

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 10TH MARCH 2022 AT 8.00 PM IN THE
CHURCH ROOM, WEST WYCOMBE

ATTENDANCE:

Cllrs Mr S. Cope, Cllr Mr N. Harris, Mrs V. Smith, Mrs K. Cheshire, Mr J. Carstensen

In attendance: Mrs S. Henson - Clerk

APOLOGIES: Cllr Mrs E. Copley (COVID), Cllr Ms C. Rowland (illness), Mrs A Wright (work)

Buckinghamshire Cllr Mr D. Hayday, Buckinghamshire Cllr Mrs O. Hayday

DECLARATION OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS BY MEMBERS RELATING
TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA – None declared.

CONFIRMATION AND SIGNING OF MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
The Minutes for the February Parish Council meeting were agreed by those Councillors present and signed by the Chairman.

CLERK'S REPORT

1. Clerk has contacted the Buckinghamshire Conservation Officer about The Pedestal Monument and has been advised that a planning application is not required.
2. Clerk has asked for Community Speedwatch volunteers via Facebook and in *Contact*.
3. Clerk has purchased the bunting.
4. Clerk has obtained prices for Platinum Jubilee commemorative mugs and has a sample.
5. Clerk has reminded allotment tenants to close and lock the gate when they leave as it was found open. A further reminder will be issued when we advise tenants of the water tap lock.
6. Clerk is in discussion with Ernest Barnes Ltd for the repair of the cobbles under the arch.
7. Collection of the rubbish from the litter pick on 19th March has been confirmed by Bucks Council.
8. Year 5 from West Wycombe School will be working on the Community Orchard as the previous day had to be postponed due to storm conditions making it unsafe.

MEETING CLOSED FOR PUBLIC QUESTION TIME
MEETING REOPENED

293.1 Correspondence received 10th February – 10th March 2022

1. Buckinghamshire Council daily and weekly updates and press releases – links put on website.
2. Website statistics – emailed
3. The lead officer for the HS2 Road Safety Fund submitted the proposed work in Bradenham Road using the HS2 Road Safety fund for comment – emailed to Councillors and Mr Jim Stevens.
4. Email from Mr Jim Stevens with his comments back to the lead officer on the HS2 Road Safety Fund.
5. North West Community Board Minutes - emailed.
6. Emails from Utility Aid about the renewal and purchase of electricity contracts – due to the Ukraine crisis the market has withdrawn all prices, however they will act as soon as they become available.
7. Price and guidance from Marketing Force re: the planting up of the Pedestal Roundabout – agenda item under Platinum Jubilee.
8. Information on Platinum Jubilee mugs.
9. Notification that the Transport for Bucks Stakeholder meeting date has been changed to 29th March 5:15 – 6:45pm – emailed
10. Rural Forum Agenda – 10th March – 5 -7pm on Zoom – Clerk attended and gave a report.
11. Information from the Asset Manger at Bucks Council stating that they do not own the Pedestal Monument but as it is on the highway verge, they would approve of any work carried out under Grade II Listing for its restoration. Clerk to ask if it would be added to their Asset List and whether they hold any ownership records. We also want confirmation that we will not be responsible for it in the future if we undertake the restoration work.

12. Sir Edward Dashwood has confirmed that West Wycombe Estate does not own the Pedestal Monument.
13. Electoral Commission announcement of Constituency boundaries.
14. Section 137 has been increased to £8.82 per elector.
15. BMKALC notification of the 2021/22 pay award situation – agenda item.
16. Notification that the Feasibility Study for the High Street will be available for the April meeting
17. NALC confirmation of the 1.75% pay award for 1st April 2021 31st March 2022.
18. Freedom of Information request from the British Muslim Society on how many Muslims we employ – Clerk has responded.
19. Notification that Sir Edward and Lady Dashwood are opening West Wycombe Park over the weekend of 26/27 March and all monies received for entrance and the sale of refreshments will go to the DEC Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal.
20. Request for *Contact* copy by 13th March
21. Notification that the Employer Pension Contribution Rate for West Wycombe will stay the same at 25.10%
22. WDALC agenda for meeting on 17th March – both the Chairman and Vice Chairman are standing down as the Chairman is retiring as a Parish Councillor and the Vice Chairman's Parish Council has decided they no longer want to be a member of WDALC.

293.2 Planning Applications & decisions:

Applications

22/05351/FUL-Autumn House 11 Beechwood Road -Householder application for construction of single storey rear extension to replace existing conservatory – no objection.

