

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday, 16 October 2024 at 1930hrs

Shepherdswell Village Hall

MINUTES

To receive reports from the County and District Councillors, Kent Police Neighbourhood Beat Officer, Speed Watch, Neighbourhood Watch and Community Warden. Public questions and comments on non-agenda items (this section will be limited to 15 minutes or otherwise at the discretion of the Chair)

No reports received

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

None

98/2024 IN ATTENDANCE & APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Present: Cllrs Mark Watson (Chair), Bradley Stauffer-Kruse (Vice Chair), Barry Crush, Lyn Symes, Cindy Denyer, Marien Elgar, Terry Hunt, Carole White, Keith Roberts, Sue Taber, John Bulaitis and Aidan Softley

01 Member of the public

Clerk: Jan Rousell

Apologies: Cllr David Beaney (KCC)

99/2024 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 18 SEPTEMBER 2024

Minutes of the meeting held on 18 September 2024 were agreed to be a true and accurate record proposed by Cllr Roberts seconded by Cllr Denyer. **All Agreed**

Confidential Minutes of the closed meeting held on 18 September 2024 were agreed to be a true and accurate record proposed by Cllr Roberts seconded by Cllr Symes. **All Agreed**

100/2024 MATTERS ARISING

Cllr White asked about the salt bin for the village hall, as agreed at the last meeting the Clerk is to purchase salt and when this is delivered Cllr Roberts will bring the salt bin to the village hall.

101/2024 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

102/2024 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION LIMITED TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA – 15 minutes in total.

None

103/2024 CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair reported that has continued his engagement with the School and the School's Council by attending a meeting at the school. The school are keen to assist with the planting of the trees in Reed Meadow.

104/2024 CLERK'S REPORT

The Village Hall Committee yearly accounts have been circulated and noted.

There has been correspondence between the Council and WW Martin regarding Reed Meadow.

The Clerk and a Councilor will be meeting with a potential candidate for the Small Works Contractor.

Harmers have received an update on works required.

The Council have received a request from Pilgrims Hospice for use of Coldred Village Green for the Pilgrims Way Challenge – Cllr Elgar to consult Coldred Forum before the Clerk responds.

The Old Telephone Exchange – Clerk to send further correspondence to tenant.

An inspection of the playground at the recreation ground is due to take place later this month.

The works have now been completed at the village hall and so the Committee will be applying for the agreed grant.

Norton Timber now have the posts on site ready for the works on Shepherdsweil village green.

Cllr Taber left the meeting at 2000 hrs

105/2024 FINANCE

105.01 To approve payments.

Balances as 13 September 2024	£
Current A/C	1952.68
Business A/C	117969.86
INCOME	
WJ Farrier & Son – internment of ashes	75.00
M Wright – Rent (07/10/2024)	260.00
Credit Interest	818.96
EXPENDITURE TO RATIFY	
Hugo Fox – Website (September)	23.99
Clerk's Wages (October)	1090.32
EXPENDITURE TO APPROVE	
Clerk's Expenses	40.00
Village Hall Fees	95.00
Harmers (inv 24015)	792.06
NALC	51.71
HMRC	64.64
KALC – Training for Cllr Denyer	60.00
Bill Roberts	460.00
	£1563.41

Cllr Roberts proposed the schedule of payments be approved, seconded by Cllr Hunt. All Agreed

105.02 To Review the current budget position

The Clerk presented the current budget position – the report can be seen on the website. The Council are currently on budget. Clerk/RFO to create new cost centre for website/internet costs.

106/2024 ADOPTION OF THE FOLLOWING POLICIES

106.01 Risk Assessment & Management Policy

106.02 Complaints Procedure

106.03 Bring Your Own Device Policy

Cllr Symes proposed that these policies be added to the November agenda to give Councillors opportunity to scrutinise them, seconded by Cllr Hunt. All Agreed

107/2024 WORKING GROUP REPORTS

107.01 Carbon Footprint Working Group – Cllr Roberts reported that the cost of purchasing a projector would be significantly more than anticipated due to the need for it to be used whilst the lights are on. The purchase of a projector will reduce the Council's carbon footprint considerably. It was suggested that the Clerk ask the History Society if the Parish Council could hire their projector for the next couple of meetings, so a projector could be tried before a commitment was made to buy.

107.02 Highway Improvement Plan Working Group – the group are working on a document for inclusion in the Parish Magazine to explain what actions have been taken during the last 18 months and what is hoped for the future.

107.03 Reed Meadow Working Group – the second delivery of saplings is due between 15 and 30 Nov.

107.04 Communications Working Group – trying to organise a meeting. Cllr Symes asked that the meeting pack be published on the website.

108/2024 COMMUNITY

108.01 Recreation Ground

i) To receive information from working group regarding charitable status

The Chair reported that there are clearly advantages and disadvantages to gaining charitable status. This is clearly an ongoing investigation, the Chair will forward all the information he has obtained to Councillors.

ii) To receive update regarding Green Spaces Committee

The Chair reported that he facilitated a meeting on 25 September 2024 at the village hall, a number of representatives from the village attended. Mike Sitton agreed to be temporary Chair. They had their first meeting on 15 October 2024 and minutes have been emailed to both the Clerk and the Chair – these minutes contain a series of questions for the Parish Council. The minutes will be circulated and Councillors are asked to feedback their comments and thoughts asap.

108.02 To receive an update regarding a request from a resident to use shared space for fund raising activity

The Chair has contacted the resident and is awaiting a response.

108.03 To receive a request from the VGA

Cllr Crush proposed that the Council accept the request from the VGA for a grant of £250 to purchase lights for the Christmas tree and to replenish the planters on the village green, seconded by Cllr Roberts. All Agreed

108.04 To review implementation of increase in Cemetery Fees and request from previous Resident

Cllr Roberts proposed that the request for a refund of fees for the reservation of a cemetery plot be approved, seconded by Cllr Crush. All Agreed

109/2024 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

This will be on Wednesday 20 November 2024 in Shepherdsweil Village Hall at 1930hrs