

MINAL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting Held on 13 January 2020 At 6.30pm in the Village Hall

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| 1. Present:
John Bevan - Chairman
Brian Devonshire – Vice Chairman
Ruth Kolish
Anna Whitehead
Guy Gagen | Apologies Accepted from:
Rob Bailey Chris Webb

In Attendance:
Sue Hine Clerk/RFO |
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Declarations of Interest: None

- 2. Questions from the Public:** None

- 3. Minutes of the meeting held on the 11 November 2019**

The Minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman.

- 4. Matters Arising –** See separate Matters Arising and Actions List

- 5. Rights of Way – Stiles Project Update**

BD reported that a grant of £860.00 had been awarded by the Marlborough Area Board towards the cost of replacing stiles with gates. Stephen Leonard, Rights of Way Officer for Wiltshire County Council has advised that stock proof gates are required as although the original gates chosen were self-closing there have been instances where the gates have been propped open by walkers creating problems for farmers. This will be an increased cost. BD reported that Ramsbury Estates will be replacing the stiles with gates along the Werg and the Kings road field. Councillors gave thanks to Gordon Pepper who has offered to pay for one of the gates. The gates have been ordered and should be arriving at the end of January to be fitted in February. Councillors commented that these would look very smart around the village.

- 6. Playground**

The rotting bench in the playground has been removed by Peter Hine and replaced with a recycled plastic bench. BD and the Clerk met with Graham Hobbs to discuss the maintenance issues required in the annual inspection report. More bark is required for topping up and the clerk is looking for a similar offer to last year but has so far been unsuccessful. GG commented that the cherry trees require pruning and this will be added to the list.

- 7. Website.**

The Clerk will, in future, take over more of the updating of the website but CW will remain as Webmaster and have editorial control over content. Further development is required to make the front page more user-friendly and this will be carried out when the developer Chris Franklin returns from a working holiday in Africa. Councillors approved this way forward.

8. Village Hall Internet

Mark Mutch was thanked by Councillors for providing internet for the village hall which is a great asset to those who use the village hall.

9. Responsible Financial Officer's Reports

Councillors approved the financial statement and the accounts were signed by Councillor RK. Councillors then considered the expenditure to date and the proposed budget for 2020/21 which the Clerk had issued in advance for Councillors to consider any further planned expenditure. The playground budget has been extended and MANP have advised that there will be no further contributions for the Neighbourhood plan. Amounts have been budgeted for Christmas and a contribution to the village VE Day. Councillors agreed not to increase the Precept from that previously agreed (£20,000) and the Clerk will apply for this immediately. **Action: Clerk**

10. Neighbourhood Plan

The Clerk explained that Shelley Parker had been in touch following the email motion that Councillors had approved in December. Councillors had approved a rural exception site for affordable housing in Mildenhall in the areas already identified for future development. Further research with planning officers at WCC has revealed that rural exception sites for affordable housing can be considered for any site a landowner may put forward subject to the conditions being met in the Wiltshire Core plan policy 44. As the neighbourhood plan will be live until 2036 MANP are keen to keep this option open. Councillors approved the following resolution.

Minal (Mildenhall) Parish Council has considered the information put forward by the Marlborough Area Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group and agrees that the need for affordable housing within the parish of Mildenhall should be met through a rural exception site meeting the criteria set out for this in the Wiltshire Core Strategy at Core Policy 44. Sites previously submitted for affordable housing development can, of course, be considered under this scheme to ensure that local affordable housing need is met within the village.

11. Planning

Councillors considered Planning application 19/12021/FUL which had arrived earlier in the day and JB will speak to residents in Ash Tree Close. **Action: JB**

12. Any Other Business

12.1 **RK** updated Councillors on the latest Cat G meeting and the Clerk will write to the Area Board to ensure she receives agendas and minutes. **Action: Clerk.**

12.2 **JB** will ask Sir Nigel Thompson for some hardcore to bolster the passing places in Chopping Knife Lane. **Action: JB**

12.3 **JB** asked if the village gardening club would be interested in planting new beech saplings in the hedge in Church Lane. **Action: Clerk**

Meeting closed at 7.50pm – next meeting Monday 9 March 2020