

## MINAL PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Held on 8 January 2024 At 6.45pm in the Village Hall

Draft for approval on 11 March 2024

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| <p><b>1. Present:</b><br/>Anna Whitehead, Chair<br/>Lucy Kirkpatrick<br/>Brian Devonshire, Vice Deputy Chair<br/>Rob Bailey, Vice Deputy Chair<br/>Lesley Rowe<br/>Adam Kebble<br/>Guy Gagen</p> | <p><b>Apologies Accepted from:</b><br/>Caroline Thomas, County Councillor</p> <p><b>In Attendance</b><br/>Sue Hine, Clerk/RFO</p> |
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**Declarations of Interest for Matters being discussed:** None.

**2. Minutes of the meeting held on 13 November 2023**

The Minutes were approved and signed.

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

**4. Questions from Members of the Public:**

Matthew Cichero asked about maintenance for the Mildenhall to Marlborough footpath. **Action: Rob Bailey**

**5. Flooding**

The unprecedented recent rainfall led to widespread flooding of the River Kennet in Mildenhall and Marlborough. Due to the quick actions of John Hounslow, River Keeper for the Kennet, flooding was averted from houses close to the River. Councillors thanked John for his prompt actions. Phoebe Wickham attended the meeting as the drains outside her house and opposite (adjacent to Home Farm) were full and overwhelmed by the heavy rain of Storm Henk. This is a known problem due to the run off from the top of the village and the underground gullies becoming frequently blocked due to the road silt. Councillor Lesley Rowe had provided PW with gel sacs to put outside her home. Mark Mutch of Home Farm called Dynarod who rodded the drains on Friday 5 January so the water could drain away. Both were thanked by Councillors. There was a discussion about what could be done. The issue has already been reported to Martin Cook, Highways Officer. PW feels that the Horseshoe pub requires a soak away and the Clerk had chased Martin Cook but not received a reply. Several Councillors felt that even with a soakaway this would not make much difference due to the volume of water. Similarly building up the pavement kerb could create a pool of water making the problem worse. PW explained that the height of the road has increased over the years. Councillors decided that Lucy Kirkpatrick would raise this with Highways department to identify a way

forward. In the meantime regular rodding to keep the silt at bay is required. AW asked PW if fitting a flood gate to her property would alleviate the flooding and splash area from cars in acute periods. PW will investigate costs and advise the PC. The Clerk has requested gel sacs from the Council Emergency planning team for our Emergency Planning **Action: PW and LK**

## 6. Planning Applications

### **PL/2023/10600 Removal of condition 2 on K/37749 relating to Occupancy condition Glebelands Cottage East**

This property has been open market for some years now with no action from Wiltshire Council. Councillors had no objection to its removal.

## 7. New Email addresses and Website

Netwise have set up emails for Councillors. All Councillors need to ensure these are set up after the weekend ie 15 January when the Clerk will use the new emails for PC correspondence. The Clerk said that it appears our website is higher up the google search than Mildenhall Suffolk as a request for a burial was recently received and found not to be in our Burial yard. Netwise have advised that they are working on moving all domains to .gov.uk in line with Government requirements. The Clerk asked LR to provide a brief biography for the website **Action: LR**

## 8. Church Carpark Field

Chair Anna Whitehead has talked to Martin Gibson. He will put two Heifers in the field from March and build a pen in the corner should the overflow parking be required. There is a slight issue with water supply as neither the outside tap or toilet tap will be sufficient and it is likely to be delivered by bowser. **Action: AW to amend grazing licence and Clerk to issue.**

## 9. Church Hedges

Lesley Rowe has talked to the PCC who have said that cutting both the yew/box hedge and the large hedge have always been the PC responsibility. A recommendation for Turner Landscaping has been given for the yew/box hedges and the Clerk is continuing to find a farmer with a flail cutter for the large carpark hedge. **Action: LG to liaise with PCC and Clerk.**

## 10. Playpark Roundabout

The clerk has had lengthy discussions with our playpark inspector, Sutcliffe Aplin and Redlynch playgrounds. The roundabout could go on for a few years and there was no information about likely longevity but it is known to be a robust piece of equipment. New models are £4100. Matting is required to protect the grass which if soggy and muddy results in a safety risk. The Clerk reported ongoing difficulties with obtaining quotes from playground companies with only Redlynch returning a quote which was deemed too high by Councillors. Playground companies do not routinely offer maintenance instead focussing on new installations. Councillors discussed and suggested contacting local trades to fit the matting or a volunteer day from the village. **Clerk to contact local handymen.**

### 11. Playpark

The annual inspection has been carried out and the Clerk is awaiting the report. Adam Kebble reported that there is a problem with the climbing frame and a log on the stepper. He will contact Sutcliffe regarding replacement materials.

