

Long Wittenham Parish Council meeting held on 18th July 2024

Present: Chairman Steve Brown, Cllr Steve Bolton, Cllr David Corney, Cllr Peter Rose, Cllr Mark Thompson, Cllr Liz Yuille, County Cllr Pete Sudbury.

In attendance: Martin Elliff (clerk) and 2 members of the public.

The chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2024/130 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Ian Burton, RFO Clifford Bosley, District Cllr Sam Casey-Rerhaye.

2024/131 ITEMS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

- Resident Andrew Wilson had asked Cllr Corney about the weeding and cleaning of the roads at Saxons Heath and Westfield Road. He had been advised after the meeting in June that Biffa has been asked by SODC to do it.
- Resident Richard May had requested by email that the council advises the Village Hall Committee (VHC) that there are no paper towels in the village hall.
- Cllr Thompson reported that resident Sally Duff had thanked the council for getting the verges cut.

Actions:	Clerk to email the chairman of the VHC advising of the paper towel problem.
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2024/132 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None.

2024/133 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The Parish Council resolved to sign the minutes of the meeting held on 20th June 2024.

2024/134 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

- The 20mph signs for Fieldside have been purchased and will be installed within the next few days.
- SODC has agreed to install road name signs on Fieldside track at the junction with Didcot Road.
- Cllr Burton has volunteered to be the village's Parish Path Warden. He will liaise with Cllr Corney on his return from holiday.
- Resident Jane May runs a Neighbourhood Watch group at the eastern end of the village and is happy help anyone who wishes to setup groups for other areas.

2024/135 REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

None.

2024/136 REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Cllr Sudbury reported:

- (1) He has been chasing OCC's solicitor about the Community Hub S106 agreements and will continue to do so – see section 2024/138 below.
- (2) The new Head of Highways at OCC is Paul Fermer.
- (3) The OCC Cabinet has voted to accept the funding for the HIF1 scheme. It is generally agreed that once the scheme is in place, Clifton Hampden Bridge should be closed to through traffic.



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2024/137 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

None.

2024/138 COMMUNITY HUB

- The S106 legal agreements are held up by the OCC solicitor. The chairman will chase the Thomas Homes (TH) project manager.
- The chairman has asked TH if the Ward's Field Biodiversity Project is still required but has had no response.
- It had been suggested that the SSEN Resilience Fund might provide a grant towards the solar panels, battery and heat pump heating at the new village hall. Cllr Thompson offered to contact SSEN for more details.

Actions: Cllr Thompson to contact SSEN for details of its grant funding.

2024/139 CIL PROJECTS

● Acklings Playground

The clerk had asked Savills if St John's College would sell the land. Their response was that the council would need to make an offer well in excess of agricultural value. It was agreed that it was too costly.

The new 10 year lease has been received from St John's solicitors and will be signed within the next few days. It will take effect immediately and run to December 2034.

The Design Brief and Jupiter Design for the playground had been circulated by email before the meeting. Approved.

Cllr Rose is working on grant applications from SODC and the FCC Communities Foundation. It was proposed that he be given delegated authority to apply for the grants. Agreed.

It is hoped that the tender documents will be ready to send out next week. It was suggested that, as well as putting the tender on the 'Contracts Finder' website as required by law, quotations are requested from Jupiter Play & Leisure, Creative Play and Sovereign. Agreed.

● Allotments Water Supply

No progress.

● Outdoor Gym Equipment

The clerk had asked four local parish clerks about the usage of the outdoor gym equipment in their parishes. Two had responded with positive comments.

Cllr Thompson reported that he now had three comparable quotations from Sunshine Gym, Be Active and Fresh Air Fitness. There are questions about the viability of Fresh Air Fitness. It was suggested that Cllr Thompson seeks testimonials from the companies. There was discussion about the best format for the equipment: group or circuit. It was agreed to consider this and the testimonials at the meeting in September.

● New Projects

Many of the projects on the CIL Projects List are already underway. Councillors were asked to consider volunteering to take the lead on any of those remaining. To be revisited at the meeting in September.

