

HERMITAGE PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the meeting of Hermitage Parish Council held at
Adelaide Room, Holy Trinity Church, Hermitage, Berkshire RG18 9ST
on Thursday 21st November at 7.30pm

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

01.11.24 Public participation

10 residents attended. 3 residents spoke about agenda item 11.1.2 placing of a skate park/half pipe at Pinewood Park. 3 residents spoke about the removal of the gate at Furze Hill recreation ground.

02.11.24 Apologies for absence

Cllr. C Montague, Cllr. N Brett, Cllr H Codling.

03.11.24 Minutes of meeting held on 17th October 2024.

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

04.11.24 Declarations of interest

None.

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

None.

06.11.24 Reports

6.1 District Councillors

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

6.2 Chairman's report

Noted.

07.11.24 Planning

7.1 New Applications:

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. No objection.

7.2 Decision notices:

24/01744 HOUSE, Fairlight High Street, Hermitage, Thatcham, RG18 9ST. Lean to extension to garage. Withdrawn.

23/00815/FUL, South of Sandhill, Hampstead Norreys Road, Hermitage, Thatcham RG18 9XU Part retrospective. Change of use of land for the formation of 5 Gypsy/Traveller pitches comprising of 1 mobile home, 1 touring caravan, and 1 utility building per pitch Land.

WBC refused.

08.11.24 Finance and report of Responsible Finance Officer

Financial position as of 31st October 2024

Balance carried forward (Inc. S106 contributions)	£225,011.99
Receipts to 31 st October	£85,914.65
Authorised Payments to 31 st October	£44,095.00
Payment not processed by 31 st October	
Balance in hand (total)	£266,831.64

8.1 Report of Financial Officer (Clerk's report)

Noted. No comments or questions.

8.2 Payments for consideration November 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	Administration Expenses	£60.25
8.2.6	Tactical Management Ltd, dog bins (September)	£271.93
8.2.7	Steve Tilbury Consultation, planning application advise	£300.00
8.2.8	WBCS, October tasks donation	£80.00
8.2.9	HAGS, Furze Hill playground repairs	£5,774.40
8.2.10	Yattendon Estates Ltd, Christmas tree	£180.00
8.2.11	Royal British Legion, poppy wreath donation	£100.00
8.2.12	Autela Payroll	£110.50
8.2.13	Webb & Cook, Haloing at Furze Hill	£3,360.00
8.2.14	Ruth Cottingham, new gate lock	£18.09
8.2.15	Ian Govier Christmas tree lights	£135.98
Total	All approved, and endorsed on line	£12,638.68

8.3 Direct Debits previously approved

Noted.

1&1 Ionos (website) monthly payment	£44.40
NEST monthly payment	£107.08

8.4 Receipts October 2024

Noted.

Dignity Funerals	£186.00
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WBC 2 nd precept payment	£31,495.00
WBC CIL payment	£5,609.62
M J Sly Memorials	£61.00

NBS interest payment	£2,945.97
CCLA interest payment	£265.36

8.5 FWP report

Approved.

8.5.1 Consider transferring some of the Lloyds bank current account funds to a deposit account.

Approved: to transfer £30,000.

8.6 Budget 2025-26

First draft reviewed.

8.7 VAT reclaim 2024-24: - £3,671.22

Received in bank account.

8.8 NALC pay award: to approve backdated payment to 1st April 2024

Approved.

8.9 CCLA mandate form

To add Cllrs Cottingham and Burgess as signatories.

Clerk

09.11.24 Burial ground

Memorial headstone request – Plot E123: approved.

- 10.11.24 Highways**
Cllr Cottingham provided an update on the Eling Way.
- 11.11.24 Environment**
- 11.1 Playgrounds**
To arrange the annual playground inspection reports with Wicksteed £456 plus vat. **Clerk**
- 11.1.1 Councillor inspection reports**
Circulated.
- 11.1.2 To discuss the possibility of placing a skate park/half pipe in Pinewood Park**
Following discussion, it was agreed not to place this equipment at Pinewood Park and to look at making improvements suitable for younger children. **Cllr Govier**
- 11.2 Furze Hill**
Nothing to report.
- 11.2.1 Recreation Ground**
Nothing to report.
- 11.2.2 To consider removing the northern gate**
This will not be removed.
- 11.2.3 To discuss public space protection order**
December agenda.
- 11.2.4 Consider locations for new benches and picnic tables**
The distance between the picnic tables and zip wire will have to be 5 metres. To discuss at APA.
- 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**
21st October draft transfer being finalised.
- 12.11.24 Other matters**
- 12.1 Village Hall:**
John Rigby attended the meeting; village hall will be sticking with 15 spaces and not looking to extend lease.
- 12.1.2 Open spaces policy**
Differed.
- 12.2 Defibrillator checks**
Completed. Additional defibrillators are not needed in Hermitage.
- 12.3 Christmas Tree event 6th December**
Cllr Govier provided an update and distributed posters to all to publicise the event.
- 12.4 Remote Attendance and Proxy Voting Consultation commences 24th October for 8 weeks.**
Cllrs to provide Cllr Cottingham with feedback to enable completion of the consultation.
- 12.5 To consider voluntary donation to West Berkshire Library**
No donation to be given.
- 13.11.24 Correspondence received since the last meeting not referred to elsewhere.**
Correspondence noted on agenda.
- 14.11.24 Reports from Parish Council representatives who have attended meetings of outside bodies on behalf of the council.**
Cllr Govier attending the Community Forum at The Downs School 27th November
Cllr Cottingham attended the BALC AGM 14th November
Cllr Cottingham attended the NDALC at Newbury Showground

15.11.24 Items to be raised by Councillors (information only)

Groundworks appear to be taking place off Charlotte Close.
Cllr Brett has resigned.

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

None.

17.10.24 Date of the next meeting

Thursday 19th December 2024 at 7.30pm in the Adelaide Room, Holy Trinity Church
There being no further business the meeting closed at 21.09pm.

Signed _____ Dated _____