

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 8th JANUARY 2025 AT
8.00 PM IN WEST WYCOMBE VILLAGE HALL

ATTENDANCE:

Cllrs Mr S. Cope, Mr N. Harris, Mrs V. Smith, Mrs E Copley, Mrs K. Cheshire, Ms C. Rowland

In attendance: Mrs S. Henson, Buckinghamshire Cllrs Mr D. Hayday Mrs O. Hayday

APOLOGIES: Cllr Mr J. Carstensen, (health), Mrs A Wright

Two members of the public

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

CONFIRMATION AND SIGNING OF MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 2024 PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The Minutes of the November meeting were agreed by those Councillors present and signed by the Chairman.

319.1 Matters arising from the previous minutes

The subject of Meads Yard, inconsiderate parking blocking resident's garages and the state of the road leading to it continue to be an issue. The Clerk will contact West Wycombe Estate.

319.2 Correspondence received – 1st December 2024 – 8th January 2025

1. Buckinghamshire Council daily and weekly updates and press releases – links put on website.
2. Monthly website traffic - emailed.
3. Emails from residents about fly tipping in the Pedestal Playing Field car park.
4. Email from a resident about the continued non-operation of a streetlight outside 85/87 Bradenham Road.
5. Request for a fast-food van in the Pedestal Playing Field – Clerk will reply that this would not be allowed.
6. Buckinghamshire Council Precept request – agenda item.
7. Annual price from Elizabeth Stillman Garden services.
8. Annual price from Acorn Landscapes.
9. Cllr Cope had received an email from a resident who had fallen into a broken Thames Water cover near Swan Yard and wondered if the Parish Council could help with a compensation claim. The Parish Council has no responsibility and it would be Buckinghamshire Council and Thames Water. The broken cover was caused by a lorry driving over it and the police came out and covered the manhole with chairs as a temporary safety measure.

319.3 Planning applications & decisions:

24/07840/FUL-58 Chorley Road West Wycombe -Householder application for demolition of existing garage and construction of part single storey, part two storey side/rear extension - West Wycombe Parish Council objects to this extension on the grounds that the outward appearance of the finished structure would have a detrimental effect on the overall street scene. We are aware from previous extensions to other properties in Chorley Road that this has been an issue. The other houses are all brick or render or brick and render.

24/07782/FUL -474 West Wycombe Road High Wycombe -Householder application for construction of outbuilding to rear - West Wycombe Parish Council objects to this

application as it would appear to be a permanent structure with the provision of plumbing making it suitable for residential use.

24/07647/FUL - 17 Copperfields High Wycombe - Householder application for extension to existing dropped kerb and new vehicle hardstanding – no objections.

319.4 To report any highways issues

Cllr Hayday had raised the issue of parking on the Cookshall Lane junction. The police issued a ticket and have put out bollards – they have been present for a month and have not been moved. If the police remove them, we will observe whether parking resumes, if it does, we will consider requesting double yellow lines or extending the concrete bollards.

A lengthy discussion then took place about the High Street Pavement incursion project. We have been advised that the final decision will be made on 14th January, and it is believed that they are minded to approve. The Parish Council is concerned about the proposed number of parking spaces which will be lost as the area marked on the final document does not appear to be the same as in the original study which was undertaken. As our residents do not have anywhere else to park, we are concerned that we do not lose more spaces than necessary and that the start and finish points of the double yellow lines need to be clarified. Due to the impending decision, it was agreed that Cllr Cope would contact the project manager and try to arrange a site visit to clarify everything.

319.5 To agree the budget for 2025/2026

The draft budget and spreadsheets were issued to Councillors prior to the meeting. The interim Clerk had entered all the relevant financial data and presented a suggested draft budget which has allowed for the £8,000 towards the High Street project. If that must be paid in this financial year, then the carried forward figure will be lower, but the 2025/2026 expenditure will be lower. The projected expenditure was agreed at £82,840 including a reserve of £15,000, with projected income based on a precept of £45,000 would be £72,454. The unknown variable is the appointment of a replacement Clerk. Councillors resolved to agree the suggested budget.

319.6 To set the Precept

The interim Clerk had suggested a precept of £45,000 which represented a 3.45% increase. The precept had been reduced three years ago and then kept at the same level for the last two years. A Band D property would pay £81.27. A discussion as to whether to keep the same as the current year or increase was undertaken as the calculator supplied would allow for feeding in different options. It was resolved to set the precept at £45,000.

MEETING CLOSED FOR PUBLIC QUESTIONS
MEETING RE-OPEN

319.7 Reports:

Buckinghamshire Councillors:

Cllr Hayday reported that the Community Board budgets are being reduced for the next financial year and that we would be in a new Community Board due to the boundary changes.

Parish Council Chairman:

Firstly, I would like to wish you all a Happy New Year and a peaceful, prosperous and healthy 2025.