Actions: Cllr Thompson to seek testimonials from the outdoor gym companies.



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2024/140 LONG WITTENHAM TO CLIFTON HAMPDEN PERMISSIVE PATH

Cllr Thompson reported that the written agreement for the section of the path over the Gibbs land is still awaited.

The verge at the start of the path has been cleared. It now needs levelling. PMS has offered to provide soil for this.

Cllr Corney has been contacted by Roselle Chapman, the Nature Recovery Officer at SODC with a view to progressing the cycle path. He will meet with her.

2024/141 HIGH STREET CHICANES

Jon Beale, Senior Traffic & Road Safety Officer at OCC had been asked about removing the High Street chicanes. He said that their works programme for this financial year has been fully allocated. He suggested that the council commissions a suitably qualified Highway Design Consultant to provide a design/schedule of works. Cllr Sudbury offered to discuss it with Paul Fermer.

2024/142 GROUNDS MAINTENANCE CONTRACT

It was agreed that Cllr Bolton will manage the tender process. The chairman will help him update the tender documents.

2024/143 REPORTS FROM MEMBERS ON OUTSIDE BODIES

None.

2024/144 ITEMS RAISED BY MEMBERS

- Risk Register Item 11
Cllr Yuille drew attention to this item on the Risk Register and asked that councillors always seek the approval of the full council when making decisions, unless delegated authority has been approved. Agreed.
- Playground Woodwork Maintenance
Cllr Bolton suggested that as well as the bench at the Westfield Road play area, the woodwork at Bodkins needs maintenance. It was agreed that Jim Brown should quote for the work and materials required. Cllr Bolton will also seek a quote from one of his contacts.
- River Club
There were 25 people at the recent inaugural meeting of the village river club. Cllr Rose has handed over responsibility for this to resident Pauline Upstone and two volunteers, who will now negotiate the terms of access to the boathouse with Headington School.
- Ward's Field
The chairman suggested that the field might need to be mowed before the bonfire night event in November. It was agreed that Wittenham Warriors should pay for this out of the event profits.

2024/145 MATTERS ARISING FROM CHAIRMAN

- Emptying of Waste Bins
There are three bins that SODC will not empty as they are on private ground. The clerk has been in touch with a company called The Shield Group and is awaiting a quotation.
- Drains
OCC were in the village recently clearing out the drains. Unfortunately, only three quarters of them were done. The chairman is chasing them to complete the job.



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- Goalposts at Bodkins

Cllr Bolton had queried whose insurance covers the small goalposts that had been relocated from Acklings to the Athletic Club in 2019. Cllr Yuille said that, as the posts are now owned by the club, they should be treated, for insurance purposes, as any other equipment at the club. She suggested that the club's insurance company be consulted.

2024/146 FINANCIAL REPORT

- 1st Quarter Accounts

The RFO had circulated the 1st Quarter Accounts before the meeting. Approved.

- Income during June

10/06/2024	Talboys 2 The Crescent	£5.00
11/06/2024	Michellis 3 The Crescent	£5.00
13/06/2024	Aldridge 5 The Crescent	£5.00
13/06/2024	Willington 4 The Crescent	£5.00
25/06/2024	Hay 6 The Crescent	£5.00
	June Income Total	£25.00

- Expenditure during June

03/06/2024	Scribe Inv INV-6201 (DD)	£36.00
04/06/2024	Logs Unlimited Inv 240087	£877.90
06/06/2024	OCC Inv 3920732051 (Speed Limit Extensions)	£2,400.00
13/06/2024	Clerk's Salary June 2024	£345.15
25/06/2024	Auditing Solutions Ltd Inv A8611	£492.00
25/06/2024	Kasten Inv 220624 (The Pound Tidy-up)	£90.00
25/06/2024	Grant 020 Long Wittenham School Association	£2,000.00
	June Expenditure Total	£6,241.05

2024/147 ANY MATTERS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION

Cllr Yuille will be seeking quotations for the council's insurance for consideration at the meeting in September.

Meeting Closed at 9:30pm.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 19th September 2024

Signed:



Date:

26/9/24