

Long Wittenham Parish Council meeting held on 19th December 2024

Present: Cllr Steve Bolton, Cllr Ian Burton, Cllr David Corney, Cllr Peter Rose, Cllr Mark Thompson, Cllr Liz Yuille, RFO Clifford Bosley.

In attendance: Martin Elliff (clerk) and one member of the public.

In the absence of Chairman Brown, Cllr Yuille took the chair and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2024/210 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Chairman Steve Brown, Cllr Sam Casey-Rerhaye, County Cllr Pete Sudbury.

2024/211 ITEMS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

- Resident Charis Thompson was present to discuss the fence at the entrance to the playground at Bodkins. The Playbus, owned by Mrs Thompson and her husband, had knocked down the fence a few weeks ago. It was agreed that they should reinstate the fence further back from its present position to allow a wider entrance to Bodkins.

2024/212 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Cllrs Bolton and Burton declared their interest in Long Wittenham Athletic Club.

2024/213 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The Parish Council resolved to sign the minutes of the meeting held on 21st November 2024.

2024/214 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

- The Pound
A post had been put on the website asking for volunteers to maintain The Pound. The volunteers were asked to contact Sally Duff.
- PC Meetings Remote Access
Potential equipment costs to facilitate remote meetings are included in the budget for the new village hall.
- Defibrillator Training
A course has been scheduled for 22nd January in the village hall. So far, 24 residents have asked to attend. The maximum is 24.

2024/215 REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

None.

2024/216 REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

None.

2024/217 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

P24/S3660/DIS Land at Ladygrove Didcot

NRR

2024/218 COMMUNITY HUB

The draft S106 legal agreement is with the solicitors of OCC and SODC. Their response is awaited.



2024/219 CIL PROJECTS

● Acklings Playground

There has been positive feedback from both grant funding bodies (SODC and FCC) concerning the grant applications. However, there are some further steps before a final decision is taken. Final decisions by the two bodies will be made in the New Year. We are required to provide an update on tender costs and a timescale for completion. The clerk has approached the two companies, who submitted tenders, for an update.

It was suggested that Cllrs Rose and Brown, in consultation with Claire Michellis, should have delegated authority to make the decision on which tender to choose and that Cllr Rose should have authority to sign any necessary documents. Approved.

The council thanked Chairman Brown and particularly Cllr Rose for their hard work on this project.

● Outdoor Gym Equipment

Cllr Burton reported that he had discussed this with members of LWAC who said that they would use exercise bikes if they were provided. It was agreed to revisit this project in February when the new village Outdoor Fitness Group will have been running for a while.

2024/220 LONG WITTENHAM TO CLIFTON HAMPDEN PERMISSIVE PATH

The agreement with the Gibbs estate has been signed. Cllrs Thompson and Corney met with Savills and agreed the location of the gates required along the path. All three initial quotes were for a similar amount. Final quotations for the work are awaited. The cost will be paid from CIL funds. It was suggested that Cllrs Thompson and Corney be given delegated authority up to £3,000 excluding VAT to choose the contractor to do the work. Approved.

The council thanked Cllr Corney and particularly Cllr Thompson for their hard work on this project.

2024/221 HIGH STREET CHICANES

Cllr Brown had circulated a list of the pros and cons of replacing the High Street chicanes with humps. It was agreed to send leaflets to all households in the village asking for their opinions.

Actions:	Cllr Yuille to draft and circulate the chicane leaflet for agreement at the January meeting.
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2024/222 SPEED INDICATOR DEVICES (SID)

Cllr Corney has yet to discuss this with the Community Speedwatch group.

2024/223 COUNCILLOR TRAINING BUDGET

It was agreed that the 2024-25 budget should include an allocation for councillor training. It was suggested that the clerk should have the authority to approve training course attendance. Approved.

2024/224 REPORTS FROM MEMBERS ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllr Bolton reported that Long Wittenham Athletic Club is planning a Midsummer's Music Weekend and two caravan rallies in 2025. Approved.



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2024/225 ITEMS RAISED BY MEMBERS

- Bodkins Playground Fence
Cllr Bolton had suggested that the playground area at Bodkins be enclosed with a fence at an approximate cost of £5,000. As the swings will have to be relocated to facilitate this, it was agreed to wait until the swings need to be replaced.
- Bodkins Playground Slide
Cllr Thompson had reported as part of the weekly playground checks that one of the wooden platform on the slide structure is rotting. Problems with the bridge between the towers has also been reported. It was suggested that the clerk ask Creative Play (who installed the structure) to investigate and quote for remedial work.

Actions: Clerk to contact Creative Play regarding the slide structure at Bodkins.

2024/226 FINANCIAL REPORT

- Budget 2025-26
The RFO had circulated a draft budget for 2025-26 before the meeting. A final budget for 2025-26 will be produced for approval at the April meeting.
- Precept 2025-26
The RFO suggested that the Precept for 2025-26 is increased only by the default amount appropriate for the increase in the number of properties. This will mean that the Precept will rise from £25,500 in 2024-25 to £25,894 in 2025-26 without the PC seeking to increase the 2024-25 band D rate of £66.91. Approved.
- Income during November
13/11/2024 Wittenham Warriors (Bonfire Night reimbursement) £2,375.00
- Expenditure during November
05/11/2024 Logs Unlimited Inv 240472 £294.45
12/11/2024 Kasten Inv 081124 (The Pound Tidy-up) £135.00
12/11/2024 Clerk's Salary November 2024 £450.75
20/11/2024 OALC Inv W-3612 (Course Booking Liz Yuille) £72.00
21/11/2024 The Royal British Legion (Wreath & Donation) £120.00
November Expenditure Total £1,072.20

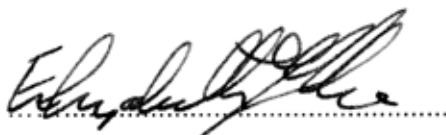
2024/227 ANY MATTERS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION

None.

Meeting Closed at 8:40pm.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 16th January 2025

Signed:



Date:

16/1/25