

HERMITAGE PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the meeting of Hermitage Parish Council held at
Adelaide Room, Holy Trinity Church, Hermitage, Berkshire RG18 9ST
on Thursday 20th June at 7.30pm

Present Cllr D Brown, Cllr R Cottingham, Cllr I Govier, Cllr A Goldsmith, Cllr V Burgess, Cllr J Rigby, Cllr C Montague, Cllr. P Dick, Cllr. H Codling, Ms N Pierce (clerk)

One minute silence in memory of the late Cllr Roy Marr.

01.06.24 Public participation

A member of the Station Road Hermitage Ltd Management Company attended to discuss the transfer of the Hermitage Green open space from West Berkshire Council to Hermitage Parish Council.

To speak with WBC to cut the grass at Hermitage Green.

Cllr H Codling

A member of the Village Hall trustees attended to discuss the booking of the recreation ground and a proposed extension of the Village Hall car park. It was agreed to allow an extension for the Freedom of Information request to be fulfilled, to Monday 1st July.

02.06.24 Apologies for absence

Cllr N Brett

03.06.24 Minutes of meeting held on 16th May 2024.

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

04.06.24 Declarations of interest

None.

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

Cllr Brett to set up email addresses for new Councillors.

Cllr Brett

06.06.24 Reports

6.1 District Councillors

Cllr. P Dick & Cllr. H Codling. Report circulated.

6.2 Chairman's report

Noted.

07.06.24 Planning

7.1 New Applications:

24/01081/HOUSE 6 Rowlock Gardens, Hermitage, Thatcham, RG18 9WT

Conversion of existing garage and addition of new link porch to create Part M facilities with full Part M access for disabled person. No objection.

7.2 Decision notices:

23/02757/FUL, Marvic, Deacons Lane, Hermitage, Thatcham RG18 Demolition of existing chalet bungalow and the construction of a new bungalow RG18 9RH. WBC approved.

7.3 Neighbourhood Development Plan:

Cllr Cottingham provided an update. By noon Friday 14th June no representation had been made to the High Court to object. Paper copies of the Design Code will be printed by Newbury College.

08.06.24 Finance and report of Responsible Finance Officer

Financial position as of 31st May 2024

Balance carried forward (Inc. S106 contributions)	£225,011.99
Receipts to 31 st May	£32,192.95
Authorised Payments to 31 st May	£18,627.92
Payment not processed by 31 st May	£35.00
Balance in hand (total)	£238,612.02

8.1 Report of Financial Officer (Clerk's report)

Noted. No comments or questions.

8.2 Payments for consideration May 2024

Approved.

8.2.1	Sunshine Commercial Services Ltd monthly charge	£269.57
8.2.2	Grass maintenance/Contractor	£752.08
8.2.3	Cost of administration	£1,235.36
8.2.4	Administration expenses	£80.24
8.2.5	Tactical Management Ltd, dog bins (April)	£213.07
8.2.6	West Berkshire Countryside Society, 28 th May volunteers	£80.00
8.2.7	Heelis & Lodge, internal audit 2023-24	£273.00
8.2.8	HMRC, tax and NI	159.53
Total	All approved and endorsed online	£3,062.86

8.3 Direct Debits previously approved

Noted.

1&1 Ionos (website) monthly payment	£5.99
NEST monthly payment	£107.08

8.4 Receipts May 2024

Noted.

Burial Ground	182.00
Burial Ground	237.00

8.5 To approve bank signatory: Cllr Vanessa Burgess; Cllr John Rigby; Cllr C Montague

Approved.

8.6 Internal auditor report

Accepted.

8.7 Annual Return 2023/24

1. To approve and sign the Annual Governance Statement; approved.
2. To approve the Annual Return 2023/24 Accounting Statement; approved.

09.06.24 Burial ground

9.1 Castle Water account balance is £252.72 in credit on 14th June. Correct meter reading photo sent to Castle Water, account balance now correct.

9.2 Memorial Bench plaque in memory of Roy Marr; approved.

10.06.24 Highways

Nothing further to add to that provided in Chair report.

11.06.24 Environment

11.1 Playgrounds

11.1.1 Councillor inspection reports

Cllr Govier did the playground inspection, Tripod swing chain broken in Pinewood Park. Thursday team to mend at a cost of £280. To make enquiries about matting. **Cllr C Montague**

11.2 Furze Hill

Nothing to report.

11.2.1 Recreation Ground

Nothing to report.

11.2.2 To consider picnic benches/benches

Cllr Govier circulated papers on Glasdon furniture, discussion around where to place and numbers required. Cllr Cottingham preference is the Earth Anchor furniture currently at the recreation ground. Cllrs to visit Chieveley and Hermitage recreation grounds to view furniture, to add to July agenda.

11.2.3 To consider cutting the perimeter wildflowers/grass

Discussion around whether to cut back or retain some element of wildflower/grass. To draw up a plan that would leave strips of wildflower. **Cllr C Montague**

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

Memorial in Lipscomb Close could do with a clean. Nothing else to report.

11.4 Transfer of Hermitage Green playground

Lease will be ready to sign in the next two weeks. Commuted sum is £11,500. The annual cost of cutting and inspections is £1,100.

12.06.24 Other matters

12.1 Village Hall

Nothing to report.

12.2 Defibrillator checks

Done.

12.3 Youth Club

Cllr Govier gave an update. A disappointing 18% of people responded to the Facebook poll would like to see a Youth club. Cllr Govier to investigate further, and to look at whether a bus into Berkshire Youth on a weekly basis might be a better option.

12.4 Councillor Roles

Most roles were allocated to Councillors.

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

Correspondence noted on agenda.

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

Cllr Rigby attended the Community Speed watch webinar and provided all with a briefing document. Cllr Burgess and Cllr Montague would like to volunteer. A Facebook post to ask for volunteers was also suggested. Clerk to put Cllr Rigby in touch with the CSW team in Hermitage. **Clerk**

Cllr Govier attended The Downs Community Forum and commended the Head Girl on her presentation.

Cllr Govier attended the Chieveley Parish Council meeting to observe.

15.06.24 Items to be raised by Councillors (information only)

Cllr Govier was thanked for producing the name plaques and 'this meeting is being recorded' signs.

A brief update was provided about the traveller site.

Clerk has written to the Headteacher at Brockhurst and Marlston House Schools asking that parents be reminded that there is a 30mph limit between the white gates and Newbury Rd on Marlston Rd, another reminder will be sent at the beginning of the Autumn term.

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

None.

17.06.24 Date of the next meeting

Wednesday 26th June 2024 at 7.30pm in the Adelaide Room, Holy Trinity Church

Thursday 18th July 2024 at 7.30pm in the Adelaide Room, Holy Trinity Church

There being no further business the meeting closed at 21.22pm.

Signed _____ Dated _____