

MINAL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Held on 14 November 2022 At 6.30pm in the Village Hall

Draft for approval on 9 January 2023

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Present:
John Bevan - Chairman
Rob Bailey
Adam Kebble
Anna Whitehead
Guy Gagen
Lucy Kirkpatrick | Apologies Accepted from:
Brian Devonshire

In Attendance
Sue Hine, Clerk/RFO |
|---|--|

Declarations of Interest for Matters being discussed: None

2. Questions from Members of the Public

Glebe House 3 phase electricity

The residents of Glebe house wish to install 3 phase electricity to their property. SSE have approached the Gales farm next door who refused permission to access their land to make the connection. They have also approached a resident at the front of Church Lane who has also declined. This would have involved digging a trench along the verge adjoining the Church car park and across the entrance to the carpark impacting on works planned to improve that entrance. It was agreed that the most logical connection without disrupting the road and other services would be the Gales Farm next door and Councillors will await developments.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 12 September 2022

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

4. Matters Arising – These had been circulated and an updated Action sheet accompanies these minutes. The main actions have been transferred to Agenda items.

5. Planning Applications

Rabley Enforcement – JB and AW reported that remedial works are currently being carried out by the owners of the barn and Councillors will await the outcome with the residents.

Poulton Mill – Legal action is continuing and the Neighbourhood plan vote continues to be delayed by this process.

The Old School House PL/2022/07964 PL/2022/08271 – Councillors had no objections to these internal alterations to a listed building.

Pennings PL/2022/08383 tree removal in the conservation area. No objection.

6. Playground Update

The Clerk reported that the Tiger Mulch surface has been fitted and paid for. The grant for the Land Fill Trust has been received and the refund of the tax

credits is awaited. As soon as some photos are available the Clerk will send out reports to our grant providers and an article for Marlborough News online and the Wilts Gazette and Herald.

Adam Kebble attended a course in Play Safety and updated Councillors with the importance of regular maintenance checks. He will conduct a monthly inspection and complete a brief report on each item of equipment. AW and the Clerk advised AK to keep a note of hours worked and expenses incurred.

The Annual Inspection should have been carried out and the logs require cross hatching which is being organised with Simon Edwards.

7. Drains, Gulleys and Recent wet weather

There was much discussion about this problem which mainly falls outside the PC's remit. JB restated the known problem with the gullies beneath the High Street and Church Lane. The problem was exacerbated by a lot of rain falling on very dry earth. The Clerk said that the Church Lane gullies were on the priority list for the WC Sewer team and were cleared regularly. Sir Nigel Thompson is to meet with Martin Cook, Highways Officer regarding the problem outside the cottages in the High Street and the Clerk will attend. The Clerk said that excess rain water accumulating on the road is a problem for Ramsbury and Axford and WC contractors had built concrete gullies along parts of the road. This would be difficult along the narrow part of Mildenhall High Street. **Action: Sir Nigel Thompson and Clerk**

8. Church Carpark Entrance Works

The Clerk and JB had met with Simon Edwards of Hungerford Land Ground Works to discuss a long-term solution to the carpark entrance. A comprehensive quote had been received which had been sent to Councillors. Councillors approved the quote and works will commence at the end of November. Councillors approved that half of this will be paid out of the CIL money with the remainder going towards the village hall porch.

9. Burial Fees and Terms

Chris Webb has redrafted the terms for out of area burials and these were approved by Councillors for immediate use. CW was thanked for his work.

10. Area Board Update

BD was absent due to illness and unable to report.

11. LHFIG Local Highways and Footpath Improvement Group (Cat G) Update

The No HGV sign has been installed but GG reported problems. The sign has been installed on the triangle probably to avoid collisions with farm vehicles on the sides of the road. There is an arrow underneath the sign which confuses drivers between two choices. The arrow could be pointing to the NO HGV or pointing to the direction the vehicles should go in. GG has seen several vehicles pausing and then proceeding down Woodlands road ie the wrong way. The Clerk will leaflet drop all businesses and ask them to advise HGV drivers to use Greenways ie turn left and the situation will be monitored.

LK has chased regarding the traffic calming but has not received a reply. Ringway Parkman have cold filled two of the potholes at the bottom of Woodlands Road and there appeared to be a surveyor taking notes. AW's app advised her that the issue was closed. Councillors agreed that this was insufficient work for the area and the Clerk will write to Martin Cook again.

Action: Clerk

12. Rights of Way

The Clerk received an email from Lyn Schofield complimenting the recent mow of the triangles and advising that the Village Hall Committee have agreed that the area around the village hall will not be mown until the end of May to allow the spring bulbs and seeds to settle. Some Councillors advised that this may make the area look a little scruffy but it was generally agreed that this would not be a fire risk. RB advised that Milly Carmichael will scyth the wild flower area in summer to keep it looking tidier. **Action: Clerk will advise D Pittams**

13. Clerk/Responsible Finance Officers Financial Statements

These were approved and signed by Guy Gagen. The Clerk stated that our income and expenditure were at a record high this year due to the grants and CIL money received.

14. Budget for 2023

The Finance Committee met on 28 October and Minutes had been circulated. The Clerk reported that contractor's prices were increasing by c10%. The PC has built up sufficient reserves and benefitted from grants and CIL money. The issue of reducing the Precept to alleviate the cost-of-living crises had been discussed but rejected by the Finance Committee because it was likely it would then have to increase in future years. The Clerk reported that due to a minor change to the tax base the average council tax payment would only increase by a few pence. LK had suggested an additional budget for charitable requests. AW reminded Councillors that the PC could only support charities or groups not individuals. Councillors approved a donation to Love Marlborough Kids Meals for local children of £200. The budget was discussed and approved with a few changes. The maintenance budget was increased to allow for increased cutting in a wetter summer and longer season, Minal News was reduced due to less printing costs, the website has recently had a large increase so unlikely to be a large increase next year and the Subscriptions and Donations was set at £600. Councillors approved the budget for 2023-24.

15. Any Other Business

15.1 Hedge between Hernshaw and The Knapp

LK said that this hedge is overgrown and difficult to pass through with a buggy.

Action: Clerk to write to D Moss to request hedge cut.

15.2 Telephone Box

AK has fixed a pane in the telephone box book swap and said that he would look at the maintenance of it. The Chair thanked AK for all his work around the village which is much appreciated.

15.3 Positive Conduct equals Positive Democracy Charter

Wiltshire Council has been reviewing Councillors behavioural codes of conduct in the light of several incidents and the Government's standards in public life project. The Clerk has just received revised guidance and the opportunity for Parish Councillors to sign up to a Positive Conduct equals positive Democracy Charter. There is clarification for when the code applies to Councillor behaviour, and increased guidance for using social media, registering and declaring interests and the issue of respect. The Clerk said that during the last 5 years the PC has not had any complaints or issues of alleged bullying but GG noted that other local councils were not as fortunate. The Clerk will circulate the document and suggests that Councillors complete the electronic link to sign the charter. **Action: Clerk**

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