

MINAL PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Parish Meeting Held on 8 November 2021
At 6.30pm in the Village Hall**

Draft for approval on 10.1.22

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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:
None

In Attendance:
Sue Hine Clerk/RFO
Colin Hammond |
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Declarations of Interest for Matters being discussed: None.

2. Questions from Members of the Public – Planning Rabley Equestrian Centre PL/2021/06348

As Mr Colin Hammond, joint owner of the Rabley Hill Equestrian Centre, attended the meeting it was decided to deal with this matter first. Mr Hammond explained that the Planning Officer had suggested that they get in touch with the residents to discuss mutually acceptable solutions. He informed Councillors that they had bought the property as a sideline for his partner but that there had been insufficient ventilation for the horses. He said that the meeting with residents was not that productive. Residents had suggested raising the roof line which would be costly. The Hammonds suggested planting a high hedge but residents said that this would block all their light and a higher fence/trellis would not survive the high winds on top of the hill.

Councillor Rob Bailey asked whether deflectors could direct the light less in the bedroom windows of the residents. Councillor Adam Kebble suggested a false panel in front of the window suspended so that air would reach the horses but the light particularly early in the mornings/late at night would be less of an issue for the residents. Mr Hammond did not agree with either of these solutions. Chair John Bevan thanked Mr Hammond for attending and Mr Hammond left the meeting. **Action: The Clerk will write a letter to the Planning Officer confirming the discussions.**

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 6 September 2021

The Clerk had sent out the minutes and these were approved.

4. Matters Arising – These had been circulated. The main actions have been transferred to Agenda items.

5. Planning Poulton Mill Equine Clinic PL/2021/04663

The Clerk had informed the Planning Officer that some work was being carried out. It was clarified that this was minor work to paths and the Case Officer is

still waiting for reports from the Environment Agency. There are no particular timescales for this so it is a matter of waiting for them. Wiltshire Council currently have delays in their planning process and there is a message on their website to this effect.

6. Playground Inspection, Quote for Works, Chippings Surface Top up

AK explained that he had a couple of discussions with Simon Edwards looking at different solutions in conjunction with the Clerk. Now that the trees have been removed there is no long-term problem with the roots coming back so a cheaper solution is to remove the existing roots, back fill with soil and relay the matting replacing parts of it where needed.

By laying more soil around the mound the slope could be graduated so that fewer posts are required. The cost of more soil versus sleepers will be investigated. The priority is to fix the broken side of the mound and it may be that we can split the job into two years. AK said that SE has provisionally booked the work for January/February depending on the weather.

The Clerk reported that the Playground inspection had been carried out and apart from the obvious issues there was nothing serious although the report had not been received. The Clerk said that the inspector, John Clark, was a very useful source of advice and guidance.

The Clerk reported that the softwood chippings had been delivered in cubic metre bags and despite several quotes it appeared that Pallet Line did all the deliveries like this for the companies supplying playground chippings and it was not possible for the large lorries to place them in the playpark area. The clerk thanked Guy Gagen whose wife Emma and children, Henry, Baxter, Archie and a friend had emptied the bags and topped up the bare areas. It was agreed to cancel the village playpark clear up day and village social.

There was some discussion about the chippings as a play surface. The Clerk had checked with the inspector that it was OK to lay the chippings on top as before we have dug and mixed the old surface together. The Inspector confirmed that this was acceptable and that many playgrounds did this every year. The reason for mixing was to aerate the mixture so effectively less product was required. The Clerk had switched to softwood chippings this time. Previously bark chippings had been used but softwood chippings meet the regulations, last slightly longer and are cheaper. GG said that Ramsbury school now use rubber chippings but it was agreed that in the current climate these would be expensive.

The Clerk said that the surface was an ongoing cost and there was the difficulty of emptying the bags across the road from where they are delivered and mixing with the existing layers. The Clerk has approached Martin Gibson who may be able to help with emptying the bags and rotavating the layers provided that the entrance is firm enough for his machinery. It was agreed to replace the chippings in the summer in future which will also have the advantage of being ready for the inspection due in the Autumn.

The Clerk said that Pauline Barnet was willing to take on Bob's duties at the playground and Councillors approved this.