I think I am correct in saying that this is the first meeting I have chaired since July; I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to my fellow Councillors for their understanding and support over the last few months, and especially to Cllr Harris who kindly agreed to step in and take on the Chairman's duties in my absence.

On behalf of us all I would like to thank Sharon for agreeing to return as our interim Clerk to help us through to - we hope - the appointment of someone to the role on a permanent basis. As always, her help and advice has been and continues to be invaluable, but I hope she will understand what I mean when I say we very much look forward to letting her go again as soon as possible!

We know that our current term of office comes to a close at the end of April, with local elections scheduled for 1st May. As I stated when we met informally in December, I will not be seeking re-election, and Cllr Copley has also indicated that she will not be standing again, having moved out of the parish. I suggest we include a callout in forthcoming issues of *Contact* magazine for anyone who may be interested in standing as a candidate recommending that they attend our February and/or March meetings to see how we operate and what is involved.

Lastly, as this is our first meeting since the Festive Fayre I would like to thank Cllrs Harris and Cheshire along with everyone else involved for all the hard work that went into another very successful event - I was unable to attend myself but I understand a good time was had by all.

Parish Councillors:

Cllr Mrs Smith raised concerns about parking in Meads Yard and the state of the road leading to the public toilets and The Pavilion – part-owned by The Pavilion and West Wycombe Estate.

She also raised concerns over the speed of the recent snow plough – as the cottages are so close to the road they are completely covered with the slush and mess when they travel through too quickly.

Cllr Rowland raised concerns about the state of the Chorley Road pavement which had been reported on Fix My Street and Cllr Cope had received a reply saying, 'it was not bad enough.' Cllr Rowland also asked if, when we get to Buckinghamshire Council grass cutting time, they would cut the verge opposite the Chorley Road houses as the road edge has been covered.

Cllr Cheshire raised concerns about the state of the footpath adjacent to Farthing Cottage – this comes under the responsibility of The National Trust and Cllr Harris took this on board.

Interim Clerk

Clerk has reported non-working light in Bradenham Road and safety issue on a light in Chorley Road.

Clerk has prices from Acorn Landscape for removal of fly-tipping in Pedestal Car Park, repair to a car park post, repair to entrance gates near Pedestal Garage, level off damage to car park surface caused by stuck vehicles. It was agreed to proceed with all the work.

Acorn also reported that we needed to order spare parts for the Burma bridge – Clerk will organise.

Clerk has reported to the police a dumped VW in Pedestal Car Park – no VED but MOT until March – now has flat tyres, and has been there for over three weeks.

Clerk has asked Glynn Spratt to cut the shelter belt hedge.

Clerk has a price of £42 to transfer all the Rialtas programmes to the new Dell – it was agreed to do this.

319.8 To consider the financial statement

Statement of account as at 1st January 2025

Opening balance as at 1 st October	£48484.23
Less October payments	£ 1663.67
Less November payments	£ 5064.07
Less December payments	£10878.72
Plus balance on Downley Dynamos rent	£ 95.00
Plus Creative Memorials	£ 75.00
Plus Arnold Funeral Services	£ 200.00

Plus allotment rents	£ 420.00
Total	£31667.77

BACS payments will resume as soon as possible. Cllr Harris will obtain a PIN pad.

319.9 To approve the accounts for December 2024 and January 2025

Payments made in December 2024

Sparkx (BACS)	£1632.00	Christmas tree lights
Sparkx (chq)	£696.00	Emergency light repair
Sparkx (chq)	£694.20	Street light repairs
Bucks Council (BACS)	£2380.50	Actuary report
Castle Water (dd)	£5.00	Allotment water
Acorn Landscaping (chq)	£812.15	Highway grass, burial ground, Pedestal
TBS Hygiene (BACS)	£278.64	October & November collections
Yorkshire Gas & Power (DD)	£26.80	Feeder pillar energy
TBS Hygiene (chq)	£123.84	December collections
Broxap (chq)	£330.00	Repair to buffers for skier
Castle Water (dd)	£5.38	Burial Ground water
Smart Numbers (dd)	£23.99	Monthly service charge
West Wycombe PCC	£816.00	Third of cost of tarmac on burial ground drive
Mike Henson (chq)	£824.22	Purchase of Dell laptop and Microsoft 365
Elizabeth Stillman (chq)	£2230.00	Annual contract 2024/2025

Total £10878.72

Payments for January 2025

Acorn Landscape (chq)	£917.15	Maintenance
The Chiltern Society (chq)	£256.20	Footpath clearance for 2024
Castle Water (dd)	£5.56	Burial ground water
Smart Numbers (dd)	£23.99	Monthly calls
TBS Hygiene (chq)	£154.80	January collections
Yorkshire Gas & Power (dd)	£39.65	feeder pillar energy
Parish Council website (chq)	£210.00	Transfer data, set up laptop, back up
Bank interest	£4.22	Overdrawn over Christmas
Total	£1611.57	

319.10 Members questions: None raised.

319.11 Date of next meeting: Wednesday 12th February at 8pm in the Village Hall