

WEST WYCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 11th October 2024

Present

Councillors; Mr N. Harris (Vice Chair & Acting Chair), Mrs K. Cheshire, Mrs E Copley and Mrs V. Smith

In attendance; Cllr D. Hayday, Cllr O. Hayday

Apologies

Apologies had been received from WWPC Clerk, Cllr Cope, Cllr Rowland, Cllr Carstensen and Mrs A. Wright.

Declaration of interests

There were no declarations of interest.

Minutes of previous meetings for approval

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 11th September 2024, were approved and signed by the Acting Chair.

318.45 Matters arising from the minutes

No matters arising from the minutes.

318.46 Highways issues

On the potential installation of traffic control lights on the high street, Cllr Smith commented on the success of the temporary traffic lights used during the recent building works. Traffic flowed well at a safer speed and there were no notable delays. It worked well, apart the affect on businesses and parking restrictions. It was noted that perhaps permanent traffic lights would not require parking restrictions. Cllr D. Hayday suggested that the PC would have to contribute towards the set of traffic lights, and this could be in excess of £50,000. Community Boards could be approached for funding, but it would be unlikely in the current financial year. However, in the future if a pot of money became available from central government we could put in a request.

It was suggested that the Clerk contacts the Local Community Board to find out the next steps. *

Cllr Smith reported that highways had been clearing drains recently. Thanks to Cllrs. Hayday.

Potholes were spotted in Meads Yard. Responsibility of West Wycombe Estate. Clerk to ask WWE. *

Cutty Alley – Uncomfortable to walk on. Need to assess this and other paths, ramps and steps that are the responsibility of WWPC. Cllr Harris to visit site and take photographs for the next meeting for discussion.

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318.47 Planning applications & decisions

Planning application for 46 Copperfields. No objections.

318.48 Reports;

a. Buckinghamshire Council Councillors

Cllr O. Hayday mentioned that there had been a report of issues with overhanging branches when oil lorries were delivering to properties down Church Lane. West Wycombe Estate had been approached and had cut back some trees at the top, and the National Trust were going to side up the edge of the road.

Local residents had also reported that the gully on Church Lane was also full, and this has already been emptied.

A local police officer had contacted Cllr Hayday about the idea of the installation of bins for NOx cylinders.

Cllr Hayday mentioned that there are discussions about closing the respite care centre in Cressex, as this may have an impact on our community.

b. Chair of the Parish Council's verbatim report

"The tree surgery work on Rosemary Close was completed on Wednesday 18 and Thursday 19 September and the trees have now been completely removed. We hope that Buckinghamshire Council follow through on their promise to replant trees of a more suitable species.

I attended the Waste Awareness event in the Village Hall, which the Parish Council co-sponsored, on Saturday 28 September, and while it is fair to say that the turnout was disappointing, I found the various displays very informative and had an interesting discussion with the representatives of Wastebusters who organised the day.

The October Community Clean-Up on Saturday last was once again well attended, and our thanks must go to all those local residents who turned out to help pick litter and tidy up our parish. Thanks in particular to Cllr Harris for arranging the removal of the collected litter, and to Cllr Smith for 'holding the fort' whilst the litter pickers were out and about, and refuelling them when they returned.

Lastly, for personal reasons I am stepping back from my responsibilities as Chair for a short while; I would like to express my sincere thanks to Cllr Harris for taking on the role of Acting Chair in my absence, and to my other colleagues for their understanding and support."

Councillors of the Parish Council

Nothing to report.

c. Clerk to the Parish Council

1. I'm starting work on the 2025/2026 budget this month in readiness to present to Councillors at the November meeting. Please let the Chair know if you had any project ideas that you would like to be considered for inclusion in the budget.

I would add that unless there is an off set against the Precept Reserve element of the General Reserve (£4500) there needs to be an increase in the level of Precept for 2025/2026 to cover additional operating costs and to maintain the current level of General Reserve

I will be sending Councillors an updated quarterly Financial Statement to include October's costs and expenditure as well as a projected year end outturn to allow you to have a better understanding of our current financial situation in the context of you formulating an opinion with regards to next year's level of Precept.

2. We are in receipt of the second and final instalment of the precept = £21,750
3. SWARCO – battery replacement costs and additional security measures for both units will be ca. £600.

The NALC and SLCC have very little research by the dept of transport and the AA/RAC which definitively concludes such equipment reduces speeding vehicles and in fact there is independent study that shows the equipment may in fact increase speeding vehicles who try to activate the equipment with flashing signage and frowning faces!

4. As reported on last month, the residents of the Dower House have raised the issue of potholes at the entrance to the driveway to St Paul's church which is the joint responsibility of the PC, the PCC and the residents of the Dower House. The VC agrees with the need for the repairs and the PCC are obtaining a quote for the required repairs which will be considered by Parish Councillors.
5. 'Hope After Harm' letter for consideration – previously circulated.
6. Remembrance poppy wreaths have been ordered for next month.
7. Invoices have been issued to allotment holders.
8. A revised invoice for 2025/2026 has been issued to Downley Dynamos to reflect the increase based on their 2022 rent and the difference has been paid.

It was agreed not to replace the SWARCO batteries again, until the units can be made more secure.
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It was also agreed not to donate parish funds to the 'Hope After Harm' campaign. *

318.49 Financial Statement

Financial Statement as of 30th September 2024

Opening balance 1 st April 2024	£27,726.23
Income as of 30 th September 2024	£48,599.87
Less;	
Expenditure April – September 2024	£27,841.87
= Closing balance as of 30 th September	<u>£48,484.23</u>

318.50 Accounts for approval and payment

TBS Hygiene Ltd – Dog waste collections - £123.84

Acorn Landscaping – Maintenance of burial ground, playing field & highways verges –
Playground inspection - Repairs to playground equipment & location – totalling £1037.15

West Wycombe Estate – Allotments land rental 2024/2025 - £100.00

West Wycombe Community Association – Village Hall hire – September 2024 - £28.00

Direct Debit payments made in September 2024:

SSE Energy Supply – Electricity consumption - £237.67 – Account closed, hard copy of invoice being sent

Yorkshire Gas & Power – New electricity company - £45.49

Castle Water – Water consumption - £5.56

Smart numbers – Mobile telephone service charges - £23.99

318.51 Date of the next meeting

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as **Wednesday 13th November 2024** in the Village Hall in West Wycombe.

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 8.53pm.

* Denotes an action point