

Minutes of an ordinary meeting of the Parish Council held from 7.00pm on 30 September 2024 in the village hall.

(A signed notice of the meeting and agenda had been displayed on the two village notice boards from 23 September 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 23 September.)

PRESENT: Councillors: Doug Brown (DB) (Chairman), John Clouston (JC) and Emlyn Lilly (EL)

Parish Clerk: Maurice Cole (MC)

Public: District Councillor Alison Eastwood (online, to 2024/123), Amanda Thompson and David Wright

APOLOGIES RECEIVED FOR ABSENCE: 2024/113: Councillor Ian Durham (ID).

COUNCILLORS' NON-STATUTORY DISCLOSURES AND DISCLOSURE OF ANY DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS IN RELATION TO THE AGENDA NOT COVERED BY DISPENSATION: 2024/114: None.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING: 2024/115: The minutes of the meeting held on 29 July (draft distributed earlier) were confirmed as correct and the Chairman was authorised to sign approval.

MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES NOT ON THE AGENDA: 2024/116: WHITE LINE FOOTWAY: It was agreed to defer consideration of a white line footway by the manor house wall (2024/109).

FINANCE

2024/117: CASH BOOK: The cashbook was produced to the chairman showing a current balance of £7,405.79 including the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Fund £3,727.03 (2019/12).

The bank statements to 31 August were produced to the Chairman showing a combined balance of £7,780.79 being in direct agreement with the cash book.

2024/118: BANK PAYMENTS: The following recurring payments had been paid since the last meeting:
- DJ Wright reimbursement for bench maintenance wood stain, £17.50 (Thanks were expressed to David Wright for undertaking the work.)

- Clerk's net salary for the quarter to 30 September 2023, £300 and PAYE, £75

Unity Trust Bank had recently advised that their charges would be changing from quarterly to a monthly basis.

2023/119: GENERAL FUND BUDGET REPORT: The Clerk had advised that the outturn at 31 March 2025 was currently anticipated to be a deficit of circa £20 compared with the budgeted deficit of £33. A resultant year-end cash reserve of circa £3,845 was projected. This position assumed the cost of streetlight electricity remained unchanged. A detailed financial update would be presented at the Parish Council meeting in November.

UTILITIES ETC: ELECTRICITY SUPPLY: 2024/120: Npower had recently indicated that the administration of the council's electricity supply would be changing including the likely consolidation of the two MPAN accounts into one account.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS: 2024/121: 2024//4201/FULL: Conversion of barn to a single dwelling (Use Class 3), Magpie Farm, Banbury Road, Culworth, OX17 2HL. The Council had no objection to the application. The existing vehicular access/exit was a concern but the earlier planning application (2024/0976/Full) addressed the position.

HS2 UPDATE: 2024/122: BANBURY ROAD CLOSURE: The road between Magpie junction and the Three Conies was currently closed for one month to accommodate HS2 works.

Prior to the closure, DB had contacted both HS2 and the West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) pressing for improvements to both road signage and the closure points. This had resulted in an extension of the closure from Bulls Lane to the Three Conies. DB had contacted both HS2 and the WNC again requesting improvements to the installed road closure signage including support for the Three Conies business.

Councillors considered it understandable that a privately provided sign referring to the Three Conies being accessible had recently been erected at the junction of Banbury Road and the B4525.

Whilst there had been no major problems identified in Bulls Lane usage to date, the absence of the expected signage at the church end was a concern. The increased volume of traffic going through the village and its speed during the road closure were prime concerns. Alison Eastwood referred to the recent flooding particularly on the Greatworth T which had increased traffic going through the village. (Alison Eastwood also referred to development problems on the A43 which would impact on traffic movement.)

DB and the Clerk were scheduled to meet with an HS2 Community Engagement Manager on 15 October to review the position in readiness for the forthcoming long-term temporary closure of the road (2024/106a).

INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF PARISH COUNCILLORS: 2024/123: The WNC's Democracy and Standards Committee had recently considered the final proposals for the Community Governance Review. The committee had approved the Parish Council's request to increase the size of Thorpe Mandeville Parish Council from 5 members to 6 (2024/13), to take effect for the next elections in May 2025, subject to the agreement of the WNC full council at its September meeting.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION POLICY REVIEW: 2024/124: The policy had been distributed prior to the meeting. The policy was re-approved.

LITTER BINS UPDATE: 2024/125: (2024/92): The WNC had advised that the two litter bins would be installed two weeks ago but installation is still awaited. The Clerk would pursue the position.

ENTITLED TO WORK REGULATIONS: 2024/126: The Clerk produced his passport to the chairman in accordance with the Entitled to Work regulations.

CORRESPONDENCE OF CONSEQUENCE: 2024/127: None

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: 2024/128: **TRAFFIC SPEED:** David Wright expressed further concern about traffic speed through the village, particularly early in the mornings. The numerous parked vehicles were also an issue. Various remedies were discussed regarding traffic speed but with no clear solution. Police action would be helpful. DB referred to the police monitoring exercise earlier in the year (2024/34) which had resulted in the data not supporting the creation of a mobile enforcement location. He had unsuccessfully tried to obtain further monitoring during the current road closure. He would try again.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS RAISED BY COUNCILLORS OR THE CLERK: 2024/129: None.

NEXT SCHEDULED PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: 2024/130: The next meeting was provisionally scheduled for Monday 28 October 2024 at 7.00pm, in the village hall.

MEETING CLOSED: 7.55pm