



**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING AS HELD ON
MONDAY 17 JUNE 2024 AT 7.30PM AT THE PAVILION, FRIENDLESS
LANE**

Number: 3 /2024

Present: Cllr Dave Humphreys (Vice Chairman), Jane Timmis, Nancy Wild, John Williams, Natalie Crowie

Also present: Caroline Freer – Clerk; County Cllr Terry Douris

1. **To receive and approve apologies: Cllr Tim Parsons, Billy Pither, Jonathan Humbert, David Boothman, Stephen Behr**
2. **To receive declarations of interest on agenda items: None**
3. **To resolve that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting of the previous meeting are a correct record.**

Proposed by: Cllr J Timmis

Seconded by: Cllr J Williams

It was resolved that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 20 May 2024 having previously been circulated as a true and accurate record of the proceedings be duly signed by the Chairman. All agreed

4. Public and press participation (15 minutes maximum)

Mark Smith/Ali Coulter requested the use of 2 pitches at the recreation ground so there is adequate space for all the Westender teams for next season spread between Markyate and Flamstead. Action: Ali to make their request via email so the costs can be calculated.

5. **County Cllr Terry Douris to update the meeting:** Cllr Douris sends his apologies as he has other meetings to attend at the same time and he has nothing to report. Cllr Timmis gave an update on the lack of action by Thames Water to make any inroads into reducing sewage discharge into the River Ver. The meeting with Mike Penning MP and the Environment Dept had to be postponed due to the election purdah, but Cllr Timmis met Thames Water at the site where sewage had been discharged continuously for over 2000 hours. Thames Water denied there was any issue until they saw the state of River Hill. There is a plan to take the excess waste away by tanker which is not full proof. It has been requested that TW urgently speed up their plans to upgrade the failing pipework infrastructure, money for which has been allocated for 2026.

Action: JT to get TW to clear up silt on River Hill

Cllr Timmis also added a plea not to throw any type of Wet Wipes into the toilet as they just do not biodegrade and cause blockages in the sewage systems.

6. Update of Preschool: Set up repayment agreement (draft circulated)

Concerns re insufficient advertising and parental involvement to run fund raising events as it is so important to keep topping up the finances.

Buffer of funds which the preschool should have in hand to be agreed with the panel of trustees. The PC suggested £125/month repayments between September and July. Start date to be agreed. No one attended from preschool to update the meeting.

7. Planning:

i) To consider new Applications:

1	24/01141/FUL-Agricultural	Conversion of Agricultural Barn to a detached 4-bedroom residential	Posted 18 June Object
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	Barn Highfields Farm Chad Lane	dwelling for an agricultural worker with associated vehicular access, car parking, and private residential	The Parish Council strongly objects to this application. It is in the green belt, issues with foul waste disposal are not detailed. The earlier application 24/00226/APA appears to be the same and this was refused. So the PC objection would be based on the same reasons. This also appears to be another barn which would be turned into a dwelling where other barns have been constructed elsewhere on the same family's land. The rationale of suggesting the dwelling is to be a home for a 22 year old does not hold water. There would be negative impacts on the Chilterns Beechwoods Special Area of Conservation.
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ii) Planning applications received in last 6 days NONE

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2				

iii) Planning Decisions taken by DBC

1	Granted	Watling Garth, Bramley House, 5 Trowley Heights, Wood End Farm Agri blg:
2	Granted	1 Woodend Cottages – for 1 dog walking paddock
3		

- 8** Working Group Reports: Boards – request for 6-8 Honours boards to go on the walls of the pavilion. This was considered as too many in light of the fact that the pavilion is only used in the summer by FCC and there are other users to consider. 2-3 were agreed to and others can go in the changing rooms.
Ongoing general remedial works to pavilion: Cllr Williams requested that the outside painting and maintenance be added to the next agenda
Outside gym on next agenda – as requested by Cllr Wild
- 9** Success of Arts and Heritage Festival – The Parish Council wanted to offer their many congratulations to the Heritage Committee: The weekend was hugely successful and very professionally run which was a measure of how well it was organised. Many thanks to all the organisers – a real achievement.
- 10** Success of youth cricket sessions: The Parish Council wanted to recognise the work that has gone into the training sessions for the youngsters which has been really popular. Sachith the Captain said there were twice as many children as last year.
- 11** Ramp (between Village Hall and churchyard) Agreement for signing off in July
- 12** External Audit: Audit requirements for the year 2023/24 – to be resolved formally:
- a) To approve the Annual Accounts
 - b) To approve the Annual Internal Auditor Report
 - c) To approve Section 1, the Annual Governance Statement
 - d) To approve Section 2, Accounting Statements
 - e) To agree the dates for the public rights period (19 June – 1 August)
- It was resolved to agree items a)-e) above as circulated and the Chairman and Clerk duly signed the papers.
- 13.** Warden: Nothing to report – Wayne the new warden has settled in very well and is an asset to the village. Dave the former warden is retiring from VGS altogether. We wish him well in

his retirement and thank him for all his great work which was always carried out with enthusiasm, speed and diligence.

- 14. Finance:** To consider receipts and payments reports from as circulated from 21 May to 17 June 2024. To authorise payments by BACS as itemised; to consider expenditure against budget report and to sign off bank reconciliations and bank statements to month end @ 31 May 24

Proposed by: Cllr Crowie

Seconded by: Cllr Wild

All agreed

- 15. Correspondence**

- 16. Agreed Action/By Whom**

17.	Actions from April meeting	
CF/JT	Ask re fly tipping clearance costs	CF wrote to Cupid Gr – didn't answer that question JT to ask at DBC
CF	Set up Staffing WG for interviews	
	Actions from May meeting	
Cf	Minute whips for Delmerend Lane for September action	
	Planning Enforcement matters	
JT	<p>There is a Planning enforcement order at Newlands where all the plots of woods are sold and they have had tents and awning erected which disturbs wildlife Cllr Timmis is waiting to hear about the enforcement order re the track and they have also erected a metal gate and filled culvert to get access. All the best hard wood trees have long since been felled.</p> <p>To Dev Comm meeting Ask JH to attend with Jane Timmis</p> <p>Abilea Meadows shipping container – gone to appeal</p> <p>Cotton Spring – tbc, Woodend Lane stables removed to the side and the hard core surface removed;</p> <p>Holtsmere End Manor – reported incident</p> <p>Cotton Spring farm barn with no planning permission (refused – enforcement in action)</p>	

Cllr Tim Parsons

Chairman

19 July 2024