

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 2nd NOVEMBER 2023 AT
8.00 PM IN WEST WYCOMBE COMMUNITY LIBRARY

ATTENDANCE:

Cllrs Mr S. Cope, Mr N. Harris, Mrs V. Smith, Mrs E Copley, Ms C. Rowland, Mrs K. Cheshire
In attendance:
Mrs S. Henson - Clerk, Buckinghamshire Cllr Mr D. Hayday

APOLOGIES: Cllr Mr J. Carstensen (health), Mrs A Wright, 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 OCTOBER PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The Minutes for above meeting were agreed by those Councillors present and signed by the Chairman.

Councillors confirmed that they will continue to accept and approve Cllr Carstensen's absence at meetings due to his current health issues and look forward to his return to the Parish Council.

Clerk's Report

1. Clerk has asked Glyn Spratt to dig out the grips in Towerage Lane.
2. All the allotment plots have been allocated. We have one allotment tenant with their rent unpaid. A reminder has been sent. We have received £510 in rent.
3. Clerk has written to the Local Area Technician about the West Wycombe Road pavement.
4. Advert for the replacement Clerk have been issued and circulated.
6. Clerk has asked Acorn Landscapes and Stillman Garden Services for their prices for 2024/2025.
7. Clerk has been chasing the North West Community Board for the confirmed/revised costing of the High Street Project.
8. Clerk has been communicating with the Buckinghamshire Council Highways inspectors over the roadworks near Rosemary Close.
9. Clerk has reported lights 11,14,20,21 in the High Street as not working.
10. Clerk has invited Masque Players, West Wycombe Chamber Choir, West Wycombe Mother and Toddler Group, West Wycombe Community Association, West Wycombe Community Library and West Wycombe Art Group to submit applications for a donation from the Parish Council
11. Clerk has asked the Bucks Highways Inspector for help and support in getting the part time traffic lights by Kitty's Lodge operational again as this may improve traffic flow on the A4010 when we have hold ups on the West Wycombe Road. The lights are obsolete and are beyond repair but they are in the capital programme for 2023/2024!
12. Clerk has investigated the Local Heritage List and Community Assets
13. Clerk has been advised by Barclays Bank that we cannot continue to operate under our current bank account, they want to change our 'category'. Clerk will follow up on this.

MEETING CLOSED FOR PUBLIC QUESTION TIME
MEETING REOPENED

312.1 Correspondence received – 13th October - 2nd November 2023

1. Buckinghamshire Council daily and weekly updates and press releases – links put on website.
2. Website report for October - emailed
3. BMKALC updates – emailed
4. Notification of the roadworks connected with the Molins site – emailed
5. Notification that the Highways Stakeholder Conference has been cancelled
6. Rural Forum Agenda for 26th October – On Teams
7. Submission of costs from Sparkx for lighting the 3 trees lit at Christmas - £1885 plus VAT
8. Buckinghamshire Council notification on a change of policy on Devolution – emailed
9. Emails about the West Wycombe Road/Rosemary Close roadworks.
10. West Wycombe Mother and Toddler Group reply relating to a donation – absolutely delighted.
11. Masque Players passing on the donation application to the new Chairman and Treasurer.
12. Confirmation from Jackie Binning of the North West Community Board that she has asked for work on costing the High Street project to become a matter of urgency.

312.2 Planning Applications & decisions:

Applications: None received

Decisions: None issued on current applications

312.3 To discuss the budget for 2024/2025

The Clerk issued a first draft of a suggested budget. No further plans can be made until we know the situation regarding the appointment of a new Clerk, the Devolved Services Contract and Budget and the final projected cost of the High Street Project. We have costs for the maintenance of the Burial Ground - £3101.16; The Pedestal Playing Field - £2458.56; the Highways Verges - £3252.72. Stillman Garden Services have submitted a cost of £2130 for the various areas of work they undertake for us. We also need the Precept calculation from Buckinghamshire Council which will be issued in December.

312.4 To report any highways issues

Clerk has asked Glyn Spratt to clear the grips in Towerage Lane.

Clerk has reported light 11,14,20 and 21 in the High Street as not working or working intermittently.

