

## MINAL PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Held on 11 March 2024 At 6.45pm in the Village Hall

Draft for approval on 13 May 2024

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| <b>1. Present:</b><br>Anna Whitehead, Chair<br>Brian Devonshire, Vice Deputy Chair<br>Rob Bailey, Vice Deputy Chair<br>Lesley Rowe<br>Adam Kebble<br>Guy Gagen<br>Lucy Kirkpatrick | <b>Apologies Accepted from:</b><br>None<br><br><b>In Attendance</b><br>Sue Hine, Clerk/RFO<br>Caroline Thomas, County Councillor |
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**Declarations of Interest for Matters being discussed:** None.

- 2. Minutes of the meeting held on 8 January 2024**  
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. Adam Kebble was thanked by Councillors for his and his father's work on restoring and erecting the Mildenhall waypost. This will be a lead story in the next Minal News.
- 4. Questions from Members of the Public:**  
There have been some problems with church attendees blocking the entrance to Glebe House. Due to the extreme wet weather the Church carpark has not been able to be used for services this winter. This is despite the investment by the PC to improve the entrance. Sarah Musgrave, Canon, has written to all parishioners clarifying that the nursery car park can be used and approx 3 cars could park in the entrance although owners would need to reverse out with some co-ordination.
- 5. Flooding Update**  
The Clerk reported that she had completed a flood return to Wiltshire Council. As part of their emergency co-ordination planning WC are asking if we would be happy to designate the Village Hall as an Emergency Hub. The village hall committee have discussed this and as it is already in the Minal Emergency Plan Councillors and the VH Committee approved this.

Councillors discussed the Gullies to be flushed by the Discretionary Gully service. Councillor Thomas said that there are 6 vehicles operating in the County at the moment, previously there were 2. Gullies to be reported are; Woodlands Road, Thicketts Road, Nutwood Chopping Knife Lane, and Church Lane. The Clerk will ask the Gully team to specify the ones that are on their priority list as the Werg and High Street are done regularly but the situation in

Church Lane is unclear.

Water collecting on the bend below Woodlands Road has been a particular problem this year. The water is coming off the fields higher up and ditches appear not to be doing their job. WC have suggested standard wording to send to farmers regarding overhanging vegetation and CT said that there should be some standard words regarding clearing ditches. Clerk to write to AA re clearing ditches.

The Clerk, Councillors LR and AK have contacted Phoebe Wickham to ask about her flood gate. The Clerk has sent her information from the Flood Forum which has suppliers of good quality flood gates.

**Action: Clerk to register village hall as an Emergency Hub**

**Action: Clerk to complete discretionary gully return**

**Action: Clerk to check suggested wording and write to farmer re ditches.**

## 6. Playground Inspection and Works

The Clerk had circulated the Annual Inspection report and there are a number of remedial jobs required. The Clerk said that the playground cannot be left with areas roped off for long periods of time as it is a safety risk and Councillors are legally responsible. As the playground ages inevitably maintenance costs go up and some of the maintenance is difficult to manage with volunteers. The Clerk reported that play companies mainly want to sell new equipment and it is difficult to find maintenance work. Neither Aplin or Joe Pittams has returned a quote for the roundabout matting. The clerk has found a company called Vita Play based in Kingsworthy, Hants and AK and the Clerk will meet with them to discuss works to the roundabout and climbing frame. CT reported that she is involved in youth work and that there was some match funding that we may be able to apply for by the end of this financial year. The Clerk will forward the quote re the matting to her. **Action: Clerk, AK**

## 7. Grazing Licence for Church Carpark Field

AW and MG have signed the Grazing Licence and GG is liaising regarding a water bowser. Heifers likely to be introduced in Spring. **Action: GG**

## 8. Planning Applications

It was noted that the Poulton Mill Application has now achieved planning after being presented at the Eastern Area Planning Committee.

**PL/2024/02256 Extension and alterations to existing dwelling** The existing house is of little architectural merit but was intended as accommodation for an agricultural worker. The new plans elevate this to a luxury home and contain a lot of glass which could impact the dark sky area. Councillors have no objection in principle but will raise these issues with Planning Officers.

**PL/2024/02257 Rabley Equestrian Centre. Lean-to extension to provide additional storage together with ancillary works to barn (4 stable windows and 2 PIR sensor lights to barn on north-east elevation)** Councillors noticed that windows were now being cut into the north east side away from residents following the decision by the EAPC.

**Action: Clerk to contact the residents and submit the PC's response.**

## 9. Code of Conduct

Councillors approved adoption of the Wiltshire Code of Conduct that has been adapted by the Clerk.

**Action: Clerk to re-issue Positive Conduct in Democracy link for Councillors to sign up to.**

## 10. Area Board

BD reported that there had been an interesting presentation from local charity groups at the last Area Board. Loneliness has been identified as a key local issue and CT is involved with setting up networking for community groups to enable them to achieve more success with bidding for grants and recruiting volunteers. CT asked what there was available for young people in Mildenhall as Aldbourne has many activities for young people. Councillors decided to identify how many young people are in the village from the 2021 census and it was noted that Mildenhall's proximity to Marlborough meant that it was not as isolated as other villages. **Action: Clerk**

## 11. LHFI Local Highways and Footpath Improvement Group

AW reported that the Parish Steward had cold filled the bottom of Woodlands Road but that in his opinion it required a full patch as it is in such bad condition. The Clerk had received information about a consultation for a road maintenance plan but that Woodlands Road was not on this. CT said that this was likely the forward plan which addresses main road projects and suggesting continuing to chase Martin Cook. LK reported that she has not heard any further progress with our two projects: 20mph for Thicketts road and the extended footway but that she will attend the next meeting.

## 12. Financial Reports

The Financial Statement and Expenditure against Budget were approved by Councillors and AK signed the statement and verified the balances which the Clerk showed via the online App. Councillors approved no changes to current Financial Regulations and Risk Assessment. The Asset Register will be updated by the Clerk.

## 13. Any Other Business

AK has heard Lavender Row plants are moving to Grove Farm possibly with a café but no planning application has been received. RB reported that work has started on the new house in Werg Gardens.

### Dates of Next Meetings

Meeting closed at 8.50pm **Next meeting Monday 13 May 2024 at 6.45pm**

**Note: this meeting is AGM and normal meeting and will start at 6.30pm.**

### Meetings for 2024/25

Monday 8 July

Monday 9 September

Monday 11 November

Monday 13 January 2025

