

## HERMITAGE PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the meeting of Hermitage Parish Council held at Adelaide Room, Holy Trinity Church, Hermitage, Berkshire RG18 9ST on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2021 at 7.30pm

**Present** Cllr R Cottingham, Cllr S Russell, Cllr R Marr, Cllr D Brown, Cllr Moran, Cllr C Purchase, Cllr F Ashwood, Cllr A Goldsmith (arr 7.44pm).

3 members of the public

01.10.21 **Public participation**  
None

02.10.21 **Apologies for absence**  
Dist. Cllr H Cole, Dist. Cllr G Simpson, Cllr N Burraston, Cllr M Yam, Ms N Pierce (Parish Clerk)

03.10.21 **Minutes of meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2021**  
The minutes were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

04.10.21 **Declarations of interest**  
None

05.10.21 **Actions agreed and matters arising from the minute of the last meeting not referred to elsewhere**  
None

06.10.21 **Report of the District Councillor**  
Dist Cllrs' report is on the website.

07.10.21 **Planning**  
**7.1 New applications:**  
21/02306/HOUSE, Kimberley, Marlston road, Hermitage, RG18 9SY. Single storey rear extension. No objection.  
21/02375/HOUSE, Gable Barn, Yattendon Road, Hermitage, RG18 9RW. Single storey rear extensions and external alterations. No objection.  
21/02489/HOUSE, Sandicotes, Marlston Road, Hermitage, RG18 9SY. Two single storey rear extensions, one with a pitched roof, the other with a flat roof. New window on right hand elevation; two rooflights to extension on rear elevation, with one lantern light. New pitched porch roof to front elevation and internal alterations. No objection.  
21/02511/FUL, Mayflower Barn, Wellhouse Farm, Eling, Hermitage, RG18 9UH Engineering operation to create a new swimming pond. No objection.

**7.2 Decision notices:**  
21/01740/HOUSE, 18 Pinewood Crescent, Hermitage, Thatcham, West Berkshire RG18 9WL. Rear Extension & Garage Conversion. Approved.  
21/01817/HOUSE, Rylestone, High Street, Hermitage, RG18 9RE. Single storey front porch extension and partial garage conversion. Approved.

21/02201/COND1, Application for approval of details reserved by condition 12 (arboriculturally watching brief) of approved 21/00043/FULD, White Horse, Newbury Road, Hermitage. - Reconfiguration of the pub grounds (including the rearrangement of the parking and pub garden, and removal of the outdoor store) and erection of 4 new dwellings together with access, parking, and landscaping.

WBC approves the details submitted in relation to the condition(s) specified in part 1 of the notice i.e., the decision notice and the arborculturalist's comments relating to trees at rear.

7.3 TA Fisher Development: The White Horse, Newbury Road, Hermitage lighting. Noted that WBC informed Hermitage is a dark village.

7.4 Neighbourhood Development Plan: NDP has received a helpful report from the consultant and is to consider applying for a grant for further help.

#### 08.10.21 **Finance and report of Responsible Finance Officer**

8. Financial position as of 31 September 2021

Balance carried forward

(Incl S106 contributions)	£215,709.38
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Receipts to 31 September	£ 60,036.37
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Payments to 31 September	£ 31,663.99
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Balance	£244,081.76
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Plus, unrepresented cheques	£ 325.13
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Balance in hand	£244,406.89
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8.1 Report of Financial Officer: noted

8.2 Receipts and payments for consideration October 2021

8.2.1 Sunshine Commercial Services Ltd monthly charge	£ 256.73
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8.2.2 Grass maintenance/Contractor	£ 643.60
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8.2.3 Cost of administration	Salary	£ 700.72
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8.2.4 Clerk expenses, stationery	£ 3.80
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8.2.5 Triangle Management Ltd (dog bins)	£ 307.80
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8.2.6 Autella Payroll Services Ltd	£ 65.52
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8.2.6 Cllr Brown, ink	£ 61.99
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8.2.7 Barlow & Sons (Hermitage) Ltd	£ 1.60
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8.2.8 Cllr Cottingham, Long Lane bus shelter materials/maintenance	£ 44.00
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8.2.9 British Legion, poppy wreath donation	£ 50.00
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8.2.10 PFK Littlejohn external audit	£ 360.00*
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Total	£ 2,495.76
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\*Payment not approved until satisfactory explanation of lack of completion of audit

8.3 Direct Debits previously approved:

1&1 Ionas (web site) monthly payment	£ 5.99
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NEST	£ 64.49
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8.4 FWP report; Cllr Moran provided a report. Councillors were requested to provide suggestions for future projects with some indication of possible cost.

