

MINAL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Held on 9 January 2023
At 6.30pm in the Village Hall

Draft for approval on 13 March 2023

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| 1. Present:
John Bevan - Chairman
Rob Bailey
Adam Kebble
Anna Whitehead
Guy Gagen | Apologies Accepted from:
Brian Devonshire

In Attendance
Sue Hine, Clerk/RFO |
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Declarations of Interest for Matters being discussed: None

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 14 November 2022

AW asked for a correction to the minutes. The charitable donation approved by Councillors was to Love Marlborough Kids Meals and this was made and the Minutes were approved and signed.

3. Matters Arising – These had been circulated and an updated Action sheet accompanies these minutes. The main actions have been transferred to Agenda items.

4. Visit from Scottish and Southern Electric SSE Helen Robertson and Mel Grace

The meeting had been promoted in the village newsletter and the facebook page but only Councillors were present. The talk covered SSE's Priority Services Register and how this works in the event of unplanned outages. It is recommended for people who are reliant on power for keeping medication cool, medical equipment eg hoists, vulnerable people such as the elderly, small children or people with special needs and disabilities as it gives them priority for mini generators and restored power. Helen and Mel are Rapid Response Operatives who work with the engineers who assess the fault, how long it will take to fix and actions to be taken. They recommended distributing glow sticks to elderly people as a source of light as they are much safer than candles. There is a powertrack app you can use to report and follow power outages and the new number to call to report outages is 105. They talked about actions the village can take to cope in a sustained outage period and grants that they provide to give emergency equipment to parishes. This would cover metal storage boxes situated externally at a central point such as the village hall.

Actions: RB agreed to discuss storage of emergency equipment with the village hall committee.

GG to discuss mobile phone transmitters with Mark Mutch

Clerk and Councillors to distribute the booklets for the Priority Register and glow sticks via the Covid volunteer teams.

5. Questions from Members of the Public

None

6. Woodlands Road – Removal of HGV Sign and Poor Surface

The sign provided by Wiltshire Council at the triangle where the junction to Woodlands Road and Greenways road meet has been removed by persons unknown. It was only in place for a

couple of weeks and has been reported to Wiltshire Council. The Clerk visited all businesses with a written letter requesting that they ask suppliers and deliveries to use Greenways road. Despite this AK has mobile phone video footage of a large flatbed truck turning into Woodlands road from the Ramsbury direction so they would have passed Greenways and ignored the No HGV sign at the bottom of Woodlands Road. It was not possible to identify the haulier from the video. The Clerk said that the metal fabricator already asked suppliers to use Greenways and he had received feedback that the parked cars and bollard in the narrowest part of the High Street deterred lorries coming from Marlborough although in the above case the lorry would have passed this. **Actions: Clerk to ask if NO HGV can be painted in the road. Clerk to email the sign example to all Councillors. JB to liaise with Andrew Ainslie re a new sign.**

AK and AW reported that the surface turning into Woodlands Road continues to decline and there are now big potholes. **Action: They will report again and the Clerk will chase Martin Cook, Highways Officer**

7. Playpark

Lock and Chain – GG has donated a chain to the playpark and JB will repurpose the padlock from the Church carpark. The Clerk will need to advise D Pittams of the code.

Inspection - The Clerk is still awaiting the 2022 Inspection Report. The Inspector has had health issues and is behind with work. The roundabout matting is in need of replacing and options will be looked at.

New Fence and repairs - AK has looked at suppliers for replacing the fencing to the playpark and providing new wooden boards around the swing areas. Councillors approved the quote for Carters Fencing and AK said that there would be a small discount if both jobs were carried out together.

Logs Simon Edwards team have done an excellent job cross hatching the logs. The Clerk is keen to get the surfaces protected and various solutions were discussed. Due to the wet cold weather AK will purchase a textured water proofer and this will be applied weekend 14/15 Jan. The logs will age more quickly but it was necessary for grip. **Action: AK, Clerk**

8. Planning Applications

PL/2022/09014/FUL - Werg Gardens - JB updated Councillors about this application. The neighbours were disappointed that the final plans were different to the ideas they had been told about and the design is disappointingly blocky and overbearing. JB said that the applicant had told him that the design made Werg a contemporary corner of Minal and seemed unaware of the history of the area. The Clerk and JB drafted an objection for the planning portal. Target decision date is listed as 17.1.23.

Castara House (pool) and Rabley (solar panels and heat source pump) no objections or comments from Councillors.

Poulton Mill Equine Clinic 21/04663/FUL Martin Ephson's Judicial Review has failed so it is likely that this application will move to either the Strategic Planning Committee or Eastern Area Planning Committee in the Spring because it has been called in by Caroline Thomas County Councillor. The Marlborough Area Neighbourhood plan is likely to happen in March 2023 and JB has recently approved the submission to MANP on behalf of the PC.

9. Church Car Park Entrance

The works have now been completed and Councillors noted their thanks to Simon Edwards for an excellent job. The clerk reported that the job had been carried out during the very cold week and was not without incident. The BT Openreach cable had been discovered lying too close to the surface so it had been disturbed by the digging. SE agreed with Open Reach to dig a new trench for the cable which is much deeper. This meant the repair was quick and at no further cost to the PC. The Clerk will write a testimonial for SE's new website. The Clerk said that the sub base was covered with shingle to assist drainage. The shingle will move in time and require raking to keep it even. This will depend on how roughly people accelerate into the carpark. JB and RB agreed to keep an eye on the shingle and rake when necessary.

10. LHFH Highways and Footpath Improvement Group

LK did not attend the meeting. The Clerk said that she had changed the name of the playground account to Designated Funds to reflect the protected nature of those funds and that playpark maintenance now comes from main PC funds. Councillors approved this change.

11. WALC/NALC Councillor Consultation

The local WALC officer has changed and the new incumbent is keen to encourage wider participation from Clerks and Councillors. The Clerk said that the previous Officer had focussed on replying to clerk emails and the focus now seemed to be on more corporate issues. **Action: The Clerk will attend the zoom meeting on 17 January and report back.**

12. Clerk/Responsible Finance Officers Financial Statements

These were approved and signed by Adam Keble. The Clerk reported that the precept has been applied for. Wiltshire Council have advised that future election costs will be borne by Parish and Town Councils even if uncontested. Next election date is 2025. The Clerk is still investigating the Lloyds account as the Treasurer account team had no information for opening savings accounts. The Clerk has applied for the VAT return from June to December.

13. Any Other Business

13.1 Steps to the side of the Mound - AK reported that the grass continually wears on the mound due to children using the slide and will investigate building some steps. In the meantime AK will purchase more grass seed to repair this. Councillors approved this.

13.2 Basket Ball Hoops - GG reported that despite looking for suitable sites he is unable to find one for the basket-ball hoops and will decline them.

14. Dates of Next Meetings

Meeting closed at 8.45pm **Next meeting Monday 13 March at 6.30pm**

AGM and May PC Meeting Tuesday 2 May

The Clerk said that there were now 3 bank holidays in May – 1, 8 and 29 and unfortunately due to annual leave she was unable to make 15 and 22 May. After some discussion it was agreed that the Annual Meeting and PC meeting will be moved to Tuesday 2 May.