Decisions

21/07194/FUL -The Apple Orchard High Street West Wycombe -Change of use of first floor from retail showroom (use class E(a)) to coffee shop (use class E(b)) (retrospective) – permit.

293.3 To discuss progress on the Community Orchard

Year 5 pupils from West Wycombe School will work with Chiltern Rangers in the Community Orchard on 11th March for a period between 10am – 3:30pm, as the 18th February had to be cancelled due to Storm Eunice. Another date has also been arranged in May.

293.4 To discuss the possibility of an outdoor gym area in the Pedestal Playing Field

Cllr Carstensen had canvassed the residents of Cookshall Lane. Residents were not generally supportive of the site we are considering; we agreed we would provide a case for choosing that particular site as opposed to others on the playing field. Cllr Cope will make contact with the company to ask for further details on the choice of site, other possible sites, and a further site visit if necessary.

293.5 To report and discuss any highways issues including Community Speedwatch

The feasibility study is complete and we should receive it in time for the April meeting.

Light 26 in Chorley Road has been reported.

Light 11 to be reported.

Light in the bank at the top of Church Lane to be reported.

The Clerk issued a timeline document on the HS2 funds we have received through the original grant as well as the HS2 Road Safety Fund – we benefitted from £140,954 at a cost of £5000 plus parliamentary costs. It was agreed that the document should go on the website.

A request for volunteers to run Community Speedwatch appeared in *Contact* and on Facebook. Cllr Rowlands reported three people had come forward. The request will be repeated.

293.6 To discuss street lighting energy

The Clerk submitted a request for brokerage prices for water and electricity through Utility Aid who are recommended by NALC. However since that time the war against Ukraine has started and we have been advised that the energy market has withdrawn all its prices – we may hear something on 14th March. Councillors are aware of the vast increase in energy prices.

293.7 To discuss Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations for 2022

Clerk has had a price for a one-season planting and reinstatement of the Pedestal Roundabout - £4,350 plus VAT, and we would have to be responsible for watering . Red and white geraniums would be drought tolerant, but the landscapers cannot think of a blue drought tolerant plant. It was agreed that this was too expensive and would not be progressed. Clerk has obtained a sample mug from one supplier and has designs from two other suppliers. A discussion took place on the allocation and distribution of mugs.

It was resolved to purchase 200 mugs of the sample design, to be distributed to the school and pre-school children. Any mugs left over would be offered for sale at the Summer Fayre.

- 293.8 To discuss the backdated pay award for Clerks as recommended by BMKALC/NALC
The pay award has been agreed at 1.75% for the year 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022. The Clerk has been on the same Spinal Column Point 38/31 since the agreed award for 2018/2019, not implemented until April 2019 – it should be increased annually but under COVID the Clerk offered not to take an increase until life was more settled. It was agreed that the backdated pay award should be paid and that SCP32 should be implemented.
- 293.9 To approve the accounts for March 2022 - appendix 2
It was resolved to approve the accounts.
- 293.10 Members questions
None raised.
Clerk reminded all members that the Annual Parish Meeting was due to be held on 28th April.
- 293.11 Date of next meeting
Thursday 14th April 2022 at 8pm in The Church Room, West Wycombe.

Payments to be made in March 2022

Castle Water (dd)	47.07	Allotment water – 4/4
Mrs S Henson	599.22	February salary
Bucks Council	221.30	March pension
HMRC - online	84.20	Tax
Acorn Landscaping	493.14	Highway grass, burial ground, Pedestal strimming
Acorn Landscaping	36.00	Repair of post in Pedestal Field
TBS Hygiene	115.20	February collections
BMKALC	38.00	Training course for new Councillor
Chilterns Conservation Board	175.00	Contribution to the trees and plants for the Orchard
Information Commissioner	35.00	Annual data protection fee
Danesfield House	61.50	Gift for Mary Hilder
Giff gaff (debit card)	6.00	Monthly charge for mobile
Smart Numbers (dd)	23.99	Monthly service charge
Southern Electric (dd)	74.11	Streetlight energy
Southern Electric (dd)	25.32	Feeder pillar
Southern Electric (dd)	23.86	Feeder pillar
Total	2058.91	

Statement of account as at 1st March 2022

Opening balance as at 1 st February	34047.77
Less February payments	4287.50
Plus allotment rent	30.00
Total	29790.27