

Minutes of an ordinary meeting of the Parish Council held from 7.00pm on 29 July 2024 in the village hall. (A signed notice of the meeting and agenda had been displayed on the two village notice boards from 22 July and an email summons of attendance had been issued to all Councillors on the same day. A copy of the notice and agenda had been entered on the Parish Council website from 22 July.)

PRESENT: Councillors: Doug Brown (DB) (Chairman), John Clouston (JC) (from 2024/107), Ian Durham (ID), Emlyn Lilly (EL) and Philip Tustian (PT)
Parish Clerk: Maurice Cole (MC)
Public: Amanda Thompson and David Wright

APOLOGIES RECEIVED FOR ABSENCE: 2024/98: None.

COUNCILLORS' NON-STATUTORY DISCLOSURES AND DISCLOSURE OF ANY DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS IN RELATION TO THE AGENDA NOT COVERED BY DISPENSATION: 2024/99: None.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING: 2024/100: The minutes of the meeting held on 24 June (draft distributed earlier) were confirmed as correct and the Chairman was authorised to sign approval.

MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES NOT ON THE AGENDA: 2024/101: None.

FINANCE

2024/102: CASH BOOK: The cashbook was produced to the chairman showing a current balance of £7,798.29 including bank interest received for the quarter ended 30 June £42.58 and the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Fund £3,727.03 (2019/12).

The bank statements to 30 June were produced to the Chairman showing a combined balance of £7,982.22 being in direct agreement with the cash book.

2024/103: BANK PAYMENTS: The following recurring payments had been paid since the last meeting: Unity Trust Bank: bank charges for the quarter ended 30 June - £18.00, Npower: street-light electricity for the quarter to 30 June - £107.93 and the Clerk's annual subscription to the Society of Local Council Clerks - £76.00.

UTILITIES ETC: 2024/104: None.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS: 2024/105: None.

HS2 UPDATE: 2024/106:

2024/106a: MEETING WITH HS2: DB and the Clerk had recently met with Haidee Williams, HS2's Community Engagement Manager. Haidee advised that Banbury Road between the Magpie junction and the Three Conies would be closed for about a month, probably from mid-September. DB commented that this would be a good trial period before the long-term temporary closure of Banbury Road. He would contact the police to see if traffic volume and speed through the village could be monitored during the month closure.

Haidee advised that the long-term temporary closure of Banbury Road for about two years could start late in 2024 but it would more likely be from spring 2025. The steel beams for the Lower Thorpe viaduct would probably start being delivered to Greatworth compound in late August or September, their installation only requiring a short-term closure of Banbury Lane. HS2 were requested to liaise with the council regarding road signage on road closures.

The Clerk would contact HS2 for assurance that the Banbury Lane closure for the installation of the viaduct parapet would be before the long-term closure of Banbury Road.

2024/106b: HS2 LIAISON GROUP MEETING: The Clerk had attended the online meeting on 19 July. No information was advised about the parish other than the position reported above (2024/106a).

LITTER BINS UPDATE: 2024/107: (2024/92): DB summarised the position determined at the last meeting (2024/92). The installation of the district council's (the WNC) two bins was awaited. The Parish Council's purchase of a third bin was on hold to ensure it would match the bins supplied by the WNC.

ANNUAL PHYSICAL ASSET RISK ASSESSMENT: 2024/108: JC and the Clerk had undertaken a risk assessment on 17 July which had been distributed to the Councillors. The report was reviewed and accepted – all risks being assessed as low risk with no action required. Thanks were expressed to JC and David Wright for removing weeds at the bus shelter and bench.

CORRESPONDENCE OF CONSEQUENCE: 2024/109: DB referred to a recent email from Janet Ormond suggesting the possibility of a white-lined footway area adjacent to the manor house wall on Banbury Lane. Some concerns were flagged. JC suggested a more appropriate location would be on the bend by the church, on the opposite side of the road to the church. Further consideration would be given to the position.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: 2024/110: None.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS RAISED BY COUNCILLORS OR THE CLERK: 2024/111:

2024/111a: HEDGEROW PLANTING (2024/50): JC advised that unfortunately some of the saplings planted a few weeks ago had been strimmed down. However, there were signs of new growth.

2024/112b: CORONATION OAK TREE (2024/12): JC advised that the tree had been in a poor state but was now recovering well after being watered.

2024/112c: WARDINGTON ROAD: JC referred to the continuing poor state of Wardington Road (from the cross roads towards the Hill) which required material remedial repairs. Amanda Thompson advised that she had repeatedly reported the position to the WNC's Fix My Street website which had resulted in four visits this year only undertaking minor patching. The position was still unremedied with the WNC recently indicating that the repair work would be undertaken by Christmas Eve. DB said he would endeavour to see if the position could be addressed by an earlier date.

2024/112d: DAFFODILS: It was noted that the daffodils on the village green by the Three Conies had been cut down prematurely with the grass mowing. The Clerk would contact the WNC in the new year requesting the situation is avoided.

NEXT SCHEDULED PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: 2024/112: The next meeting was provisionally scheduled for Monday 30 September 2024 at 7.00pm, in the village hall.

MEETING CLOSED: 7.45pm