

HERMITAGE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Hermitage Parish Council held at Adelaide Room, Holy Trinity Church, Hermitage, Berkshire RG18 9ST on Wednesday 16th November at 7.30pm

- Present** Cllr R Cottingham, Cllr R Marr, Cllr D Brown, Cllr T Moran, Cllr A Goldsmith, Cllr E Chan, Cllr N Burraston
- 1 member of the public
In attendance Ms N Pierce (Parish Clerk)
- 01.11.22 **Public participation**
None.
- 02.11.22 **Apologies for absence**
Dist. Cllr H Cole, Dist. Cllr G Simpson, Cllr C Purchase, Cllr F Ashwood, Cllr M Yam.
- 03.11.22 **Minutes of meeting held on 20th October 2022**
The minutes were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.
- 04.11.22 **Election of Chairman**
Cllr Chan proposed Cllr Burraston as Chairman, seconded by Cllr Brown.
Unanimously agreed. No other nominations were received.
The elected Chairman signed a new Declaration of Acceptance of Office form.
- 05.11.22 **Declarations of interest**
Cllr David Brown declared an interest in agenda item 8.1.
22/02595/CERTP, Cornish Cottage, Priors Court Road, Hermitage, Thatcham RG18 9TG.
Laying concrete slab of timber frame and clad structure with tiled roof.
- 06.11.22 **Actions agreed and matters arising from the minute of the last meeting not referred to elsewhere**
None.
- 07.11.22 **Report of the District Councillor**
Dist. Cllrs' report has not been received. Clerk to obtain.
- 08.11.22 **Planning**
8.1 New applications:
22/02595/CERTP, Cornish Cottage, Priors Court Road, Hermitage, Thatcham RG18 9TG.
Laying concrete slab of timber frame and clad structure with tiled roof. No objection.
8.2 Decision notices:
22/01982/HOUSE, Pinewood Cuttings, Deacons Lane, Hermitage, Thatcham West Berkshire RG18 9RJ. Addition of an open car port over existing parking area to the side of existing garage. Approved.
22/00640/MDOPO, Lawrence Building, Newbury Road, Hermitage, Thatcham Modification of Planning Obligation on Approved Application 19/00029/FULD: Second schedule, Clause C, Change both unit type and tenure Former. Approved.

8.3 Neighbourhood Development Plan: Cllr Cottingham provided a report. Consultation emails have been sent with evidence of receipt. 315 visits to website up to November 16th. Next stage will be an examination by a planning inspector, followed by a referendum arranged by West Berkshire Council. The inspector may require changes. Notices to be removed on 5th December, Cllr Chan, and Cllr Brown.

09.11.22 **Finance and report of Responsible Finance Officer**

8. Financial position as of 31st October 2022

Balance carried forward	
(Inc. S106 contributions)	£231,071.74
Receipts to 31 st October	£ 65,355.04
Payments to 31 st October	£ 71,836.71
Balance	£224,590.07
Plus, unrepresented cheques	<u>£ 8,098.89</u>
Balance in hand	£232,688.96

9.1 Report of Financial Officer: noted

9.2 Payments for consideration November 2022

9.2.1 Sunshine Commercial Services Ltd monthly charge	£ 269.57
9.2.2 Grass maintenance/Contractor	£ 669.10
9.2.3 Cost of administration	£ 719.48
9.2.4 Ruth Cottingham, NDP 19.99, HPC £31.72	£ 51.71
9.2.5 Navigus Planning Ltd – NDP	£ 1,215.00
9.2.6 Triangle Management Ltd, dog bins	£ 222.30
9.2.7 Yattendon Estates, Christmas Tree	<u>£ 110.00</u>
Total	£ 3,257.16

9.3 Direct Debits previously approved:

1&1 Ionas (web site) monthly payment	£ 5.99
NEST monthly payment	£ 66.92

9.4 Receipts to be noted October 2022:-

Precept £26,575, Bank interest £704.10, CCLA interest £251.60, CIL £1,193.69

9.5 Local Authorities Property Fund statement value to 30 September 2022: £26,405.89.

10.11.22 **Burial ground**

Burial of ashes 12noon 18th November.

