

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 July at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr R Cottingham, Cllr I Govier, Cllr D Brown, Cllr V Burgess, Cllr N Brett, Ms N Pierce (clerk)

01.07.24 Public participation

A resident spoke about the bush outside the church which requires cutting back.

02.07.24 Apologies for absence

Cllr J Rigby, Cllr. P Dick, Cllr. H Codling, Cllr A Goldsmith, Cllr C Montague.

03.07.24 Minutes of extraordinary meeting held on 26th June 2024.

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

04.07.24 Declarations of interest

Cllr Govier - 23/00815/FUL Land South of Sandhill Hampstead Norreys Road Hermitage Thatcham RG18 9XU. To review the Parish Council response considering the neighbourhood plan. Cllr Govier left the meeting room for the duration of the discussion.

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

None.

06.07.24 Reports

6.1 District Councillors

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

6.2 Chairman's report

Noted.

Cllr Govier referred to the following within the report and would have preferred the word 'consider' rather than 'duty':

Biodiversity

All parish councils have a duty to protect biodiversity. In the current climate context it is even more important that they do so in order to save the planet and ourselves.

07.07.24 Planning

7.1 New Applications:

24/01152/HOUSE, The Coppice, High Street, Hermitage, Thatcham RG18 9SR. Single storey extension and partial demolition with internal alterations and erection of a car port and entrance gates. No objection.

23/00815/FUL Land South of Sandhill Hampstead Norreys Road Hermitage Thatcham RG18 9XU. To review the Parish Council response considering the neighbourhood plan. Objection. To draft a response. Cllr Cottingham/Cllr Brown

A budget for a planning consultant was agreed: £1,200.

7.2 Decision notices:

24/00716/HOUSE, 35 Lipscomb Close, Hermitage, Thatcham, RG18 9SZ. Removal of existing porch and replacement with oak framed porch. WBC approved.

7.3 Neighbourhood Development Plan: nothing to report.

7.3.1 NDP and Design Code printing: £249.12 (12 copies of each): done.

08.07.24 Finance and report of Responsible Finance Officer

Financial position as of 30th June 2024

Balance carried forward (Inc. S106 contributions)	£225,011.99
Receipts to 30 th June	£32,209.33
Authorised Payments to 30 th June	£21,829.73
Payment not processed by 30 th June	0.00
Balance in hand (total)	£235,391.59

8.1 Report of Financial Officer (Clerk's report)

Noted. No comments or questions.

8.2 Payments for consideration June 2024

Approved.

8.2.1	Sunshine Commercial Services Ltd monthly charge	£269.57
8.2.2	Grass maintenance/Contractor	£752.09
8.2.3	Cost of administration	£1,060.25
8.2.4	Administration expenses	£34.94
8.2.5	Tactical Management Ltd, dog bins (May)	£213.07
8.2.6	Ruth Cottingham, Cobra fuel, playground gate lock, solicitor fee	£48.08
8.2.7	Caloo Body twists	£253.44
8.2.8	HMRC, tax and NI	87.54
Total	All approved and endorsed online	£2,718.98

8.3 Direct Debits previously approved

Noted.

1&1 Ionos (website) monthly payment	£8.40
NEST monthly payment	£130.25

8.4 Receipts June 2024

Noted.

West Berkshire Council refund	16.38
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8.5 To authorise the cost of generic email addresses

£360 p.a: approved. Cllr Brett to set up.

Cllr Brett

09.07.24 Burial ground

An interment of ashes to take place once a date has been agreed.

10.07.24 Highways

Nothing further to add to that provided in Chair report.

11.07.24 Environment

11.1 Playgrounds

11.1.1 Councillor inspection reports

Cllr Govier did the playground inspection, Graffiti on the Pinewood playground to be removed.

To speak to contractor.

Clerk

Matting beneath the Tripod swing to be considered. To speak to Paul Hendry. Cllr Cottingham

11.2 Furze Hill: to consider West Berkshire Countryside Society August tasks

Approved.

11.2.1 Recreation Ground: to consider change of mowing regime

To contact contractor to request the complete field is cut to include perimeter wildflowers/grass. To instruct the contractor to cut the full area in future and do not retain perimeter wildflowers/grass. Clerk

11.2.2 To consider picnic benches/benches

Two picnic benches and two benches approved. To order from Earth Anchor to make current benches on the recreation ground. Budget set £2,500.

To obtain price for installation. Clerk

To measure the area to consider where to place the benches and email to Councillors suggestions to allow for the benches to be ordered and installed. Cllr Brett

11.2.3 To consider cutting the perimeter wildflowers/grass

To refer to minute note 11.2.1, duplicate agenda item.

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

Nothing to report.

11.4 Transfer of Hermitage Green playground

11.4.1 To approve the signing of the Lease document

Approved.

11.4.2 To approve the signing of the Stamp Duty Land Tax return document

Approved.

12.07.24 Other matters

12.1 Village Hall: to consider response about bookings from the trustees

Cllr Govier, Cllr Rigby and Cllr Brett to meet with village hall trustees. To contact trustees. Clerk

12.1.1 To consider updated Open Spaces policy: August agenda.

12.2 Defibrillator checks

Done.

12.3 Youth Club

Cllr Govier provided an update. A bus into Berkshire Youth on a weekly basis will be in the region of £100 per week. It is thought this will be a Tuesday. A three-month trial, with funding provided for up to year if the trial is successful: approved. Cllr Govier to meet with Berkshire Youth to discuss the way forward.

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

Correspondence noted on agenda.

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

Cllr Govier to attend The Knowledge and Core Skills for Councillors later in July.

15.07.24 Items to be raised by Councillors (information only)

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

None.

17.07.24 Date of the next meeting

Thursday 22nd August 2024 at 7.30pm in the Adelaide Room, Holy Trinity Church

There being no further business the meeting closed at 21.27pm.

Signed _____ Dated _____