

MINAL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Held on 8 July 2024 At 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Draft for approval on 9 September 2024

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Present: Anna Whitehead, Chair Brian Devonshire, Vice Deputy Chair Rob Bailey, Vice Deputy Chair Lesley Rowe Lucy Kirkpatrick | Apologies Accepted from: Caroline Thomas, County Councillor Adam Kebble In Attendance Sue Hine, Clerk/RFO |
|--|---|

Declarations of Interest for Matters being discussed: None.

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 13 May 2024

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:

Olly Mutch – Bike Jumps in the Playground

Olly emailed the clerk asking if it would be possible to erect some bike jumps on the side of the playground beside the tunnel and towards the zip wire. He had delivered a rough sketch and was due to attend the meeting but did not arrive. Councillors are aware that there is not much for teenagers in Mildenhall and discussed the proposal at some length. Having considered the safety aspects and space in the playground it was agreed that there was not enough space in the playground to meet safety regulations but the plan might be possible in another space. However, it was also noted that there is an excellent concrete skate park in Marlborough.

Kingfisher Cottage

The Clerk was notified by John and Maggie Hounslow that two adults and some St John's teenagers had been seen entering the vacant property. On challenging the boys they left and the adults have so far not returned. This has been reported to the local police. The roof is now falling in and the Hounslows were concerned about the safety of the building. AW has been carrying out some research on the possibility of reporting as an abandoned property and whilst this is a lengthy process it was agreed that the Clerk will start the process when further research has been carried out.

Action: AW Clerk

5. Church Field Grazing

Councillor Guy Gagen was not present for an update and the heifers have not yet arrived. If agreement with the PCC re water cannot be agreed the PC will have to continue with mowing to preserve the grass. **Action: GG**

6. Church Hedge Cutting

Two quotes have been received for the Church Hedge work. Advice has been to leave the hedge until the Autumn to recover and then cut twice a year. Councillors approved the quote from Chris Sheldon at Axford. **Action LR to follow up with Turner Landcare who were not successful on this occasion and Clerk to organise in Autumn.**

7. Thicketts Road increased Traffic

AW and John Bevan went to see Chris Sheldon regarding his nursery business at Grove Farm. A sign has been erected pointing to the correct direction back to the village. The Clerk had a reply from Cleo Davies who runs Doggy Daze and does remind her clients of the rural road. A car with young men, who are believed to work at Mere Farm, have been observed on more than one occasion driving fast past both businesses. It was agreed that Lesley Rowe will have a conversation with Melissa Brown at Mere Farm. **Action: LR**

8. Wheelie Bin Stickers

The Clerk obtained a quote for speed restriction stickers for wheelie bins. These are thought to act as another reminder for drivers. Councillors approved the purchase of 60 x 30mp and 40 x 20mp stickers which will be delivered to households on the affected roads. **Action: Clerk**

9. Website

Netwise have advised the Clerk on a one off grant Cabinet Grant of £100 + Vat for migrating to a .gov.uk domain which the Government are keen to promote for the extra security features. LR proposed that this was accepted despite the increased costs for migrating emails. Councillors approved this action. **Action: Clerk**

10. Defibrillator – Possible incident by SW Ambulance

The Clerk was notified by The Circuit that manages Defibrillators that SW Ambulance may have accessed our defibrillator which they are entitled to do. If they had we would need to purchase new pads as they are a one-time use only. Derek Moss checked the Defibrillator and it appears unused and Councillors did not know of any recent incidents.

11. Emergency Plan – Email to AA re Ditch Clearance

AW has not received a reply to her email. BD offered to discuss with AA and AW will forward the email to him. **Action: AW and BD**

12. Planning Applications

Poulton Mill PL/2024/06104 It was noted that this was a large increase (c150m) adding a second storey. Councillors felt that there were no grounds for objection but noted that Martin Ephson has not been included on the neighbours list and the Clerk will email him. **Action: Clerk**

Iona Church Lane PL/2024/00165 – Car port and new driveway. There appear to be several revisions to meet WCC conditions.

13. Financial Statements 13.5.24-8.7.24 and Current Expenditure against New Budget

The Financial Statements 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 has sent the Certificate of Exemption to PKF and the dates for Inspection have been advertised.

The Clerk said that the part Sutcliffe delivered did not have holes drilled and was missing some of the screws. She had notified Sutcliffe to remove them from the invoice but no reply had been received. She asked if it was appropriate to pay the invoice less these parts and noted that the service from Sutcliffe had been slow and inefficient. Councillors approved this. The Clerk also said that new financial regulations had been approved for Councils and that she would go through them.

Action: Clerk

14. Area Board

BD reported that a health and wellbeing event had been run in St Peter's Church on Saturday 6 July. He also noted that grants had been reduced this year.

15. LHFIG Local Highways and Footpath Improvement Group

LK had chased progress with Steve Hind and reported that disappointingly matters are moving at a very slow pace. The Estates team at WCC are liaising with Ramsbury estates and an ecologist site meeting will take place. However, LK noted that a surveyor has still not been actioned.

16. Any Other Business

16.1 Concrete waste

RB reported that someone, possibly builders working on Glebe House, had dumped concrete spill on Glebe House's land on the public footpath leading to the water meadow footpath at the bottom of Church Lane. He provided photos to Councillors via WhatsApp. He said that several residents were very upset by this and a wild rose has been damaged. He proposed writing a letter to the owner of Glebe House about removal of the waste. Councillors approved this. **Action: RB and Clerk**

16.2 Telephone Box

Jamie Pittams has offered to renovate the village Telephone box. Councillors agreed that it was a good feature for the village. RB proposed a contribution of £200 towards the costs of new Perspex panels, paint and labour and this was approved by Councillors. **Action: RB and Clerk**

16.3 Sign for the Village Hall

RB reported that the village hall committee have discussed a village hall sign which is common in other villages. It is accepted that the website directions are good and it is fairly easy to spot but feedback is that some people miss it. RB will write to Martin Cook to request a sign. **Action: RB.**

Meeting closed at 8.30pm

Dates of Next Meetings

Monday 9 September Monday 11 November Monday 13 January 2025