

MINUTES OF HANKERTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 3 JUL 23

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Held on Monday 3 July 2023 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, Kate Nurden; M R Bromley Gardner (Clerk); Wilts Cllr Elizabeth Threlfall; and 14 members of the public.

1. Apologies. None.
2. Public Questions/Receipt of Petitions.
 - Dog fouling – a member of the public reported about dog owners not taking bagged dog poo home with them or even putting it in the few litter bins available; in recent cases some had been placed in a householders' recycle bin resulting in the collection being refused and a letter of reproach being sent by Wilts Council to all local householders, and some had been left beside the roadside at a bridge. A strongly-worded notice would appear in the Grapevine; and more warning notices were requested. The Clerk reported that he had been trying to obtain more signs, apologised for the fact that they had not yet arrived, and would redouble his efforts.
 - Verges – someone requested that the roadside verges should now be cut since the wild flower flowering season was really now over. After much discussion the PC decided against taking action now.
 - Someone questioned what was happening about the bus stopping problem. The Clerk reported on his conversations with residents urging them to make the bus driver stop where they wanted. He would attempt to speak again to the bus company.
3. Declarations Of Interest. None.
4. Urgent Matters at Chairman's Discretion. None.
5. Cllr Vacancy. Item deferred to the next meeting.
6. Minutes of Last Meeting. The Minutes of the last meeting (held on 22 May 23) had been circulated in advance. They were approved and signed. Cllrs were urged to complete their Cllr Profiles including a photograph.
7. Finance. There was £33 in the current account and £5665 in the deposit account. The following payments were authorised:
 - 2023/9, £56, to the Clerk for 50% of his SLCC membership, replacing 2023/7 which had been authorised at the last meeting but had been sent in error to the SLCC rather than being paid to the Clerk, who had paid the bill direct to SLCC.
8. Election of Deputy Chairman. First the Clerk explained that having a nominated Deputy Chairman wasn't vital or required in law but was useful. The Chairman said she would prefer to have a nominated Deputy. Dai Davies was then nominated, seconded and elected by the other Cllrs and agreed to accept the role.

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9. Flags Policy. After much discussion the policy was agreed as: the Union Flag would be flown full-time except on Home Nations' Saints Day when their flag would be flown. No other flags would be flown. The PC would therefore purchase an England, a Wales and a Scotland flag, expected cost to be about £150. Cllr Kate Nurden offered to be responsible for changing the flags as necessary. Half-masting would be only for National mourning. **Action: Kate Nurden, Clerk**
10. Speeding. After much discussion the PC noted the likely costs of going down the speed limit route and decided to include the facts in a hard copy residents' survey to assess residents' views on a speed limit. All Cllrs were expected to help distribute the hard copy survey to houses. The Chairman and Clerk would liaise over the wording of the survey. **Action: Chairman**
11. Amenity Area. The aim was to decide the next steps on the Amenity Area since the work on the Play Area project had stalled due to covid and had not re-started. The PC decided to abandon the Play Area project, and instead decided to treat the area as a sort of general community area to make it as usable as possible for all with perhaps another bench or even 2, maybe a childrens' swing, and maybe a wildlife area. Grounds maintenance would be done by self-help or maybe volunteer residents but not paid-for. A slow-growing grass may be seeded to reduce the grass-cutting burden. Dai Davies agreed to mow the grass for the rest of this year. Richard Barrow would lead on the clearance of the young willow shoots all around the Amenity Area. The Clerk would attempt to get landowner permission to clear the willow in the pond itself. **Action: Dai Davies, Richard Barrow, Clerk**
12. Planning Application - Minety Solar Farm Amendment. PL/2023/03501. After minimal discussion the PC decided to object to the planning application and to use the words identified by the Chairman in her email. **Action: Clerk**
13. First Aid Training. There had been no response to the note in the Chairman's record of the last PC meeting seeking names for a First Aid course. She would try again and report back later. **Action: Chairman**
14. Risk Register Review. The Risk Register was reviewed and various minor 'housekeeping' amendments were agreed. **Action: Clerk**
15. Hillwell Trees. The Clerk reported. The householder had agreed to significant cutting back, however he had been very unwell since before the last PC meeting so the work was slow. The Clerk was meeting him on Wed to tackle the exit from Hillwell.
16. Best Kept Village Competition. The village had come 2nd with Charlton, just one point behind the winners, Tockenham. The report should be published in the Grapevine and on the village website. **Action: Clerk**
17. Planning. Report on Planning Applications:
- Considered by the PC since the last meeting:
 - None.
 - Decided by Wilts Council since the last meeting:
 - Land west of Bullocks Horn Lane – refused.
 - Not yet decided:
 - Five Lanes Solar Farm,

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- Land at Purlieus Farm (BESS) – variation of conditions,
- Minety Substation extension,
- Old Post Office,
- Current Planning Applications:
 - Minety Solar Farm amendment (Agenda Item 12).

18. Councillors' Observations/Points for the Next Meeting.

- Hedge cutting (Dai Davies)
- Planning function (Dai Davies)
- Water butt on side of bus shelter (Kate Nurden)
- Footpaths Update (Denis DeSouza)
- Flooding and Ditches

19. Next Meetings. 4 Sep, 6 Nov.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm.