

HERMITAGE PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the meeting of Hermitage Parish Council held at
Adelaide Room, Holy Trinity Church, Hermitage, Berkshire RG18 9ST
on Thursday 18th April at 7.30pm

Present Cllr D Brown, Cllr I Govier, Cllr R Cottingham, Dist. Cllr. P Dick, Dist. Cllr. H Codling, Cllr A Goldsmith (19.35-20.41), Cllr V Burgess, Ms N Pierce (clerk).

01.04.24 Public participation

One member of the public attended to observe the meeting.

02.04.24 Apologies for absence

Cllr R Marr, Cllr N Brett, Cllr J Schedler.

03.04.24 Minutes of meeting held on 20th March 2024.

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

04.04.24 Declarations of interest

None.

05.04.24 Actions agreed and matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting not referred to elsewhere and actions list

06.04.24 Reports

6.1 District Councillors

Dist. Cllr. P Dick & Dist. Cllr. H Codling. Report for February previously circulated.

6.2 Chairman's report

Noted.

07.04.24 Planning

7.1 New Applications.

24/00634/HOUSE, Yew Tree House, High Street, Hermitage RG18 9SR. Proposed detached garage. No objection.

7.2 Decision notices:

None.

7.3 Neighbourhood Development Plan

Count of referendum, 3rd May Newbury Racecourse, 3 people needed.

08.04.24 Finance and report of Responsible Finance Officer

Financial position as of 29th March 2024

Balance carried forward (Inc. S106 contributions)	£206,814.16
Receipts to 29 th March	£90,841.36
Authorised Payments to 29 th March	£73,600.60
Payment not processed by 29 th March	£434.78
Balance in hand (total)	£224,489.70

8.1 Report of Financial Officer (Clerk's report)

Noted. No comments or questions.

8.2 Payments for consideration April 2024

Approved.

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	£1,060.45
8.2.4	Administration expenses	£48.28
8.2.5	Tactical Management Ltd, dog bins (March)	£70.46
8.2.6	Zurich Insurance Renewal 2024-25	£1,812.77
8.2.7	Hermitage Village Hall, APA room hire	£121.50
8.2.8	Ruth Cottingham, fungi to promote hedge establishment	£10.99
8.2.9	BALC/NALC annual membership	£452.35
8.2.10	Autela Payroll Services Ltd (01/01-29/03)	£99.51
8.2.11	HMRC 06/04-05/05 Income Tax and NI	£146.92
8.2.12	Grant Payment 2024-25 – Village Hall (Cheque)	£800.00
8.2.13	Grant Payment 2024-25 – Holy Trinity Church (Cheque)	£800.00
Total	All approved and to be entered and endorsed on-line.	£6,395.80

8.3 Direct Debits previously approved

Noted.

1&1 Ionos (website) monthly payment	£5.99
NEST monthly payment	£110.14

8.4 Receipts March 2024

None.

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8.5 CCLA balance

31st March: Net Asset Value £21,363.81: noted.

8.6 PWLB balance

31st March: £178,600.91: noted.

9.04.24 Burial ground

9.1 Castle Water invoice £1,858.11. Castle Water have raised an invoice which HPC do not agree with. Ongoing. **Cllr Cottingham/Clerk**

9.2 Plot 20 - Memorial headstone and ledger request approved. To advise stonemasons the ledger with the plot number (in the bottom left-hand corner) must be placed level with the ground. **Clerk**

10.04.24 Highways

Cllr Dick provided an update. Best course of action is to join CSW and get more evidence. Proposal not to pursue the 20 mile an hour speed limit outside the school: agreed.

11.04.24 Environment

11.1 Playgrounds

11.1.1 Councillor inspection reports

Cllr Govier had circulated the latest inspection report. Matting under the tripod swing in Pinewood Park has deteriorated, Thursday team to look at. **Cllr Cottingham**

Advertising signage is still in place, Cllr Govier to remove and place in shed for safekeeping. **Cllr Govier**

11.1.2 Playground works at Furze Hill

To not proceed with anchors, to purchase body twists from Caloo and they are cheaper. Cllr Govier still wants to proceed with the £75 visit to inspect the equipment, it was agreed not to

proceed with this as HAGS have seen the annual inspection report. To obtain quote for HAGS to do the annual inspection report this year. Clerk
Increase to £6,000 budget approved.

11.2 Furze Hill

Nothing to report.

11.2.1 Recreation Ground

Still problems with people not clearing up after dogs.

11.3 Other open spaces

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

12.04.24 Other matters

12.1 Village Hall

John Lawler is the new Chairman.

12.2 Defibrillator checks

Done.

12.3 Annual Parish Assembly (APA) Thursday 25th April.

Administration arrangements in Ruths report.

12.4 Youth Club

Cllr Govier is meeting with Headteacher Gill Turner on Thursday 25th April, Mrs Turner is aware of the youth club document. Cllr Govier

To investigate monies shown in accounts v monies that were handed over, it is thought to be about £2k short. Also, the application of interest to this money. Clerk/Cllr Cottingham

12.5 To approve the recording of future meetings

A copy retained until the minutes have been approved.

12.6 To approve budget for recording machine

£250: approved.

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

Correspondence noted on agenda.

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.”

1. Councillor Co-option – John Rigby; Co-option approved.

2. Eling Way proposed Stage 1 extension – Cllr Cottingham provided an update. Eling Way phase 1. Extension supported.

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

15.04.24 Items to be raised by Councillors (information only)

Cllr J Schedler resigned.

Cllr Brown attended the PPG meeting at the Downland Practice on Tuesday 16th April.

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

None.

17.04.24 Date of the next meeting

APA - Thursday 25th April 2024 at 7.30pm for 8pm in the Village Hall.

Thursday 16th May 2024 at 7.30pm in the Adelaide Room, Holy Trinity Church

There being no further business the meeting closed at 20.41.

Signed _____ Dated _____