8.5 Budget proposals and three-year plan: suggested projects to be put forward by councillors before November meeting.

#### 09.10.21 **Burial ground**

Councillors were reminded that the rules will be finalised, and charges set in January. Cllr Marr to inspect a leaning memorial headstone.

- 10.10.21     **Highways**  
10.1 Thames Water: The council will write to the company to express its displeasure about the duration of recent unplanned closure of Hampstead Norreys Rd.  
10.2 Speed initiative proposal: council agreed to adopt the proposal for purchasing speed monitoring equipment.
- 11.10.21     **Environment**  
Council received verbal reports or updates on the following:  
11.1 Playgrounds; see below  
11.1.1 Councillor inspection reports; Cllr Yam did the inspections. Most of the items in the recent councillor's report have been dealt with. A piece of grass matt has been removed from beneath the giant swing in Pinewood Park  
11.1.2 Wicksteed annual inspection; the report has been reviewed and it is noted that very little needs attention. Council thanked the volunteer who takes care of the maintenance.  
11.2 Furze Hill; nothing to report.  
11.2.1 Recreation Ground; nothing to report.  
11.2.2 New management plan; comments from the council are to be acted upon and the ecologist will make a further site visit.  
11.3 Other open spaces; Dines Way, two swings on branches emplaced by residents removed due to safety concerns now replaced by a resident. Single-rope swing examined and Cllr Goldsmith's assessment that the alleged fraying was just fungus on the surface proved correct. Lipscomb Close, Charlotte Close; nothing to report.  
11.4 Greenham Common Trust Trees; query from the trust to be responded to.  
11.5 Bus Shelter; the decision has been approved, alternative quotes to be sought.
- 12.10.21     **Other matters**  
12.1 Village Hall: Cllr R Marr provided a report; the beer festival was a great success and further events planned for December. Following the AGM some trustees have changed. Sara Disson remains chair, vice chair Deborah Arden-Hunt (Margaret Roberts stepped down) new trustee Dan Hawkins takes vacant Treasurer post. Sally Lightowlers resigned.  
12.2 Defibrillator checks: done  
12.3 Christmas Tree event Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December: confirmed. A new risk assessment may be required.  
12.4 BALC AGM 17 November: HPC will vote for retaining the subscription level
- 13.10.21     **Policies to review**  
13.1 Furze Hill Recreation Ground, MUGA and Pinewood Park: latest changes to be added and document recirculated.  
13.2 IT Disaster Recovery Plan: to check all suggestions included and then recirculate.
- 14.10.21     **Correspondence received since the last meeting not referred to elsewhere**  
Correspondence accepted and noted.
- 15.10.21     **Reports from Parish Council representatives who have attended meetings of outside bodies on behalf of the council**  
Cllrs Russell, Purchase and Cottingham had attended the parish district conference by zoom. The main theme was Community Speed Watch. Attendees were asked to suggest topics for future conferences.
- 16.10.21     **Items to be raised by Councillors (information only)**  
Cllr Ashwood had attended new councillor training.

17.10.21 **Any other items which the Chairman decides are urgent (information only)**  
None

18.10.21 **Date of the next meeting**  
Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm at the Adelaide Room, Holy Trinity Church, Hermitage,  
Berkshire RG18 9ST.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.57pm.

**Part Two**

RESOLVED: That by virtue of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item(s) of business under Section 2 of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960.”

Cllr Cottingham briefed Councillors on the pension arrangements for the Clerk. Clerk to write to confirm.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Dated \_\_\_\_\_