Moss on pathway; Cllr Brown to purchase sulphate. Cllr Cottingham to ask contractor to clear.

Meeting at burial ground 26th November for plot reservation.

11.11.22 **Highways**

11.1 Speeding: nothing to report. Cllr Marr advised car speeds driving past the church on Remembrance Sunday seemed excessive.

12.11.22 **Environment**

Council received verbal reports or updates on the following:

12.1 Playgrounds: Pinewood Park new layout designs circulated: Cllr Chan to obtain seek ideas from the Primary School, Cubs and Facebook.

12.1.1 Councillor inspection report: Cllr Yam provided a report.

12.1.2 Annual inspection done on 28th September: Cllr Cottingham advised Thursday team have done further work, more short terms works to be done. Cllr Burraston to lubricate low level equipment. Cllr Brown to liaise with contractor in Cllr Cottingham absence.

12.2 Furze Hill: Cllr Cottingham provided a report.

12.2.1 Recreation ground: nothing to report.

12.2.2 Shed progress: to obtain further quotations. Clerk

12.2.2 Football parking: recent parking improvement seen.

12.3 Other open spaces. Dines Way: nothing to report. Lipscomb Close: To write to resident regarding fence, to attach village design statement, liaise with enforcement and obtain deeds. Clerk. Charlotte Close: ruts in the grass following movement of heavy work lorry. Cllr Brown to obtain quotation from contractor to remedy.

12.4 Climate and biodiversity working group: Cllr Chan provided a report, the talk about energy saving homes was good, next meeting 23rd November at The Fox.

12.5 Further Tree planting on HPC land: no further planting required.

12.6 Grounds maintenance service costs 2023 (Dog bin emptying) increase from £208.88 to £1,418.72 (litter bin emptying) increase from £71.82 to £409 per annum: approved. To review contractor contract for additional two dog bins: Clerk.

12.7 Land at Charlotte close: adverse possession: to obtain land register deeds to establish ownership. Cllr Burraston.

13.11.22 **Other matters**

13.1 Village Hall: hall hire prices have increased by 7%. The Council would like to congratulate the village hall on a successful Beer Festival.

13.2 Defibrillator checks: done.

13.3 Approval of social medial policy deferred to December meeting: Cllr Chan to circulate updated social media policy.

13.4 Christmas Tree ordered: to be delivered to The Fox on 28th November.

13.5 Election of new Councillor: election advert expires 29th November; causal vacancy notice to be advertised thereafter.

14.11.22 **Correspondence received since the last meeting not referred to elsewhere**

Correspondence accepted and noted.

15.11.22 **Reports from Parish Council representatives who have attended meetings of outside bodies on behalf of the council**

Cllr Cottingham attended BALC AGM. Cllr Chan attended WBC Climate Change Forum.

16.11.22 **Items to be raised by Councillors (information only)**

December meeting apologies Cllr Purchase.

Financial regulations policy to be updated to allow for online payments: Cllr Cottingham to provide draft policy for January meeting.

Cllr Goldsmith to draft Parish Council update for Pathfinder, to send to Cllr Burraston/Cllr Cottingham for input.

To add Village Hall parking to December agenda.

Clerk to send August to October minutes to Cllr Moran for update to website.

Cllr Marr advised Horticultural Society will not be requesting a grant for 2023-24.

17.11.22 **Any other items which the Chairman decides are urgent (information only)**

None.

18.11.22 **Date of the next meeting**

Thursday 15th December at 7.30pm in the Adelaide Room, Holy Trinity Church

There being no further business the meeting closed at 21.19 pm.

Signed _____

Dated _____