

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 9th September 2024 at 7.30pm.

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

Public Attendance: 4 members of the public, plus Buckinghamshire Council Cllr Cooper.

Clerk: A Skeggs

Absent: None

Before the meeting started Cllr Perry, on behalf of the Council, passed on her condolences to the wife of Rev. Meakin who passed away recently. He had been the vicar at Whitchurch for 20 years.

24/91	Apologies for Absence Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Grimes.
	Open Forum for Residents <ul style="list-style-type: none">The resident of Bolebec House raised the issue of footpath WHI/26/2. The current route was not the official route as shown on the definitive map. Buckinghamshire Council R of W team has asked that the footpath either be put back to the definitive map route or a diversion application be made.Cllr Cooper reported this was the last year of the current Council before elections in May 2025. Buckinghamshire Council was considering the implications of the Labour Governments change to the Planning legislation. House building targets will be higher than in the current VALP and may be concentrated on larger scale developments.
	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 100 - planning application 24/02305.
24/93	Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on the 8 th July 2024, were approved, and signed by the Chair.
24/94	School Bell Project Cllr Alderman reported that the bell cote and school bell were now in situ at the school and were ready for the celebrations on the 13 th September, where the Parish Council would be represented. The cost of the project was expected to be £3,550. Income to date was £3,250, so further fund raising was required. Cllr Alderman was thanked for his work on the project.
24/95	Right of Way – WHI/26/2 The meeting considered the issue of Right of Way WHI/26/2 which had been highlighted in the Open Forum, after which it was proposed by Cllr Lincoln, that the Parish Council would support a footpath diversion order, submitted by the resident, that follows the currently used

Whitchurch Parish Council

	route. This was AGREED with one abstention.
24/96	<p>Bucks Home Choice</p> <p>Cllr Ford said there was no update as Buckinghamshire Council had not been in contact with her. This would be considered at the next meeting.</p>
24/97	<p>Street Light Post in High Street</p> <p>The streetlight outside no.17 on the High Street needed replacing. Consideration would be given to replacing once a quote had been received.</p>
24/98	<p>Project Updates</p> <p>a) The latest position on Council projects was considered. See the updates at the end of the minutes. As part of the item a quote from Truvelo for a new Speed Indicator Device of £5,240 for the Bushmead Road / Whitchurch Hill junction was considered and unanimously AGREED.</p> <p>b) The creation of more accessible footpaths in the woodland area of the playing field was considered following requests from residents. A plan showing the new footpaths had been circulated. It was proposed, and seconded, that the suggested footpaths be created. This was AGREED.</p> <p>c) The state of the signage around the village was considered particularly the graffiti on the sign on the Oving Road. It was AGREED to get a quote to clean all the signage.</p>
24/99	<p>Best Kept Village Competition</p> <p>The result of the 2024 competition was NOTED and the judges' comments were considered. The Parish Council had scored 180 out of 200. There was no area that scored low and required improvement. It was suggested that the village could look prettier and so it was AGREED that a working group be formed, led by Cllr Palin and a local resident, to come up with ideas, specifically of a planted or floral nature to improve the appearance of the village.</p>
24/100	<p>Planning – The following applications were considered by the meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 24/02305/APP – The Old Barns, 49 High Street – <i>Installation of 2 no. air source heat pump to lower ground floor rear of property.</i> No Objections were raised to this application. • 24/02381/APP – The Priory, 70-72 High Street – <i>Listed building change of use from an office to a single dwelling. Internal alterations to first floor to reconfigure the existing three toilets into a single bathroom.</i> No Objections were raised to this application but reference that the building was in the Conservation Area needed to be noted. • 24/02395/VRC – Greenfield Barn, Oving Road – <i>Variation to condition2 (plans) and 9 (soft landscaping) relating to application 20/03073/APP.</i> Due to the technical points raised it was AGREED to ask for an extension. • 24/02550/ALB – The Grail Centre, Oving Road – <i>Listed building rebuild of partially</i>

Whitchurch Parish Council

	<i>collapsed wall between Legion Hall and 14 Rickyard Close. No Objections were raised to this application but as the wall was in the conservation area it was essential that the right materials were used.</i>
24/101	Finance a) The list of payments for August and September were APPROVED , details at the end of the minutes. b) The combined bank account position at the 31 st August was NOTED .
24/102	Points of Interest – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There were no points on interest.
24/103	Date of Next Meeting: The next meeting would be on Monday 7 th October, starting at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm.

Chair's Signature Date.....

