

MINAL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Held on 9 September 2024 At 6.45pm in the Village Hall

Draft for approval on 11 November 2024

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| 1. Present:
Anna Whitehead, Chair
Brian Devonshire, Vice Deputy Chair
Lesley Rowe
Guy Gagen
Adam Kebble | Apologies Accepted from:
Caroline Thomas, County Councillor
Lucy Kirkpatrick, Rob Bailey

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

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 8 July 2024

The Minutes were approved and will be signed at a later date.

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:

4.1 Burial Request from Michael Smith via Rev Chris Smith

Rev Smith passed this request to the PC as the grave in question is in the PC owned part of the burial yard (church field land purchased by PC). The Clerk had asked for a plan but no details have been received. Councillors are concerned about railings interfering with strimming.

4.2 Mil 25 Footpath via County Councillor Caroline Thomas

CT has been approached by a resident who has reported that Mil 25 is very overgrown and that the landlord Mr Bull is not responding to approaches. WC have offered to cut this path provided Mr Bull gives permission. Councillors agreed that LR will undertake this and the Clerk will ask CT for a contact number and email address. **Action: LR & Clerk**

5. Church Field Grazing

GG reported that the PCC are unhappy about livestock and particularly the proposed heifers in the church field. The field has been cut by Martin Gibson using a tractor attachment for a family wedding this year. After some discussion about costs, Councillors approved placing this back on the mowing list with D Pittams and to ask for a separate invoice for this piece of work for a year when it will be reviewed. **Action: Clerk**

6. Website .gov domain and emails.

Website has transitioned to .gov.uk but Netwise were awaiting a decision on emails. Councillors approved moving to .gov emails which increases the annual cost but gives

greater security and cohesion with the website. **Action: Clerk**

7. Emergency Plan Readiness

The Clerk went through the PEAS Form (Parish Emergency Assistance Scheme) and Councillors approved ordering 2 new “Drive slowly through flood water” signs. The Clerk has still not heard from WCC Emergency Plan team regarding inspecting the snow plough attachment. Councillors approved the Clerk contacting AA and the fabricator to fit the attachment to AA’s new tractor. AK said that it should be possible to order new rubber strips on line. The Clerk will advise the EP team and stress that the parish is susceptible to problems with heavy snow on the downs and this remains a priority for us. AA has cleared roads in the past by using the scoop of his tractor which damages the road surface and Woodlands road is known to be in a poor condition.

Action: Clerk

There was much discussion about the continued water running down Woodlands road and overwhelming the gullies on the C6. AA has said that the drainage grips were previously dug by WC and Councillors agreed the Clerk will speak to Highways and Gully cleansing possibly through CT in the first instance. One of the gullies in Woodlands Road is blocked and AW will identify with What3words and advise Clerk for the Discretionary gully service. **Action: AW and Clerk**

8. Planning Applications

The Clerk reported ME’s thanks for the PC’s comments to PL/2024/06104. The claim drew Councillors attention to new Labour Government’s stated aims for house building and the impact on some parishes locally.

9. Footpaths

The “Wiltshire Council Ramsbury 9B, 44, 71 & 72 and Mildenhall 16 Definitive Map and Statement Modification Order 2022” is now with the Planning inspectorate. AW via the Clerk confirmed that the PC is happy for the Inspectorate process to proceed with written representations. Councillors are not making any comments/representations.

10. Financial Statements 9.7.24 – 9.9.24 and Current Expenditure against New Budget

The Financial Statements and Expenditure against Budget were approved by Councillors and LR signed the statement and verified the balances which the Clerk showed via the online App. AW asked why no bills for cleaning or use of the hall were reported and the clerk advised that these are presented at the end of year. The Clerk reported that the auditors PKF have accepted have the PC’s Certificate of Exemption and no further action is necessary. The Clerk and BD will meet to discuss the budget.

Action: Clerk BD

11. Playground

AK was thanked for his temporary repair to one of the struts of the swings in the playground. The Clerk will contact Vita Play to make the necessary repairs but this may wait until after the annual playground inspection. The Clerk and AK recently inspected the gravel boarding around the climbing frame area which is failing. Joe Pittams is now away travelling but has recommended a colleague Jake Horwood and the Clerk has met with him for a quote. AK also recommended Carter Fencing but it is

noted that they are now based mainly in Wantage area. **Action: Clerk**

12. Area Board and Information circulated

The next Area Board is 1 October. The Clerk had circulated various information. AW and Councillors agreed that the Gypsy Traveller plan was not a concern to the parish but that any councillors can respond. AW and the Clerk will attend the Neighbourhood Police County Parish Forum on 20 November.

13. LHFIG Local Highways and Footpath Improvement Group

LK sent her apologies for the meeting but reported by text that the site meeting for the Estates team at WCC, Ramsbury estates and an ecologist should take place by the end of September. The next LHFIG meeting is 17 October at 2.00pm via Teams and it is likely that Steve Hind will describe the process of applying for substantive funding and the likelihood of achieving it. LK is unable to attend this meeting due to work commitments and AW will attend. **Action: LK to brief AW**

14. Any Other Business

The Clerk reminded Councillors that 2025 is an election year and whilst this does not usually cause problems for the PC it is hoped that the process will be more online this time.

Meeting closed at 8.30pm

Dates of Next Meetings

Monday 11 November Monday 13 January 2025