

**HERMITAGE PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the meeting of Hermitage Parish Council held at**  
**Adelaide Room, Holy Trinity Church, Hermitage, Berkshire RG18 9ST**  
**on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2025 at 7.30pm**

Present: Cllr R Cottingham, Cllr I Govier, Cllr D Brown, Cllr V Burgess, Cllr P Dick(7.30pm to 8.04pm),  
Cllr H Codling(7.30pm to 8.04pm), Ms N Pierce (clerk).

**01.02.25 Public participation**

One member of the public.

**02.02.25 Apologies for absence**

Cllr J Rigby, Cllr A Goldsmith.

**03.02.25 Minutes of meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2025.**

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

**04.02.25 Declarations of interest**

None.

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

None.

**06.02.25 Reports**

**6.1 District Councillors**

Cllr. P Dick provided a report.

**6.2 Chairman's report**

Noted.

**07.02.25 Planning**

**7.1 New Applications:**

None.

**7.2 Decision notices:**

24/01920/FUL, 1 Longworthy, Newbury Road, Hermitage, Thatcham RG18 9TB. Demolition of timber bungalow and garage, erection of new self-build detached dwelling and garage.

WBC approved.

24/02073/HOUSE, Spindleberry Wood, Slanting Hill, Hermitage, Thatcham RG18 9QQ. Proposed first floor extension, single storey side extension, alterations to openings including new rooflights, and new garage with home office in roof space.

WBC approved.

24/02592/COND, The Cabin, High Street, Hermitage, Thatcham. Application for approval of details reserved by conditions 4 (Sustainable drainage) and 5 (External lighting) of planning permission 24/01285/FUL - Rear extension over existing rear aspect to create bedroom with en-suite with internal alterations.

WBC approved.

**7.3 Response to emerging local plan.**

Noted. Not sent deadline missed.

**7.4 Report on HPC response to appeal 23/00815**

A third document is required for enquiry.

## 08.02.25 Finance and report of Responsible Finance Officer

### Financial position as of 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025

Balance carried forward (Inc. S106 contributions)	£225,011.99
Receipts to 31 <sup>st</sup> January	£89,585.98
Authorised Payments to 31 <sup>st</sup> January	£63,871.38
Payment not processed by 31 <sup>st</sup> January	£0.00
Balance in hand (total)	£250,726.59

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

Noted. No comments or questions.

### 8.2 Payments for consideration February 2025

Approved.

8.2.1	Sunshine Commercial Services Ltd monthly charge	£269.57
8.2.2	Grass maintenance/Contractor	£820.59
8.2.3	Cost of administration	£1,090.09
8.2.4	HMRC, tax and NI	£165.24
8.2.5	Tactical Management Ltd, dog bins (January)	£242.94
8.2.6	Ainsworth & Wilis, salt bin refill, Slanting Hill	£79.51
8.2.7	Steve Tilbury Consulting Ltd	£420.00
Total	All approved, and endorsed online	£3,087.94

### 8.3 Direct Debits previously approved

Noted.

1&1 Ionos (website) monthly payment	£8.40
NEST monthly payment	£111.01

### 8.4 Receipts January 2025

None.

### 8.5 Grant applications 2025-26

Recommendations from Finance Working Party for grants to Village Hall (£1,000) Hermitage Cubs (£500), Preschool (£500) and Primary school (£550) were unanimously approved. The recommendation for grants to Holy Trinity Church (£1,500) were approved by 3 votes to one.

### 8.6 To consider the transfer of interest, on developer contributions, to ring fenced funds

Each financial year, including the current year, interest from deposit and investments to be allocated to ring fenced funds. The distribution will be prorated to the amount in each fund at the beginning of the financial year.

## 09.02.25 Burial ground

Burial ground visit burial of ashes plot, 167. To send list of Funeral Directors to family. **Clerk**

## 10.02.25 Highways

### 10.1 Speed watch update

SID has been out in several locations around the village.

Eling Way works postponed.

## 11.02.25 Environment

### 11.1 Playgrounds

CLlr Govier spoke about the requirement to clean playgrounds, to be done in the spring.

#### 11.1.1 Councillor inspection reports

Circulated.

### 11.2 Furze Hill

SSE to be doing work in the Exclusion Zone.

#### 11.2.1 Recreation Ground

Nothing to report.

**11.2.2 To agree contractor for tree works at Furze Hill**

Ruskin's Tree consultancy approved.

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

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

**11.3.1 To agree contractor for tree works at Dines Way, Lipscomb Close and Pinewood Park**

Ruskin's Tree consultancy approved.

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

Signed lease sent to solicitor. To provide solicitor with map.

**CLlr Cottingham**

**11.5 Consider following up on the Berkshire Digital Infrastructure project with Vodafone to improve signal in southern part of the village**

Agreed. Clerk to follow up.

**Clerk**

**12.02.25 Other matters**

**12.1 Village Hall:**

Ian Govier attended the meeting. The committee is hoping to recruit new trustees.

**12.2 Defibrillator checks**

Done.

**12.3 Approval of revised standing orders**

Approved. Clause 22 will be reconsidered in May, after further advice has been received.

**12.4 APA 24<sup>th</sup> April**

To obtain quotations for catering.

**Clerk**

**12.4.1 Consider suggested residents survey**

March agenda.

**12.5 Hermitage village event**

Cricket match between The White Horse and The Fox 6<sup>th</sup> July 2025 other activities at the recreation ground are planned for 8<sup>th</sup> July 2025. Cllr Govier to meet with planning group.

RESOLVED: That by virtue of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item(s) of business under Section 2 of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960."

**Part two: - Councillor Co-option**

Alex Williams was Co-opted.

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

Correspondence noted on agenda.

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

Cllr Govier attended a Meeting at The Downs school. Matters raised: - Vodafone reception, general condition of playgrounds, girls and boys football team.

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

None.

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

None.

**17.01.25 Date of the next meeting**

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at 7.30pm in the Adelaide Room, Holy Trinity Church

There being no further business the meeting closed at 20.50pm.

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

