

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN THE JUBILEE HALL ON 11th SEPTEMBER 2023

Present: Mrs Caroline Hjorth
Mr Duncan Boulton
Mr Les Gordon
Mrs Margaret Poole
Mr John Poole
Mr Ray Hudson

Ms Barbara Drysdale (Clerk)

Also present were: Cllr Georgina Heritage (SODC), Cllr Freddie van Mierlo (OCC), Mr Peter Gardner (Lewknor NPSG) and three residents

Item 1: MEMBERS' DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None were received.

Item 2: APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of the parish council meeting held on 10th July 2023 were accepted as being a true record of proceedings by councillors and signed accordingly by the Chair.

Item 3: MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

No updates except those covered under other items.

Item 4: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN SESSION

A resident voiced concern about the untidiness of signs put up by residents, community groups and businesses on verges, highway poles and lamp posts. The council explained that highways furniture belonged to OCC and that it was illegal to put any signs on such poles; the resident was recommended to report any such issue on www.fixmystreet.com

Item 5: THAMES VALLEY POLICE

There were no reports.

Item 6: DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

The council noted receipt of monthly reports from both district and county councillors.

Cllr Heritage added that a new grant scheme for biodiversity had just been announced and that she would forward more details.

She also agreed to chase the SODC grant for the village hall CCTV. See Item 12.

Cllr van Mierlo said there had been no update on discussions with Buckinghamshire CC on the charges it imposes on Oxfordshire residents using the Bledlow recycling centre. He said these rates were at a commercial level and it was hoped they could, at least, be reduced. He would chase. See also Items 11d and 14.

Item 7: FINANCE

a) Councillors received and noted a budgetary control report for year to date from the RFO which showed balances as of 6th September 2023:

Treasurers Account: £3,236.42

Chair:

Date:.....

Business Savings Account: £14,246.22

Hall Account: £9,501.18

And noted RFO had transferred £2,000 from LPC Bus Savings to Treasurers Acc; that the second half of the precept (£9,000) had been received and that the RFO had then transferred £8,000 to LPC's savings account.

Cllr Boulton (finance councillor) signed the Cashflow spreadsheet.

b) The council formally noted the following payments made during the summer recess (as agreed at July's meeting):

i) Allen Landscaping	Grasscutting	£168.00	S.19 LG(MP)A 1976
ii) Allen Landscaping	Hedgecutting & weedkilling	£816.00	S.19 LG(MP)A 1976
(paid from LPC's LPRG&H account)			
iii) PetWasteSolutions	Dog bin emptying	£92.95	S.111 LGA 1972
iv) VisionICT	Website	£231.60	S.142 LGA 1972
v) BGG	Grasscutting	£127.53	S.19 LG(MP)A 1976

c) The council approved payment of the following outstanding accounts:

i) Boston Bulb Co	Bulbs for Postcombe	£230.40	CIL	RH/LG
ii) Moore	External Audit	£252.00	S.111 LGA 1972	
iii) Allen Landscaping	Grasscutting	£168.00	S.19 LG(MP)A 1976	
iv) PetWasteSolutions	Dog bin emptying	£92.95	S.111 LGA 1972	
v) MP Ryder	LPRG&H CCTV deposit	£1,635.00	S.19 LG(MP)A 1976	
(paid from LPC's LPRG&H account)				
vi) CLB Landscaping	Finishing playground work	£630.00	CIL	
vii) CLB Landscaping	Finishing playground work	£630.00	S.19 LG(MP)A 1976	
(paid from LPC's LPRG&H account)				
viii) S Hjorth	SW noticeboard refurb	£120.00	S.111 LGA 1972	

d) The council formally received and noted the RFO's half yearly financial report. The RFO said she would be preparing a draft budget for 2024-25 in the next month and invited councillors to propose any new items to be added to it.

