

**HERMITAGE PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the meeting of Hermitage Parish Council held at**  
**Adelaide Room, Holy Trinity Church, Hermitage, Berkshire RG18 9ST**  
**on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm**

Present: Cllr R Cottingham, Cllr P Dick, Cllr I Govier, Cllr D Brown, Cllr V Burgess, Cllr J Rigby, Cllr A Goldsmith, Ms N Pierce (clerk).

**01.12.24 Public participation**

None

**02.12.24 Apologies for absence**

Cllr H Codling.

**03.12.24 Minutes of meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2024.**

The minutes were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**04.12.24 Declarations of interest**

None.

**05.12.24 Actions agreed and matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting not referred to elsewhere and actions list**

None.

**06.12.24 Reports**

**6.1 District Councillors**

Cllr. P Dick & Cllr. H Codling. Report received.

**6.2 Chairman's report**

Noted.

**07.12.24 Planning**

**7.1 New Applications:**

None.

**7.2 Decision notices:**

24/01430/PACOU, Boars Hole Farm, Marlston Hermitage, Thatcham, RG18 9UB. Application to determine if prior approval is required for a Proposed: change of use of a barn on the site from its current agricultural use to a commercial/storage/distribution/business (Class B8/Class E) use. WBC planning permission not required.

**7.3 To consider changes in the emerging local plan.**

To object to the extra eight houses behind the White House, if it is outside the calculated density.

**Cllr Cottingham**

**08.12.24 Finance and report of Responsible Finance Officer**

**Financial position as of 31<sup>st</sup> November 2024**

Balance carried forward (Inc. S106 contributions)	£225,011.99
Receipts to 31 <sup>st</sup> November	£89,585.98
Authorised Payments to 31 <sup>st</sup> November	£56,849.16
Payment not processed by 31 <sup>st</sup> November	£5,774.40
Balance in hand (total)	£263,523.21

**8.1 Report of Financial Officer (Clerk's report)**

Noted. No comments or questions.

## 8.2 Payments for consideration December 2024

Approved.

8.2.1	Sunshine Commercial Services Ltd monthly charge	£269.57
8.2.2	Grass maintenance/Contractor	£770.59
8.2.3	Cost of administration	£1,060.45
8.2.4	HMRC, tax and NI	£146.92
8.2.5	Tactical Management Ltd, dog bins (September)	£224.26
8.2.6	Webb & Cook Survey of Furze Hill Woodland	£420.00
8.2.7	Webb & Cook Survey of Dines Way, Lipscomb, Pinewood P	£300.00
8.2.8	Webb & Cook emergency call out snapped limb on Scots Pin	£360.00
Total	All approved, and endorsed online	£4,047.82

## 8.3 Direct Debits previously approved

Noted.

1&1 Ionos (website) monthly payment	£8.40
NEST monthly payment	£107.08

## 8.4 Receipts November 2024

Noted.

HMRC VAT reclaim	£3,671.33
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## 8.5 Draft budget 2025-26

Defer to January.

## 8.6 To review Standing Orders: - 1C and 34.

To contact BALC/HALC to discuss removal of 6-month rule implications.

**Clerk**

### 09.12.24 Burial ground

None.

### 10.12.24 Highways

None.

### 11.12.24 Environment

#### 11.1 Playgrounds

To wash the Hermitage Green playground in the spring and to consider vinyl signs.

##### 11.1.1 Councillor inspection reports

Circulated.

#### 11.2 Furze Hill

Nothing to report.

##### 11.2.1 Recreation Ground

The strainer wire on top of the fence to the east of the main gate needs tightening. Contractor to be requested to tension it. **Clerk**

#### 11.3 Other open spaces: Dines Way, Lipscomb Close, Charlotte Close

Charlotte Close, Dines Way and Lipscomb Close: nothing to report.

#### 11.4 Transfer of land off Pinewood Crescent: progress report

The fence around the gas governor is broken to contact solicitor to advise Taylor Wimpey.

**Clerk**

### 12.12.24 Other matters

#### 12.1 Village Hall:

Ian Govier attended the meeting.

**12.2 Defibrillator checks**

Done.

**12.3 To receive report on Downs School open forum.**

Cllr Govier provided a report. To invite the Head Girl to speak at the APA. To organise 6<sup>th</sup> form students studying politics to a Parish Council meeting. **Cllr Govier**

**13.12.24 Correspondence received since the last meeting not referred to elsewhere.**

Correspondence noted on agenda.

**14.12.24 Reports from Parish Council representatives who have attended meetings of outside bodies on behalf of the council.**

None.

**15.12.24 Items to be raised by Councillors (information only)**

None.

**16.12.24 Any other items which the Chairman decides are urgent (information only)**

Cllr Cottingham has had several conversations with WBC regarding Eling Way.

Cllr Rigby to draft an advert to seek new Councillors to circulate to all Cllrs for feedback. Clerk to post on the Facebook sites. **Cllr Rigby/Clerk**

**17.12.24 Date of the next meeting**

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at 7.30pm in the Adelaide Room, Holy Trinity Church  
There being no further business the meeting closed at 20.23pm.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Dated \_\_\_\_\_