

HERMITAGE PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the meeting of Hermitage Parish Council held at
Adelaide Room, Holy Trinity Church, Hermitage, Berkshire RG18 9ST
on Thursday 14th December 2023 at 7.30pm

Present Cllr R Cottingham, Cllr D Brown, Cllr I Govier, Cllr R Marr, District Cllr P Dick, Ms N Pierce (clerk).

01.12.23 Public participation
None.

02.12.23 Apologies for absence
District Cllr H Codling, Cllr P Turner, Cllr A Goldsmith.

03.12.23 Minutes of meeting held on 22nd November 2023
The minutes were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

04.12.23 Declarations of interest
None.

05.12.23 Actions agreed and matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting not referred to elsewhere.
Ongoing actions
11.5 Playground quotations to be obtained by Clerk and Cllr Goldsmith.
Cllr Govier meeting with Berkshire Youth on 18th December.

06.12.23 Reports

6.1 District Councillors

Dist. Cllr. P Dick & Dist. Cllr. H Codling. Reports have been circulated. Noted.

6.2 Chairman's report

Noted. Discussed as appropriate under other Agenda items. Copy appended. Cllr Brown raised a question about improvements to the Website, Cllr Cottingham to provide details of Cold Ash PC contact details.

07.12.23 Planning

7.1 New Applications.

23/02757/FUL, Marvic, Deacons Lane, Hermitage, RG18 9RG. Demolition of existing chalet bungalow and the construction of a new bungalow. No objection.

23/02767/HOUSE, Chapel Farm, Pond Lane, Hermitage, RG18 9RN. Add dormer between two roofs and widen front dormers. No objection.

23/02521, HOUSE, Fairlight, High Street, Hermitage. RG18 9ST. Proposed single storey timber-built carport enclosed with shiplap sided and rear with a pitched tiled shingle roof. Objection.

23/02605/FUL, Hazeldene, Deacons Lane, Hermitage RG18 9RH. Construction of a replacement dwelling with associated landscaping works. No objection.

7.3 Decision notices

23/01512/HOUSE, The Original, Hampstead Norreys Road, Hermitage RG18 9RS. Two storey and single storey extension. WBC approved.

7.3 Neighbourhood Development Plan

Cllr Cottingham provided an update: see also appended report.

The North Wessex Downs AONB is now called the North Wessex Downs National Landscape causing a further slight amendment to the plan. Since the NDP is ready for referendum planners are already taking the plan and the Hermitage Design Code into account. Councillors need to do the same.

08.12.23 Finance and report of Responsible Finance Officer

Financial position as of 30th November 2023

Balance carried forward (Inc. S106 contributions)	£206,814.16
Receipts to 30 th November	£90,438.57
Authorised Payments to 30 th November	£55,802.83
Payment not processed by 30 th November	£0.00
Balance in hand (total)	£241,180.33

8.1 Report of Financial Officer (Clerk's report)

Noted. No comments or questions.

8.2 Payments for consideration December 2023

8.2.1	Sunshine Commercial Services Ltd monthly charge	£269.57
8.2.2	Grass maintenance/Contractor	£703.00
8.2.3	Cost of administration	£1064.55
8.2.4	Administration expenses, minute record book	£11.01
8.2.5	Tactical Management Ltd, dog bins	£32.64
8.2.6	Ruth Cottingham, lock/chain for SSE gate, Ferrous sulphate for moss removal	£13.99
Total	All approved and to be entered and endorsed on-line.	£2,018.61

8.3 Direct Debits previously approved

Noted.

1&1 Ionos (website) monthly payment	£5.99
NEST monthly payment	£147.70

8.4 Receipts November 2023

Noted.

Burial Ground	£534.00
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8.5 Clerk appraisal

Increment to commence 1st February 2024 approved.

8.6 Budget 2024/25

To obtain cost for Tripod for community speed watch device, to enable 2 people to work with as opposed to 3. A new device may be required for new tripod. **Cllr Turner**

8.7 Removal of former Councillor as Lloyds Bank signatory

To obtain form from Lloyds to action the removal of all past Councillors. **Cllr Cottingham/Clerk**

9.12.23 Burial ground

Discussion around placing burial ground plans on the website, need to agree if both phase 1 & 2 required on website. **Cllr Marr/Cllr Cottingham**

10.12.23 Highways

Potholes around The Fox reported.

To report potholes on Yattendon Road to include house names. **Cllr Brown**

11.12.23 Environment

11.1 Playgrounds

Cllr Govier had circulated the latest inspection report. Nothing new of note.

There was concern that net had not yet been replaced. Action ongoing **Clerk**

Cllr Govier noted that he had proposed that all maintenance should be put out to contract. To be put on future agenda after necessary research had been carried out. **Clerk**

11.2 Furze Hill

Nothing to report.

11.2.1 Recreation Ground

Nothing to report.

11.3 Other open spaces

Nothing to report on Dines Way, Lipscomb Close, Charlotte Close.

11.4 Land Transfers

No significant progress per clerk's report.

11.5 Battery Box Dines Way

Nothing to report.

12.12.23 Other matters

12.1 Village Hall

No meeting this month so far. 12 large tables delivered.

12.2 Defibrillator checks

Done.

12.3 Christmas Tree event review.

Very successful, enhanced by presence of Trinity Tones. the Fox have agreed to host again next year. To order new Christmas Tree lights next year. **Clerk**

13.12.23 Correspondence received since the last meeting not referred to elsewhere.

Correspondence noted on agenda.

Part Two – Contact with residents to be done through Chair or Clerk.

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

Chairman attended NDAS show ground meeting: see report. West Berkshire council rural forum, and Climate Change zoom meeting.

15.12.23 Items to be raised by Councillors (information only)

Cllr Marr has suggested The Downland Practice are contacted to ask if a canopy can be set up for people waiting for the Pharmacy in inclement weather. **Cllr Brown**

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

None.

18.12.23 Date of the next meeting

Thursday 18th January at 7.30pm in the Adelaide Room, Holy Trinity Church, Hermitage.
There being no further business the meeting closed at 21:30.

Signed _____ Dated _____

Appendices

Chairman's Report