

HERMITAGE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Hermitage Parish Council held at Adelaide Room, Holy Trinity Church, Hermitage, Berkshire RG18 9ST on Thursday 17th August 2023 at 7.30pm

Present Cllr R Cottingham, Cllr A Goldsmith, Cllr D Brown, Cllr P Turner, Cllr I Govier, Cllr R Marr, Cllr H Codling, Cllr P Dick

4 members of the public
In attendance Ms N Pierce (Parish Clerk)

01.08.23 Public participation

Two members of the public spoke about a complaint.

02.08.23 Apologies for absence

None.

03.08.23 Minutes of meeting held on 20th July 2023

The minutes were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

04.08.23 Declarations of interest

None.

05.08.23 Actions agreed and matters arising from the minute of the last meeting not referred to elsewhere

None.

06.08.23 Reports

6.1 District Councillors

Dist. Cllr. P Dick report has been circulated.

6.2 Chairmans report:

Accepted.

07.08.23 Planning

7.1 New applications:

23/01745/CERTE, The Cabin, High Street, Hermitage, Thatcham RG18 9SR. Lawful certificate as a residential dwelling, comprising of a 1-bedroom apartment, that has been registered as domestic property since 01-02-1999 and has been liable for council tax since that date by various occupants. No objection.

7.2 Decision notices:

None.

7.3 Neighbourhood Development Plan

Cllr Cottingham provided an update. Next step for WBC to send to external examiner hopefully 1st October one BID received to date.

08.08.23 Finance and report of Responsible Finance Officer

8. Financial position as of 31st July 2023

Balance carried forward (Inc. S106 contributions)	£206,814.16
Receipts to 31 st July	£ 58,307.25
Payments to 31 st July	£ 29,244.91
Balance	£235,876.50
Plus, unrepresented cheques	£ 0.00
Balance in hand	£235,876.50

Finance and report of Responsible Finance Officer

8.1 Report of Financial Officer: noted.

8.2 Payments for consideration August 2023

8.2.1 Sunshine Commercial Services Ltd monthly charge	£ 269.57
8.2.2 Grass maintenance/Contractor	£ 908.00
8.2.3 Cost of administration	£ 1,026.20
8.2.4 Administration expenses, spray paint burial ground, ink	£ 45.42
8.2.5 Triangle Management (dog bins)	£ 222.30
8.2.6 David Brown, tradesperson gift remedy of MUGA gate	£ 8.30
Total	£2,339.79

8.3 Direct Debits previously approved:

1&1 Ionas (web site) monthly payment	£ 17.99
NEST monthly payment	£ 97.78
Receipts to be noted July 2023:-	
Burial ground	£358.
CCLA	£258.67

8.5 Internal Audit:

Tasks noted.

8.6 Risk Assessment Schedule:

Approved.

8.7 CCLA balance on 31st June: £22,200.53

09.08.23 Burial ground
Nothing to report.

10.08.23 Highways
Nothing to report.

11.08.23 Environment

Council received verbal reports or updates on the following:

11.1 Playgrounds:

nothing to report.

11.1.1 Councillor inspection reports: Cllr Govier circulated the August report.

11.1.2 Giant Swing repair: To defer repair until after annual playground inspection report.

11.2 Furze Hill:

Cllr Cottingham provided a report, over 20 volunteers attended on 15th August.

11.2.1 Recreation Ground: Cllr Cottingham provided a report.

11.2.2 WBCS task for September: approved.

11.3 Other open spaces: Lipscomb Close, Charlotte Close and Dines Way

Nothing to report.

11.4 Battery Box. For Dines Way green

11.4.1 Signature of Battery Box Next Steps Agreement:

Council approved signature subject to confirmation of date from which index linking applied (since confirmed) noting that this is not a commitment to proceed.

Concerns re location (old railway track and tree roots) advised to applicant, and all risk with them.

11.4.2 Consultation arrangements:

HPC agreed it was appropriate to hold a residents' meeting, specifically inviting those adjacent to the green at which applicant would need to speak.

To sort out dates for resident consultation meeting.

To write to school to request hire of the hall

**AG
Clerk**

11.5 To consider new quotation for dog/litter bins:

Agreed to transfer 2 bins from Triangle to Tactical and see how these performed vrs WBC contractors.

To give notice to Triangle Management Ltd and to instruct Tactical Management to take over the two dog bins. Clerk

WBC contractor performance would be reviewed in two months' time to decide which to choose for all bins.

12.08.23 Other matters

12.1 Village Hall:

The representative reported that the floor of the main hall had be resurfaced and there was no current intention to provide badminton lines.

Enquiries to be made about use of 2022 grant from the PC. RC

12.2 Defibrillator checks:

Done.

12.3 Members Code of Conduct:

AG noted that options were to simply adopt LGA 2020 model Code of Conduct (CoC), potentially with additional changes, or detailed review of HPC Code of Conduct adopted June 2019, to change to reflect model as appropriate.

RC proposed keeping current CoC but with addition of principles from the model. Agreed.

13.08.23 Correspondence received since the last meeting not referred to elsewhere

Correspondence noted.

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

None

15.08.23 Items to be raised by Councillors (information only)

At July meeting, a resident requested speed monitoring on B4009 on approach to PC roundabout from S. Cllr P Turner advised that he'd investigated, and there were no locations that met requirements.

To provide words for Clerk to write to resident. PT/Clerk

Cllr I Govier advised that the initiative to consider options for speed reduction on B4009 by school is no further forward.

Cllr H Codling advised apologies for September meeting.

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

None.

17.08.23 Date of the next meeting

Thursday 21st September at 7.30pm in the Adelaide Room, Holy Trinity Church, Hermitage. There being no further business the meeting closed at 20.37.

Signed _____

Dated _____