Clerk

Item 8: PLANNING

a) The council considered the following new applications:

- i) P23/S2309/HH 9, Salt Lane, Postcombe
Single storey rear extension & front porch
The council agreed to make a response of:
The parish council recommends a site visit as it believes the foundations for this planning application have already been put in place.
- ii) P23/S2734/FUL Field Farm, Shirburn Road, Lewknor
Steel portal-framed agricultural cattle-housing building
- iii) P23/S2073/FUL The Manor House, Weston Road, Lewknor
Water and air permeable weed barrier laid with Cotswold Shingle sprinkled over the top
It was agreed that the council would object to this planning app and that Cllr Boulton would draw up an official response to be shared by email with all councillors before submitting
- iv) P23/S2490/LDE The Storeground, Aston Hill, near Aston Rowant
Mixed use of site for residential use workshops and storage
It was agreed that the council would respond that it had no information to provide on this.

b) The council noted the status of the following applications:

- i) P22/S2744/HH & P22/S2745/LB Poplar Farm, Box Tree Lane, Postcombe Decision awaited
Proposed single storey rear extension, and internal/fenestration alterations to the existing house.
- ii) P23/S0047/HH Chiltern View, Lower Road, Postcombe Approved

Chair:

Date:.....

- Three storey rear extensions and reconfigure internally
 iii) P23/S1974/DIS 12 Weston Road Lewknor Discharged
 Discharge of condition 5(drainage) on appeal decision for P19/S2262/O

Item 9: LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

The council discussed the SODC consultation; it was agreed that the Clerk would contact the chair of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee for his views; and Cllr John Poole, as Planning councillor, would consider any comments to be made.

JP/PG/
Clerk**Item 10: ASTON ROWANT PC**

The Chair of Aston Rowant PC was not able to attend.

Item 11: HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT

a) B4009 bus stop: the council noted that it had been reinstalled and that the overgrown hedge and dislodged manhole cover had been reported to OCC.

b) Winter salt: the Clerk told the meeting that Mr Murray Graham was still happy to continue to store LPC's bags of salt; and that no more was needed at present. And that the new salt bin would be installed in Beacon View ahead of winter.

c) New bus route: the council very much welcomed the proposed new (twice weekly) bus route through the parish and the Clerk would respond to the questionnaire from OCC.

Clerk

d) Speeding in Postcombe: the parish council discussed concerns raised by residents of motorists not adhering to the 30mph limit on the A40 in Postcombe and agreed the following actions:

- Cllr van Mierlo would ask OCC to replace the battery in the Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) heading north asap.

- Cllr van Mierlo would contact an OCC official asking for a site visit to discuss the problem.

- He would also suggest another traffic survey.

- the Clerk would contact Thames Valley Police's Traffic Management officer about possible speed cameras and to see if they could attend any site visit.

FvM/
Clerk

e) Cllr John Poole reported that the Salt Lane road sign had been fixed.

Cllr Hudson said adverse weather had delayed his repairs on the A40 bus shelter but it would be done shortly, weather permitting.

RH

Item 12: CCTV AT THE VILLAGE HALL

The Clerk told the council that the OCC grant towards this project had been received while the SODC grant had been approved; Cllr Heritage would chase.

GH

The first half of the cost was being approved for payment this evening (See also Item 7c (v) and the installation would take place in October.

Item 13: NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The chair of the NP Steering Group, Mr Peter Gardner, told the meeting that a response to the Examiner's report had been sent and the NPSG was now awaiting his final report.

Item 14: GRASSCUTTING

It was agreed that the Clerk would ask the contractors to carry out an urban cut around the parish. And Cllr van Mierlo agreed to chase OCC to have the grass on M40 sliproad verges cut.

Clerk/
FvM

Chair:

Date:.....

Item 15: CLERK’S APPRAISAL

The meeting noted that Cllr Margaret Poole had carried out the Clerk’s appraisal last month. Cllr Poole and the Clerk would approve and sign the written record of the appraisal.

It was agreed that the Clerk’s pay should be reviewed annually not every other year and that her contract would be changed to reflect that. Cllr Boulton (finance councillor and member of the staffing committee) would draw up proposals for this year’s salary review plus next year’s so that it could be included in the 2024-25 budget (about to be drawn up).

DB/
MP/
LG/
Clerk

Item 16: SOUTH CENTRAL PROBATION UNPAID WORK CONSULTATION SURVEY

It was agreed that the Clerk would respond to this survey and ask if a working party could be deployed to clear the A40 pavement.

Clerk

Item 17: VACANT VILLAGE SHOP

The Chair told the meeting that she was discussing with SOHA the future of the now empty shop in Lewknor village; and that a potential tenant had come forward.

Chair

Item 18: CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

- The council noted the following schemes;
- OCC’s Community Planting Project
- SODC’s £50,000 nature recovery project

The meeting closed at 9.30pm

Chair:

Date:.....