

Minutes of an ordinary meeting of the Parish Council held from 7.00pm on 28 October 2024 in the village hall.

(A signed notice of the meeting and agenda had been displayed on the two village notice boards from 21 October 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 21 October.)

PRESENT: Councillors: Doug Brown (DB) (Chairman), John Clouston (JC) 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: 2024/131: None.

COUNCILLORS' NON-STATUTORY DISCLOSURES AND DISCLOSURE OF ANY DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS IN RELATION TO THE AGENDA NOT COVERED BY DISPENSATION: 2024/132: None.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING: 2024/133: The minutes of the meeting held on 30 September (draft distributed earlier) were confirmed as correct and the Chairman was authorised to sign approval.

MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES NOT ON THE AGENDA: 2024/134:
NUMBER OF COUNCILLORS (2024/123): Having approved the increase in the number of parish councillors from five to six last month, the district council had subsequently received a letter of consent from the Local Government Boundary Commission for England also approving the increase with effect from 1 May 2025.

FINANCE

2024/135: **CASH BOOK:** The cashbook was produced to the chairman showing a current balance of £9,127.84 including the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Fund £3,747.79 (2019/12).

Receipts since the last meeting were quarterly bank interest, £43.34 and the second half-year precept, £1,800.

The bank statements to 30 September were produced to the Chairman showing a combined balance of £9,231.13 being in direct agreement with the cash book.

2024/136: **BANK PAYMENTS:** The following recurring payments had been paid since the last meeting:
- Npower quarterly electricity to 30 September, £103.29
- Unity Trust Bank quarterly services charge, £18.00

UTILITIES ETC: 2024/137: None

PLANNING APPLICATIONS: 2024/138: None

HS2 UPDATE: 2024/139:

BANBURY ROAD CLOSURE: 2024/139a: DB and the Clerk met with three HS2 Community Engagement Managers on 15 October, primarily to review the position following the recent three-week Banbury Road closure. This was in readiness for the forthcoming long-term temporary closure of the road (2024/106a). Various improvements were requested including 'No through road' signage at the top of Bulls Lane and "Businesses open as usual" signage at the junction with the B4525. HS2 advised that the closure, from the Magpie road junction to Bulls Lane, would probably start in about March 2025.

The steel beams for the Lower Thorpe viaduct were currently onsite, being prepared for installation. There would be floodlighting for this work in the Lower Thorpe valley until 7.00pm during winter months*. It was likely that the beams would not be installed onto the piers until late spring 2025 and therefore the related closure of Banbury Lane in Lower Thorpe would be at the same time as the Banbury Road closure. Concern was expressed to HS2 about this position. Apparently, the Banbury Lane closure for the installation of the beams may be for just for one day but longer for the parapet installation.

*ID expressed concern that the floodlighting currently remained on throughout the night. DB would contact HS2 about this matter.

HS2 LIAISON GROUP MEETING: 2024/139b: The Clerk had attended the online meeting on 25 October, giving a report on the recent Banbury Road closure. There was nothing new of direct importance to the parish.

LITTER BINS UPDATE: 2024/140: (2024/92): The Clerk had contacted the district council and he was advised that the installation delay arose from staffing issues but the two bins were scheduled to be installed by 8 November. It was agreed that the litter bin on the Three Conies side of the road should now be removed.

CORRESPONDENCE OF CONSEQUENCE: 2024/141: REMOTE MEETINGS: Councillors noted the government's recently advised intention to amend the law to introduce provisions for remote attendance at local authority meetings. There was an online consultation until 19 December which was available to all, including members of the public.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: 2024/142: DEFIBRILLATOR: David Wright advised that his regular inspections indicated no problem with the defibrillator.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS RAISED BY COUNCILLORS OR THE CLERK: 2024/143: None.

NEXT SCHEDULED PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: 2024/144: The next meeting was provisionally scheduled for Monday 25 November 2024 at 7.00pm, in the village hall.

MEETING CLOSED: 7.25pm