**Action: Adam Kebble**

### 12. Defibrillator Decision

The Clerk had sought grants from British Heart Foundation and Friends of Savernake but been declined by both. London Hearts who offer the Mindray C1A defibrillator and a heated cabinet through the DHSC grant scheme have offered a grant. The Clerk has investigated a new Defibrillator and cabinet through our current supplier Community Heartbeat owned by Zola (formerly Cardiac Science). They are unable to offer any grant funding and were unable to bid for the DHSC funding which they have complained about to the DHSC. CH mainly offer American equipment due to its build quality and longevity. Due to this the costs with Community Heartbeat are approx £1800 against £750 for the Mindray C1A which is Chinese owned. Both machines are guaranteed for 8 years and similar additional costs apply ie an electrician for fitting, new battery after 5 years and new pads if used. It is relevant to note that Community Heartbeat stopped dealing with Mindray as their service was poor and they withdrew UK/Europe support. Currently they have a service centre while the DHSC grant is operating. Councillor Brian Devonshire had suggested applying for a grant from Area Board but proposed that the PC opt for the London Hearts Mindray Offer. Councillors voted to approve this motion and the Clerk will action. The Clerk also said that the current position means that the cabinet has the full force of westerly storms and that the cabinet suffers condensation and damp. Every time there is a storm the cabinet reports a failure and has to be checked. The Clerk suggested moving the cabinet to a less weather exposed position and this was approved. **Action: Clerk to finalise grant application and source an electrician to fit the Defibrillator.**

### 13. Speed Indicator Devices

Message Maker came out to service and inspect our SID's. They are both still in excellent condition and the issue was failing batteries. Both units have two batteries one of which acts as back up but now have only one battery each. The Clerk had been disappointed that they had not arrived with spare batteries and we now need a new back up battery in each. To date no bill for service has been received. The Clerk has already chased MM for the new batteries. As the batteries are widely available and it is not a technical job it was agreed that AK and the Clerk will seek to replace them. The Clerk has also spoken to Marlborough Town Council regarding their Evolis SID's. Elancity technical support is recommended and they have the added advantage that they can be mobile. **Action: AK Clerk**

### 14. LHFJ Local Highways and Footpath Improvement Group

LK reported that our project is unlikely to be prioritised for the next financial year and there is a shortage of surveyors at Wiltshire Council. She will raise the question of C6 flooding as at point 5.

## **15. Financial Reports**

The Financial Statement and Expenditure against Budget were approved by Councillors and LK signed the statement and verified the balances which the Clerk showed via the online App. The Clerk said that the new Lloyds account was operating well but that as the interest rate was not as good a notice account for designated funds had been opened.

## **16. Any Other Business**

**15.1** The Clerk mentioned the recent campaign targeting idling cars emitting fumes from Marlborough Town Council. Councillor Rob Bailey said that this information was available by signing up to Marlborough News online.

**15.2** LK reported that the Werg would be closed from 4 – 11 March for utility works for the new house at Werg Gardens. The Clerk has advised residents.

**15.3** The recent flooding in Marlborough and road closure resulted in increased traffic passing through the Werg. This road is not suitable for heavy flow traffic and several pot holes have been made worse. Lesley Rowe will report these on the My Wilts App.

**15.4** The Clerk asked Lesley Rowe to provide brief information for her biography on the website.

## **17. Dates of Next Meetings**

Meeting closed at 8.20pm      **Next meeting Monday 11 March 2024 at 6.45pm**

Meetings for 2024/25

Monday 13 May

Monday 8 July

Monday 9 September

Monday 11 November

Monday 13 January 2025