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	In Progress
24/83a	Purchase solar powered SID.	Clerk	Completed
24/84	Advertise for volunteers to water Planters.	CLlr Lincoln	
24/98a	Accept quote from Truvelo for SID.	Clerk	Completed
24/98c	Obtain quotes for village signage cleaning.	Clerk	Completed

BANK RECONCILIATION

Reconciled Bank Balance At	Account	Bank Balance	Total
31 st August 2024	Current Account	£2,770.08	
31 st August 2024	Deposit Account	£57,712.59	
31 st August 2024	Investment Account	£30,403.89	£90,886.56

Whitchurch Parish Council

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE LISTING

Income		£
Lloyds Bank – Interest in July and August.		£116.15
Salvation Army – Clothes Bank for June and July.		£20.84
TOTAL INCOME SINCE THE LAST MEETING IN JULY		£136.99
Expenditure		
Invoices to be approved at Parish Council meeting.	Payment	£
Cllr Thomas ⁽³¹⁾ – Website Hosting for the Year. Paid	FPO	£143.86
The Community Heartbeat Trust ⁽³²⁾ – Adult Electrodes. Paid	FPO	£112.74
Buckland Landscapes ⁽³³⁾ – July Verges / Recreation Ground. Paid	FPO	£846.81
Clerk ⁽³⁴⁾ - Salary and Expenses for August 2024. Paid	FPO	£545.85
Whitchurch PCC ⁽³⁵⁾ – Hall Hire for September 2024 PC Meeting.	FPO	£25.00
Buckland Landscapes ⁽³⁶⁾ – August Verges / Recreation Ground.	FPO	£846.81
Buckland Landscapes ⁽³⁷⁾ – Sandpath Hedge & Allotment Trim.	FPO	£900.00
Buckland Landscapes ⁽³⁸⁾ – Cutting of Wildflower Meadow.	FPO	£1,926.00
C Heron ⁽³⁹⁾ – Water Usage and Ornament.	FPO	£34.50
Whites of Appleton Ltd ⁽⁴⁰⁾ – Works to Original School Bell	FPO	£2,018.40
TOTAL OF PAYMENTS FOR APPROVAL		£7,399.97
Direct Debits		
SSE Swalec ^(DD05) - Street Lighting for June.	DD5	£96.11
SSE Swalec ^(DD06) - Street Lighting for July.	DD6	£99.31
TOTAL OF DD PAYMENTS FOR NOTING SINCE THE JULY MEETING		£195.42
For Information - Reclaimable Vat from 1 April for 2024/25		£3,487.71

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.

Whitchurch Parish Council

Item 24/98a – Project and Issues Update

1. Play Area Equipment – Work has started on site. Swing chair orientation turned from original position. Water provided by Caroline Heron. The weather has caused a delay in the laying of the safety surface and fitting the goals.
2. Hard standing in Playing Field – Work has been completed on the hard standing as well as the filling of the ruts. Unsure whether further work is required.
3. Basketball Hoops – Still need to be removed.
4. Gym Equipment Inspection – Caloo will be attending on Friday 13th September to carry out an inspection and undertake any necessary repairs.
5. Speed Indicator Device – Truvelo has inspected the site for the SID and have provided a quote, which includes the installation of a permanent post, of £5,240. The existing ground spike would have required a custom-made post. Data from the new SID will be accessible from a website.
6. Foliage Problems:
 - 1,2,3 Appleyard Close – Overhanging foliage on to the Oving Road path has been cleared by the Clerk.
 - 51b High Street – Overhanging foliage on to the High Street has been cleared by the resident following a letter from the Clerk.
 - R of W WHI/31/1 (behind the Cattery) needs to be cleared by the Parish Council under devolved services.
 - Sandpath – Buckland Landscapes has cut back the hedge.
 - Allotment Hedge alongside Oving Road – Both the Clerk and Councillor Bond have contacted the LAT. Buckinghamshire Council has referred this to their legal team to formally serve notice on the landowner.
 - Rickyard Close – Overhanging foliage to the rear of properties on to the Oving Road. Letters have gone to a few properties in Rickyard Close.
7. Siding Out – The White Swan to Swan Close – Bucklands have been asked to clear the footpath.
8. Graffiti on Signpost – Under the devolved services agreement it is the responsibility of the Parish Council to remove the graffiti and clean signage within the 30mph area. See agenda item.
9. Village Website Tidy Up – No work started. This will be considered at the October meeting.
10. Speedwatch – Cllr Perry is to contact Waddesdon PC to undertake some practical training sessions with the speed gun.