7. Waymarker Post

RB reported that the white waymarker post at the bottom of Thicketts Road needs some attention. The Clerk had written to Martin Cook, Highways Officer for guidance but not received a reply. JB said that the post was fine but the blade needed repairing. **Action: AK and RB to look into this.**

8. Highways Cat G

Lucy Kirkpatrick had emailed Councillors following her meeting with Steve Hind and also attended (via Zoom) the Cat G meeting on 16 September. She explained that there were two proposals for approval. Firstly, the immediate solution of better signage and "Slow" markings in the road. The PC would have to provide 25% of funding which amounts to approx £1250. Councillors approved this unanimously. GG asked what happens when the road is re-surfaced. Even with extra chippings this would obliterate the road markings and did we have to pay each time? **Action: LK to check**

Lucy then went on to discuss the longer-term project of providing a footpath at the east end of the village to the bus stop that had been abandoned in 2019 due to costs which included closing the road. Although Cat G funding is difficult at the moment there may be more substantive funding in the future. The PC would still have to contribute a proportion. Councillors asked what the cost had been in 2019 – see excerpt from Cat G minutes below. Estimate was £10,500 including road closure.

<p>Issue 5689 Request for new bus stop area Mildenhall</p>	<p>Mildenhall PC would like to create new bus shelter and hard standing on verge on south side of road within the village. Site meeting undertaken with Parish Council. Discussions with Ringway have Cost estimate will depend on Ringway assessment on whether or not a road closure is required.</p> <p>Existing carriageway widths have been sent to Ringway and they have confirmed that a road closure will be required. Current cost estimate including the road closure is £10500.</p>	<p>JD says that Mildenhall PC has decided to withdraw this project because of what they see as a prohibitively high cost for the road closure.</p> <p>JD proposes a letter is sent from CATG to Ringway, Cllr Bridget Wayman and Parvis Khansari pointing out the disappointment over this.</p> <p>Can be closed.</p>
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LK said that this would be a long-term project for the PC over several years and asked if money could be ring fenced for this. Councillors voted to agree principle to this project subject to an updated costing and the Clerk is discussing with Lyn Schofield an accounting statement to include ring fenced funds. **Action: Clerk to work with LS Village Hall Committee re a way to present ringfenced funds.**

9. Community Environmental Toolkit

The Clerk reported that WCC have produced the above toolkit for communities to take environmental action locally and support Wiltshire's environmental action plan. Action by other parishes includes improving footpaths to encourage walking and less car use, creating wildflower areas such as Milly Carmichael's behind the village hall and creating water/wild life areas. It was agreed no

action necessary at this point.

10. Trees

RB said that he had been contacted by Ninna Gibson about the Queen's Canopy project for Jubilee year. This is to encourage tree planting in local communities. **Action: RB will take this to prominent landowners and promote in Minal News**

The Clerk has been chasing Mike Holmes regarding removing the dead tree in the playpark. The Clerk proposed to Councillors that we ask Sarah Thomas, who lives in the village and is a professional arboriculturalist to conduct a survey of the trees in the Church yard and Church field that the PC is responsible for. Councillors approved this. **Action: Clerk**

11. Clerk/Responsible Finance Officer's Report

The Financial Statement and Expenditure against budget had been circulated by email and the current balance was verified by Adam Kebble.

12. Budget for 2022-23 and Precept

The Finance Committee met on 22 October to discuss the budget. Council reserves now meet the required standard being twice annual precept. Spending on the playground has been more than budgeted for and the Cat G project will require ring fencing funds. Councillors approved the budget and keeping the precept at £20,000. **Action: Clerk to apply for Precept.**

13. Any Other Business

13.1 Woodlands Road surface

AK said that the surface at the beginning of Woodlands Road was very poor. The Clerk said the best way to report this was via the My Wiltshire App as residents tend to have more influence due to the potential for litigation etc. **Action: The Clerk will also ask the Parish Steward if it is a cold fill job.**

13.2 Village Hall Windows

RB said that the final side of the windows has been delayed and he would be approaching the PC for a grant.

13.3 World War 1 Tommy Figure

RB would like to place this on the Church Lane Triangle for some of the Remembrance month of November and Councillors approved.

13.4 Benches

AK said there had been some delays with sourcing benches but hoped to have news soon.

Meeting closed at 8.15pm Next meeting Monday 10 January 2022 6.30pm