

# 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 9<sup>th</sup> December 2024 at 7.30pm.

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

Public Attendance: 3 members of the public, plus Buckinghamshire Council Cllr Blamires.

Clerk: A Skeggs

Absent: None

24/128	<b>Apologies for Absence</b> Apologies were received from Cllrs Palin and Thomas.
	<b>Open Forum for Residents</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Issues raised were - the drains down Whitchurch Hill and the footpath outside Stone House.</li><li>Buckinghamshire Council – The Community Proud of Bucks event would take place on the 11<sup>th</sup> December where a special posthumous award would be made to Amanda Tofield to recognise her service to the community. Buckinghamshire Council were waiting for the results of the consultation on the NPPF as well as the 2025/26 financial settlement. They were also waiting for the latest accident data for the Weedon Road junction.</li></ul>
24/129	<b>Members' Interests:</b> 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.
24/130	<b>Approval of Minutes:</b> The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 11 <sup>th</sup> November 2024, were approved, and signed by the Chair.
24/131	<b>2025/26 Draft Budget</b> <p>a) The Clerk presented the draft 2025/26 budget for consideration with several expenditure items highlighted for further discussion. It was agreed to set a grants budget of £1,500 and look at retendering the grass cutting contract.</p> <p>The Chair suggested the following projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Drainage and ditch work at the playing field.</li><li>New streetlight column on the High Street.</li><li>Provision of a footpath along Bushmead Road to Parrott Bros farm.</li><li>Provision of a streetlight at the end of White Horse Lane.</li><li>Retaining wall at the Weir Lane / Oving Road junction.</li></ul> <p>These would need to be considered and to be costed before inclusion in the budget.</p> <p>b) The setting of the precept was deferred until the January meeting where the funding of the above projects would need to be considered. The Clerk was to circulate the latest</p>

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	<p>s.106 position and a paper on the £30,000 Playing Field investment.</p> <p>c) The Clerk informed the meeting that Buckinghamshire Council was asking Parish Councils to confirm if they wished to continue with the devolved services arrangements for 2025/26. There was an option to enter into a four-year agreement to give certainty when budgeting. After consideration it was <b>AGREED</b> to enter into a four-year agreement.</p>
24/132	<p><b>Street Lighting</b></p> <p>The Clerk had been in contact with the developer of Newman Close phase two, who was going to contact Buckinghamshire Council about the light specifications. It was <b>AGREED</b> that the Clerk would arrange a site meeting with him and Cllr Grimes.</p>
24/133	<p><b>Communications</b></p> <p>An amended Communications Policy, which now included sections on WhatsApp groups, social media and personal views of Councillors, had been circulated by the Clerk. After consideration it was proposed by Cllr Lincoln, seconded by Cllr Perry, that the policy be adopted. This was <b>AGREED</b>.</p>
24/134	<p><b>Bucks Community Energy</b></p> <p>Bucks Community Energy had approached the Council to facilitate an energy information evening for residents on energy consumption, saving money and carbon emissions. After consideration it was <b>AGREED</b> to support the event with the Parish Council paying for the hall hire.</p>
24/135	<p><b>Finance</b></p> <p>a) The list of payments for December were <b>APPROVED</b>, details at the end of the minutes. b) The combined bank account position at the 30 November was <b>NOTED</b>.</p>
24/136	<p><b>Points of Interest</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Highways Stakeholders Conference – There had been good feedback on the event, which they hoped to make longer in the future.</li> </ul>
24/137	<p><b>Planning</b></p> <p>There were no applications for consideration.</p>
24/138	<p><b>Date of Next Meeting:</b> The next meeting would be on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2025.</p>

The meeting closed at 8.25 pm.

**The Chair wished everyone a Merry Christmas and happy new year.**

Chair's Signature ..... Date.....

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## Actions List

Minute	Action Required	Action By	Progress
24/120a	Arrange inspection of High Street streetlights.	PC	Outstanding
24/125	Present pictorial record of school bell to school.	PC	Outstanding
24/131	Circulate s.106 / investment information.	Clerk	Completed
24/131	Prepare grass cutting specification for tender.	Clerk	
24/131	Notify Buckinghamshire Council of devolved services.	Clerk	Completed
24/132	Arrange meeting with developer of Newmans Close.	Clerk	
24/134	Notify BCE of decision to support event.	Clerk	Completed

## BANK RECONCILIATION

Reconciled Bank Balance At	Account	Bank Balance	Total
30 November 2024	Current Account	£31,882.12	
30 November 2024	Deposit Account	£36,007.77	
30 November 2024	Investment Account	£30,403.89	£98,293.78

## INCOME AND EXPENDITURE LISTING

Income	£
Lloyds Bank – Interest for November.	£54.84
Salvation Army – Clothes Bank for October.	£1.13
HMRC – Reclaim of VAT for period 1 April to 31 October.	£8,977.23
Buckinghamshire Council – S.106 funds for Play Equipment.	£16,434.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME SINCE THE LAST MEETING IN NOVEMBER</b>	<b>£25,467.20</b>

Expenditure		
Invoices to be approved at Parish Council meeting.	Payment	£
Intelogy Ltd <sup>(63)</sup> -Microsoft Business Basic for November 2024.	FPO	£59.14
Waddesdon Parish Council <sup>(64)</sup> – Hire of Sentinel.	FPO	£40.00
Buckland Landscapes <sup>(65)</sup> – November Verges/Recreation Ground.	FPO	£846.81
Whitchurch PCC <sup>(66)</sup> – Hall Hire for December 2024 PC Meeting.	FPO	£25.00
Clerk <sup>(67)</sup> - Salary and Expenses for December 2024.	FPO	£560.47
The Ramblers Association <sup>(68)</sup> – Donation towards a New Gate	FPO	£500.00
<b>TOTAL OF PAYMENTS FOR APPROVAL</b>		<b>£2,031.42</b>
Direct Debits		
SSE Swalec - Street Lighting for November.	DD11	£0.00
<b>TOTAL OF DD PAYMENTS FOR NOTING SINCE THE NOVEMBER MEETING</b>		<b>£0.00</b>
<b>For Information - Reclaimable Vat from 1 November for 2024/25</b>		<b>£64.63</b>