, Oving Road and Weir Lane would be removed from the parish council grass cutting contract.</p> <p>b) WWEG had made a request to plant poppies around the memorial in the playing field. After consideration this was AGREED.</p> <p>c) A request had been made to plant wildflowers at the entrances to the village. After consideration this was AGREED.</p>
22/31	<p>Facebook / Website</p> <p>a) Cllr Thomas proposed that the parish council creates its own Facebook and Twitter pages, to engage with a younger generation. After consideration this was AGREED with Cllr Thomas agreeing to set up the Facebook page and Cllr Perry agreeing to set up a Twitter account.</p> <p>b) There was a requirement for parish councils to have their own website rather than having a page on a village website. The clerk would prepare a list of website examples with indicative costs for circulation to councillors.</p>
22/32	<p>Road Closure Issues</p> <p>Cllr Lincoln introduced this item following the problems caused by the recent road closure of the Oving Road. Cllr Cooper informed the meeting that Anglian Water can legally close a road if it is deemed an emergency, but they must arrange a proper / appropriate diversion route on equivalent standard roads. Mount Pleasant, Market Hill and Church Lane are not equivalent standard roads and should not have been used. He added that Buckinghamshire Council are in constant contact with Anglian Water but on this occasion Anglian Water had failed to follow guidelines. Thanks were expressed to Buckinghamshire Council councillors for their work on this.</p>
22/33	<p>Road Safety / MVAS</p> <p>a) After consideration it was AGREED to make a formal bid to the HS2 Road Safety fund for a “Zebra Crossing” on the High Street.</p> <p>b) The clerk reported that the insurance company would make a payout of £2,825 to cover</p>

Whitchurch Parish Council

	the cost of a new MVAS / SID machine to replace the one hit by a car.
22/34	<p>Rights of Way</p> <p>This item was deferred until the next meeting to gain further information.</p>
22/35	<p>Neighbourhood Plan</p> <p>Keith Armour gave an update on progress to date.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green spaces protection was being discussed with a final list being prepared. • The design guide for the village was to promote the rustic feel of the village. • The first preliminary discussions on house allocations had taken place and what was an acceptable number was to be debated with Buckinghamshire Council.
22/36	<p>Planning</p> <p>The following applications were considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 22/00106/ALB - 13 Oving Road - Erection of Garden Room. This application had been withdrawn • 22/00545/APP - 56 Oving Road - Single Storey Rear Infill Extension. The planning working group recommended that the application should be Objected to as the size of the extension was too big for the space and that it would be obtrusive to the neighbours. The meeting AGREED to object to the application.
22/37	<p>1st Granborough Scout Group</p> <p>A request had been received from the scout group for a donation to their funds as several children from Whitchurch were part of the scout group. After consideration, it was proposed that a donation of £200 be made. This was AGREED by four votes in favour and two against.</p>
22/38	<p>Finance</p> <p>a) The list of payments for March was APPROVED, details at end of the minutes.</p> <p>b) The combined bank account position at the 28th February was NOTED.</p> <p>c) The meeting considered some advice from BALC that the parish council should award a 1.75% pay increase to the clerk ahead of the pay award being formally agreed by NALC. The increase to be backdated to the 1st April 2021. It was unanimously AGREED to implement the increase.</p>
22/39	<p>Clerks Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ash Trees - VAHT would not take responsibility for the ash trees, as they felt they were on parish council land but if it was proved the trees were on VAHT land, then it was the responsibility of the tenants. It was AGREED that VAHT be approached again, that Buckinghamshire Council be asked for legal advice. The clerk was to make the insurance company aware of the problem. • Sandpath - Buckinghamshire Council had patched repaired the Sandpath but had left a few trip hazards. The clerk was to contact Buckinghamshire Council again.

Whitchurch Parish Council

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Streetlights - Two streetlights in Rickyard Close had been repaired with one in Mount Pleasant awaiting repair.
22/40	Date of Next Meeting: Monday 11 th April 2022 @ 7.00pm.
	<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>
22/41	<p>Play Area Quotes</p> <p>Only two quotes had been received, one of which had only quoted for installing the surface after the site had been cleared and the fencing installed. The quote from Playsource for the Play Surface and Fencing was £48,143 ex-VAT, with the Gym Equipment Surfacing being £10,174 ex-VAT. After consideration, and to prevent any further delays with the project, it was proposed by Cllr Perry, seconded by Cllr Ford that the combined quotes from Playsource totaling £58,317 ex-VAT be accepted. This was unanimously AGREED.</p>

The meeting closed at 8.50 pm.

Chair's Signature Date.....

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.

BANK RECONCILIATION

Reconciled Bank Balance At	Account	Bank Balance	Total
28 th February 2022	Treasurers	£9,198.45	
28 th February 2022	Playing Field	£9,061.70	
28 th February 2022	Business	£47,273.02	
28 th February 2022	Investment	£30,000.00	£95,533.17

Whitchurch Parish Council

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE LISTING

Income	£
Salvation Army – Clothes Bank for January.	£20.47
TOTAL INCOME SINCE THE LAST MEETING IN FEBRUARY	£20.47

Expenditure		
Invoices to be approved at Parish Council meeting.	Cheque	£
Lifestyle Building Services ⁽⁹⁵⁾ – Erection of noticeboards	859	£1,101.60
Electricity Network Contractors ⁽⁹⁶⁾ – Light Repairs Rickyards Close.	860	£372.00
Buckland Landscapes ⁽⁹⁷⁾ – Fallen Tree Removal High Street.	861	£1,440.00
Buckland Landscapes ⁽⁹⁸⁾ – February Grass Cutting.	861	£497.00
Clerk ⁽⁹⁹⁾ - Salary and Expenses for March 2022 plus backdating.	862	£486.05
Whitchurch PCC ⁽¹⁰⁰⁾ – Hall Hire for March PC Meeting.	863	£20.00
TOTAL OF PAYMENTS FOR APPROVAL		£3,916.65

For Information - Reclaimable Vat to date for 2021/22	£5,817.89
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