

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN THE JUBILEE HALL ON 13th JANUARY 2025

Present: Mr Duncan Boulton (Chair)
Mrs Margaret Poole
Mr John Poole
Mr Ray Hudson
Mr Les Gordon

Mrs Donna Evans (Clerk)

Also present was: Cllr Georgina Heritage (SODC)

Apologies were received from: Cllr Caroline Hjorth

Item 1: MEMBERS' DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None were received.

Item 2: APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of the parish council meeting held on 9th December 2024 were accepted as being a true record of proceedings by councillors and signed accordingly by the Chair.

Item 3: MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

There were no matters arising that are not covered under other items.

Item 4: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN SESSION

There was none.

Item 5: THAMES VALLEY POLICE

There was no police report.

Cllr Heritage referenced the Thames Valley Police reports as mentioned in her monthly report and the councillors confirmed they are signed up to Thames Valley Alerts but they are not on the Rural Crime Whets App group but they would like to be. Cllr Heritage is going to get the details for this.

GH

Cllr John Poole stated that he had received an update from Speedwatch and the PC that runs the scheme stating that the newsletters will be sent out regularly.

Item 6: DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

The council noted receipt of monthly reports from both Cllr Heritage and Cllr Van Mierlo. Cllr Heritage told the meeting that the priority concern at the moment was the devolution paper. Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) have submitted a response that they would like to go in sooner rather than later and that has been agreed by all district councilors in Oxfordshire. Cllr Heritage explained this would be in the best interests of the parishioners and the staff and that Oxfordshire would rather be approaching this on the front foot. With regards to the elections in May, at the moment this is an unknown. Cllr Heritage confirmed that no decisions on unitaries have been decided yet but SODC are being very proactive in talking to OCC regarding the devolution.

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Cllr Hudson asked about the timeframe for it all and Cllr Heritage confirmed that they are anticipating a 2 year process.

Cllr John Poole asked about the neighborhood plan and Cllr Heritage confirmed that this is something that will stand.

Item 7: FINANCE

a) The council received and noted a budgetary control report for the year to date from the RFO which showed balances as of 8th January 2025:

Treasurers Account: £4,366.22

Business Savings Account: £ 17,346.89

Hall Account: £8,214.70

And noted that the RFO had transferred £2,000 from LPC's savings to its Treasurers account.

b) The council confirmed payment of the following account:

Signwizzard	Speedwatch sign	£76.26	CIL	RH and JP
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c) The council approved payment of the following outstanding accounts:

i) Sprinthand Ltd	Burner for hall boiler	£599.95	S.111 LGA 1972	RH and JP
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ii) Allen Landscaping	Hedge cutting including elders	£696	S. 112(2) LGA 1972
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ii) Thames Valley Air Ambulance	Donation	£200.00	S.137 LGA 1972
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iii) Watlington Hospital	Donation	£150.00	S.137 LGA 1972
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iiii) PetWasteSolutions	Dog Bin Emptying	£92.95	S.111 LGA 1972
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v) The council noted final payment of retiring clerk's salary	S.112
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vi) The council noted payment of Clerk's salary	S.112
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Two members of the staffing committee signed a letter confirming this payment.

vii) The council noted payment of Chair's allowance	£100	LGA 72 S.15(5)
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d) The chair proposed to put together a form for councillors to be able to submit sundry expenses. All councillors agreed to this. JP and LG

e) The council discussed S137 expenditure which has been increased in the Precept. We have received an enquiry from Clean Slate (Domestic Abuse) regarding supporting them and the council agreed to give them £100. This will be done in the new financial year. This item will be rolled over to February so councillors can look at the list of charities we support. Clerk

f) The council approved the purchase of a new sim card for Clerk's phone due to issues with changing the contact details for the new clerk. The council gave the authority to the Clerk to spend between £8-£15 per month and to proceed with this.

g) The council approved the purchase of a new parish laptop as minuted in December with a budget figure of £500, however this will be done once item 7:I has been set up. Clerk

h) The council approved the final budget for 2025-26. The Chair formally signed the precept request form for £23,000. The RFO will send this to SODC following the meeting. Clerk/RFO

i) The council approved the need for a payment card with Lloyds and two councillors signed the forms for Lloyds for this. The RFO will proceed with getting this set up. The council agreed that once this is done then we will move away from holding a Petty Cash account.

j) The council agreed that the RFO would contact Lloyds in regards to changing the contact details on the account, two councillors signed the forms and the Clerk will proceed with this. Clerk/RFO

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Item 8: PLANNING

a) The council noted the following new planning application:

<p>v) P24/S3485/FUL Land on the north west side of Icknield Way Lewknor</p> <p>The application is for: A wooden shed 20 x 16 ft (retrospective).</p>	<p>New application The council agreed to publish a comment on this application due to concerns about the structure. Cllr John Poole agreed to formulate the comment and circulate it to councillors before being submitted.</p>
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b) The council noted the status of the following applications:

