

MINUTES OF HANKERTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 8 JAN 24

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Held on Monday 8 January 2024 at 7.30 pm in the North Aisle, Hankerton Church

Present: Parish Cllrs Jacqui Erskine-Crum (Chairman), Richard Barrow, David Bosley, Dai Davies, Denis DeSouza, Malcolm Gerald, Kate Nurden: M R Bromley Gardner (Clerk); Wilts Cllr Elizabeth Threlfall; and 7 members of the public.

1. Apologies. None.
2. Public Questions/Receipt of Petitions.
 - A resident requested that the PC at its next meeting consider the footpath between Hillwell and Follyfield, where a 20 metre muddy stretch is a problem for walkers, wheelchairs, anyone pushing a buggy or pram etc. **Action: Clerk**
3. Declarations Of Interest. None.
4. Urgent Matters at Chairman's Discretion. None.
5. Minutes of Last Meeting. The Minutes of the last meeting (held on 6 Nov 23) had been circulated in advance. They were approved and signed. Two Cllr profiles were still outstanding. The Chair ran through various outstanding subjects:
 - Speed reduction – Clerk submitted case to LHFIG, next LHFIG on 16 Jan.
 - Tree planting – Richard Barrow said in hand, now waiting for drier weather.
 - Cutting willows in pond in Amenity Area – ditto, waiting for drier weather.
 - Trip hazard on footpath exit onto Church Lane – householder was asked to put right, no action yet, Clerk will chase. **Action: Clerk**
6. Finance. There was £5540 in the 2 accounts. No payments needed. A new Internal Auditor was needed, Clerk would advertise on main website. **Action: Clerk**
7. Planning Applications.
 - PL/2023/09685 Church Farm – no objection.
 - PL/2023/09792 Manor Farm Cottage – no objection.
 - PL/2023/08418 5 Follyfield – PC noted with approval the change to natural stone but continued to object to the layout due to concerns about cars likely needing to park on the road.
8. Precept Part 1 - Baseline.
 - Tax Base – increased by 0.86% (to 151.64). Unchanged householder payments would mean a precept increase to £4763; an unchanged precept would mean a 27p reduction in householder payments (£31.14).
 - 23/24 Forecast of End of Year balance - £3790 less the decision on flags.
 - 24/25 Proposals
 - Clerk salary – guessed at 3% increase.
 - Speed reduction – guessed at £500.
 - Reserve. Last year target was £3500-£4000. PC confirmed no change.
9. Spending Plans.

Chairman

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- Flag looking frayed – replace? Decision was not to replace now but be prepared to later in the year. Some discussion about replacing with a top quality flag at £150. Decision – put £150 into budget.
- Eastcourt Junction Signpost. Decision – not to pay for a traditional wooden signpost but to rely on Highways to replace the sign, most probably with a modern metal sign.
- Church Support – agreed £1/meeting increase in hire charge to £18, total £126. Agreed £100 increase in churchyard support to £1150.
- First Aid Training – no more names had come forward, idea now dropped.
- Other? – none.

10. Precept Part 2 – Decision. Total planned expenditure totalled £4863. Total expected income was c£100 (VAT recovery £64, Bank Interest a little under £50), thus the total needed in precept was £4763. This meant no change in householder payments.

11. Increased Aircraft Noise. This has been raised by a Murcott resident. He encouraged local PCs to object to aircraft routing to Bristol Airport by turning south-west over Crudwell and Hankerton. A Charlton Cllr had researched this and a local PC Chairman who had worked all his life in Air Traffic Control had responded by email downplaying the idea of increased noise. No Cllr had noticed any increased large aircraft noise or traffic. The PC decided no action was needed.

12. Flooding at Sewage Pumping Station. The Chair produced copies of her proposed letter to the Chief Executive of Wessex Water and the PC agreed it should now be sent.

13. Community Emergency Contacts. No Cllr felt able to put themselves forward. Clerk to re-send the details and bring back to the next PC meeting. **Action: Clerk**

14. Updates. On the bus shelter water-butt, Richard Barrow confirmed he had the water-butt and he and Kate Nurden confirmed they would fit it soon. On the bus shelter repairs, the Clerk had spoken again to the chosen contractor who had repeated that he needed a spell of dry weather and that he expected to do the work soon.

15. Planning. Report on Planning Applications:

- Decided by Wilts Council since the last meeting: None.
- Not yet decided: Minety Substation Expansion. Minety Solar Farm, variation of conditions. Yew Tree Farm, demolish and replace (note Conservation Officer objection). 5 Follyfield, variation of condition dating from 1971.

16. Councillors' Observations/Points for the Next Meeting. Next meeting – AVM and Litterpick arrangements.

17. Next Meetings. 4 Mar, (13 May AVM), 20 May APCM, 1 Jul, 2 Sep, 4 Nov.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm.

Chairman