

MINAL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Meeting Held on 6 September 2021 At 7.00pm in the Village Hall

Draft Minutes for Approval on 8.11.21

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| 1. Present:
John Bevan - Chairman
Brian Devonshire – Vice Chairman
Rob Bailey – Vice Chairman
Anna Whitehead
Guy Gagen
Lucy Kirkpatrick
Adam Kebble | Apologies Accepted from:
Caroline Thomas, County Councillor

In Attendance:
Sue Hine Clerk/RFO
Dr Malcolm Exeter
Stephanie Watson |
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Declarations of Interest for Matters being discussed: None.

- 2. Minutes of the meeting held on the 12 July 2021**
The Clerk had sent out the minutes and these were approved. GG asked that the Minutes display that they are draft for approval at the next meeting more prominently than in the footnote. Clerk agreed to do this.
- 3. Matters Arising** – These had been circulated. The main actions have been transferred to Agenda items.
- 4. Questions from Members of the Public**
Stephanie Watson and Dr Malcolm Exeter were in attendance regarding the Poulton Mill Equine Clinic.
- 5. Planning – Rabley/ Equestrian Centre – ENF/2021/00374**
John Bevan reported that he had written to Councillor Nick Botterill, Chair of the Planning Committee and received a fairly non-committal reply. On the question of deciding the enforcement issue before allowing the second application to be considered JB received a letter from Sean Williams Enforcement Team Leader based in Wiltshire which stated that the applications were to be treated separately and the decision of the delegated officers was awaited. The Eastern Area Planning Committee was cancelled in September and the Clerk had queried this as MPC have two called in applications. If approved by delegated officers both will likely be submitted to the October meeting. JB had asked the Clerk to seek legal advice from NALC regarding WCC procedures and whether it was legal/good practice to consider a further application for the arena and track while an enforcement notice is in progress. NALC are unable to advise on unitary authority procedures but gave a list of approved planning consultants which JB has passed onto the Ashbees and Barretts who are looking to seek legal advice.

6. Planning – Poulton Mill Equine Clinic – PL/2021/04663

WCC have extended the deadline for this application. Stephanie Watson, whose property is next door to this application said that she had made several calls to the planning officer regarding the progress. It appears that the applicant owns a couple of properties in St Martins for staff. Dr Malcolm Exeter asked what the appeal process would be in the event of approval. JB said that if refused the applicant has a right of appeal and the objectors should be aware that sometimes negotiations can take place after refusal that are not publicly available as has happened with previous applications. Councillors commented on the weight of objections including CPRE that the Clerk had co-ordinated. It was hopeful planners would see the weight of evidence on highways and environmental grounds and understand the site is not suitable for a business of this size and nature.

7. Green Bin Collection Lorry

Guy Gagen reported that he had noticed that the green bin collection lorry leaks a large amount of effluent and he had recently experienced this on his drive way. It is likely that it is caused by crushing the contents of the green bins but it is foul smelling and a pollutant that could drain into the River Kennet. It is not known if this is a leak or a discharge process. The Clerk said that WCC currently have a Climate Strategy online Consultation and that this would seem to be in direct contradiction to its aims. **Action: - GG to write to Head of Waste at WCC.**

8. Playground

At the end of July the posts on one side of the mound have disintegrated. A temporary fix has been made and the area is blocked off barrier fencing erected by Peter Hine. The Clerk and BD have spent some time applying for charitable grants. Unfortunately most funding is currently going to Covid relief.

Adam Kebble has met with Simon Edwards who advised that he could carry out the works to the cableway and the mound. His advice is that the root breakthroughs are minor lateral roots and removing them should not damage the birch trees. He would dig out a wider area as required, lay subbase and investigate an alternative to the Tiger mulch.

The mound is also a job that he could do and he suggested treated sleepers would be a cheaper option than plastic ones or plastic vertical poles and would last approx. 20 years. JB asked if these would provide a sharp edge and AK said that they could be rounded and would be backfilled with soil. SS is preparing his quote and likely timescale for the work would be January. The priority is the side that has already collapsed. The Clerk said that the PC could split the task and do the front entrance side next year. Councillors thanked AK and SS for considering this work.

The Clerk said that the inspection was due at the end of September and she would advise the inspector that we were obtaining quotes. Inspection is due end of September. GG is yet to meet LD. **Action: - AK to obtain quote.**

9. Rights of Way

The Clerk said that the wooden poles erected on the Werg to Stitchcombe path (Mild 12) by the River Kennet were being overgrown by grass and suggested Rob Copp trim it back. The path into Savernake by Combe farm is also overgrown Mild 16. There was some debate about the responsibility of landowners and an exceptionally wet year early on resulting in a lot of bracken growth. **Action: AW/JW to action with R Copp.**

10. Highways Cat G

Lucy Kirkpatrick is to meet with Steve Hind at 10.30am on Wednesday 8 September to discuss traffic solutions for the traffic approaching the east side of Mildenhall. The next Cat G meeting is Thursday 16 September via Zoom.

11. Benches for the Village Hall

Adam Kebble has spoken to his contact in London who can provide several good quality wooden benches that will require sanding and re oiling for a £100 each. Rob Bailey would like 3 and LK said that a parishioner had asked if it was possible to have a bench on the Werg. JB advised that this was Ramsbury Estate land and permission would need to be sought from them. **Action: AK, RB and LK to ask permission from RE.**

12. HSBC charges for Community Account

The Clerk advised that HSBC are to charge £8.00 per month for banking charges for the PC Community Account. The definition of Community Account is that only clubs and charities will receive free banking whereas formerly not for profit accounts were included. The Clerk has investigated Santander who continue to operate a community account free to not for profit organisations. However, they are currently closed to new customers while dealing with Covid business rescue. Santander allow up to 3 signatories to an account but only one must sign cheques. This would mean a change in our financial processes as currently two signatories sign expense slips. This would not be a conflict with NALC model financial regulations. In practice all banking is now done electronically within budgeted guidelines. **Action: Clerk to investigate Lloyds.**

13. Clerk/Responsible Finance Officer's Report

The financial Statements had been circulated by email and the current balance was verified by Anna Whitehead. A finance committee meeting will be held in October.

14. Any Other Business

14.1 Brian Devonshire asked about the progress for removing the dead tree in the Churchyard. JB said it is not close to the new toilet. **Action: Clerk to book.**

14.2 Churchyard Hedge – Action: Clerk to chase

14.3 Werg Bridge Memorial Plaque

JB advised that David Sherritt has organised and is paying for a memorial plaque to be placed on the Werg bridge. Tom Otley will pay for the installation. Councillors thanked David and Tom for this generous donation.

14.4 Parish Steward Jobs Clerk to organise cutting growth by signs & SIDs
Meeting closed at 8.30pm Next meeting Monday 8 November 2021 6.30pm