<p>i) /S3760/LB The Hall Barn Church Lane Lewknor Part retrospective Listed Building Consent application for maintenance works to reconstruct a section of the boundary wall between St Margaret's Church and The Hall Barn</p>	Decision awaited
<p>ii) P24/S3826/AG Knapp Wood Farm, Hill Road, Lewknor Erection of an agricultural straw barn</p>	Decision: a formal application for planning permission is not required
<p>iii) P24/S2648/HH Sheep Brook Cottage, Nethercote Lane, Lewknor Two storey side extension, the addition of dormer windows in the loft and internal alterations</p>	Approved: The council has approved the planning application, reference P24/S2648/HH, for development works at the following location: Sheep Brook Cottage Nethercote Lane Lewknor
<p>iv) APP/Q3115/W/24/3352135 on P24/S1542/FUL Lancing, 11A Weston Road, Lewknor Division of site. Construction of a new house and retention of existing bungalow</p>	Decision awaited

c) The council noted no further development concerning the proposed solar farm.

d) The council noted the Joint Local Plan 2041: Consultation on Technical

Addendum to the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report

e) The council noted the consultation on proposed changes to the statutory management plan for the Chilterns National Landscape

f) Cllr John Poole raised a response from the Planning Enforcement Team regarding the gate that has been installed between the hedgerows on the road between the Thame turning and the pub in Postcombe. It was noted that the Planning Enforcement Team agree there is a technical breach of planning but will not be taking any further action on this. Cllr Heritage has stated she will raise this with enforcement/highways.

RH

Item 9: HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT

a) The council noted the update on the Manor Close entrance. The Clerk has been in discussion with Cllr Freddie Van Mierlo who has received an update from the Highways Authority that they have not received the required Section 278 Agreement from Beeks to complete the works

Clerk

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needed. Cllr Freddie Mierlo is writing to Beeks, to try and get them to engage with the Highways Authority. It was noted that Beeks are due to close in 2025 so this is a pressing matter.

b) The council noted the update the Traffic and Road Safety on 20mph signage and VAS. They are looking into the replacement 20mph signage and putting together a package to replace faded weight signs. The 20mph team are responsible for the new 20mph VAS.

c) The council noted that they are not responding to the National Highways and Transport Public Satisfaction Survey 2024-25 - Public Representatives.

d)

i) The council noted the damage to trees and debris on the Lewknor Bridleway from the accident which occurred on Christmas Eve. Cllr Hjorth had been in touch with Cllr Freddie Van Mierlo and Environment and Highways regarding this and it has been confirmed that it will be cleared in the next couple of weeks.

ii) The council discussed the huge hedges blocking vision when turning out onto Weston Road from the Crescent (opposite Knapp Farm) as reported by Cllr Hjorth. Cllr Hudson confirmed that he would look at this and put on Fix my Street. RH

iii) Cllr Margaret Poole circulated a letter that had been received earlier that day from a Parishioner regarding the overhanging trees in Box Tree Lane. Cllr Georgina Heritage agreed to take this up with an officer at Fix my Street. GH

Item 10: CIL

The council agreed to purchase new noticeboards for Postcombe and South Weston. They agreed to increase the size of the Postcombe noticeboard. Cllr Boulton and the RFO will proceed with this. DB and Clerk

Item 11: GRANTS

a) The council noted that Cllr Boulton and Cllr Hjorth attended the grants panel on 12th December and a formal decision is expected in February 2025.

b) The council noted the new performing arts grant. The clerk will circulate the details of this to Lewknor Primary School and the Pre-School. Clerk

c) The council noted the Stopping the Start; creating a smokefree generation 2030, Smoke Free Community Fund but do not wish to apply.

Item 12: CLERK

a) To note the Clerk's acceptance of contract of employment and both the Clerk and Chair signed the contract.

b) Following the proposal made by the Vice Chair, the Council resolved that the Clerk/RFO be eligible to join the Oxfordshire Local Government Pension Scheme from 13th January 2025. This was the unanimous decision of the Parish Council. DB

c) The council agreed to use One Drive for storage once a new laptop is purchased.

Item 13: LOCAL GOVERNMENT STANDARDS CONSULTATION

a) The council noted the consultation on local government standards but do not wish to submit a response.

Item 14: CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

a) The council noted correspondence received from a family member of a resident recently deceased in the parish. They would like to present the parish with a memorial bench. The council thanked the family and agreed that a bench would be lovely. The Clerk will liaise with Clerk

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the family regarding the bench but the Councillors agreed a recycled plastic bench would be long lasting. Once it is finalised a location will be decided but it is likely to be near the noticeboard in Lewknor.

The meeting closed at 9.02pm

Chair:

Date:.....