The letter from Buckinghamshire Council regarding the High Street project only confirmed what we already knew, in that they have approved it, however it has stated that it will need re costing and have not given any indication of what that involves or when we will get the revised price. They have asked the Officer on the project to treat as a matter of urgency the need for new costings.

We have still not had a satisfactory answer about the conifers on Buckinghamshire Council land in Rosemary Close despite continued emails.

Clerk has inspected the tree at 6 Copperfields and feels that sufficient work has been undertaken on the conifer. It is really the wrong tree in the wrong place. Clerk has asked for an arboriculturist's view on the issue as the neighbour still has issues over the branches.

Clerk has asked the Bucks Highways Inspector for help and support in getting the part time traffic lights by Kitty's Lodge operational again as this may improve traffic flow on the A4010 when we have hold ups on the West Wycombe Road. The lights are obsolete and are beyond repair but they are in the capital programme for 2023/2024!

Clerk has written to the Local Area Technician about the West Wycombe Road pavement.

Clerk has been communicating with the Buckinghamshire Council Highways inspectors over the roadworks near Rosemary Close.

Clerk will check with the Dower House on the progress being made about the trees overhanging their boundary wall.

312.5 To discuss work required on the Community Orchard and to place an order with Chiltern Rangers

Cllr Harris has carried out a site inspection and we need 11 new posts on existing mesh guards, 3 mesh guards to be reduced in height and the cut off sections to be used on fruit trees, 3 of which require posts, 1 ash tree removed and to be replaced with a plum tree.

It was resolved that the Clerk would obtain a cost from Chiltern Rangers to undertake the work.

Clerk will remind Mr Stocks about the inspection of the fencing and gates in the Burial Ground and Community Orchard.

312.6 To agree to place an order with Sparkx for the installation and removal of lights on the three Christmas trees

Sparkx have provided a price of £1885 and this includes supplying new lights for the two conifers and installing the ball lights which we already hold, however the installation and removal of the ball lights would cost £1000.

It was resolved not to instal the ball lights saving £1000. It was resolved to place an order with Sparkx at a value of £885 and to talk to them and other companies discuss options for 2024.

Clerk will ascertain whether they hold a spare star which could go on top of the Village Hall Christmas tree. The trees will be decorated on 29th November. Clerk will put out signs in the Village Hall car park to ensure nobody is parked in the working area.

312.7 To confirm the purchase of a Poppy Wreath under Section 137

It was resolved that the purchase be confirmed. Cllr Cope will lay the wreath at the Remembrance Day Service starting at 10.40am on 12th November at the War Memorial in the St Lawrence Churchyard.

312.8 To approve the accounts for November 2023 - appendix 2

It was resolved to approve the accounts for November. As the meeting is one week earlier than

normal not all the invoices have been received. The other invoices which are due are paid as Direct Debits and the figures are either set or we have an approximation from the usual monthly invoices.

312.9 Members Questions

Cllr Rowland asked whether driveways needed planning permission.

312.10 Date of next meeting –14th December at 8pm West Wycombe Community Library adjacent to The Swan PH.

Appendix 2

Payments to be made in November 2023

Castle Water (dd)	£15.09	Allotment water
Mrs S Henson (BACS)	£704.72	October salary and expenses
Bucks Council (BACS)	£232.43	October pension
HMRC – online (BACS)	£125.44	Tax & NI
Acorn Landscaping (BACS)	£692.72	Highway grass, burial ground, Pedestal strimming
TBS Hygiene (BACS)	£123.84	October collections
Giff gaff (debit card)	£6.00	Monthly charge for mobile
Smart Numbers (dd)	£23.99	Monthly service charge
Southern Electric (dd)	£208.99	Street light energy
Royal British Legion (debit card)	£19.98	'We Will Remember Them' flag
Castle Water (DD)	1.51	
Total	£2154.71	

Statement of account as at 1st November 2023

Opening balance as at 1 st October	£52435.60
Less October payments	£ 3313.77
Plus allotment rents	£ 105.00
Plus Downley Dynamos rent	£ 320.00
Plus ashes plot – Earl Campbell	£ 175.00
Total	£ 49721.83