

## MINUTES OF HANKERTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 4 NOV 24

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF HANKERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Held on Monday 4 November 2024 at 7.30 pm in the North Aisle, Hankerton Church

Present: Parish Cllrs Jacqui Erskine-Crum (Chair), Dai Davies, Denis DeSouza, Malcolm Gerald, Kate Nurden; M R Bromley Gardner (Clerk); Wilts Cllr Elizabeth Threlfall; and 9 members of the public.

1. Apologies. None. [Cllr Richard Barrow absent.]
2. Public Questions/Receipt of Petitions. A complaint that WWT had 'dug a ditch to nowhere' (on the north side of the wood) and not cut their hedge alongside Cloatley Road. Chair would walk the ground with the complainer after which the PC might send an email to WWT. **Action: Chair**
3. Declarations Of Interest. None.
4. Urgent Matters at Chair's Discretion. The Chair mentioned that there was a Cllr vacancy and that we had authority to co-opt into it; that no names had been identified by the time the agenda had to be published; and called on Cllrs to keep an eye open for possible candidates. **Action: All Cllrs**  
The Chair also said that a Flooding Update would be given late in the meeting.
5. Minutes of Last Meeting. The Minutes of the last meeting (held on 2 Sep 24) had been circulated in advance. They were approved and signed. Nothing outstanding.
6. Finance. There was £196 in the current account, £5800 in the deposit account. The following payments were authorised:
  - 2024/12, £162, to Community Heartbeat Trust for the annual defib charge.
  - 2024/13, £7.99, to Cllr Kate Nurden for a new flag.
  - The Hillwell/Follyfield footpath payment was not agreed, needing clarification.
7. Remote Attendance at PC Meetings. Govt consultation on proposals to allow remote attendance and proxy voting at local government meetings. Decision to respond as a PC and to agree the response by email circulation, with the Chair leading. **Action: Chair**
8. Emergency Contact Hub. The PC agreed to offer the North Aisle as Hankerton's Emergency Contact Hub. Clerk to invite Wiltshire and Swindon Prepared to visit. **Action: Clerk**
9. EV Charging Infrastructure. Wiltshire had £3.88M funding to build on-street public EV charging. While it was perhaps unlikely that this first tranche would stretch as far as Hankerton, it would be best to get the village 'onto the map', and the Clerk had responded to the survey saying that part of Hillwell was the only part of Hankerton in need of on-street charging.
10. .gov.uk Website Domain and email Addresses. The PC decided to change the PC website and the Clerk's address to a .gov.uk version; and that it would be voluntary for Cllrs to adopt .gov.uk email addresses. The cost would be £120 pa for a Bronze level HugoFox website and £120 pa (both prices + VAT) for 5 email accounts (Clerk plus any 4

Chairman

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Cllrs – if in the future more Cllrs wished to adopt a .gov.uk address we could trade up to the 10-address package at £210 +VAT). **Action: Clerk**

11. Hillwell White Lining of Car Park. The request had come from a Hillwell resident. Wilts Council would not do it but would allow the PC to do it. 3 quotes had been received from 6 requests - £595, £1200 minimum charge but a 10% discount if can complete the works when in the area, and £1350 minimum charge, all plus VAT. The PC's decision was to invite the requester to attend the next PC meeting and make the case.

**Action: Clerk**

12. Oaksey Airfield Overflying. The PC accepted that the only way that Oaksey airfield could discipline errant pilots who ignored the guidance to avoid Hankerton was if it was provided with up-to-date information on dates, times and descriptions of offending aircraft. Photographs might be even better. It was decided to repeat this message to residents through the village website at the start of next year's flying season – say in May. And Dai Davies was asked to remind the PC of this next year. **Action: Clerk, Dai Davies**

13. Precept 2025/26 – 1<sup>st</sup> Look. The first draft budget was issued. The church had requested an increase of £100, to £1250, for churchyard support; this will need to be voted on at the next meeting.

14. Flag Replacement. Kate Nurden had recently bought a new cheap flag as the old one had deteriorated too far – cost £7.99. The PC accepted that the experiment of buying cheap flags had succeeded in showing that better quality was needed. She would now research a new better-quality flag, reporting back in Jan 25. **Action: Kate Nurden**

15. Amenity Area Grasscutting. In principle the PC decided to cut the grass about 3 times in the year and not to pick up cut grass. The Clerk was to advertise in the Grapevine and on the website for volunteers to do this – even one go each would be a help. Simultaneously the Chair would seek a cheaper quote than those received last year and bring it to the Jan 25 meeting. **Action: Clerk, Chair**

16. Verge Cutting. Decision – same as last year, one cut at same time of year. **Action: Clerk**

17. Footpath Hillwell-Follyfield. Plan for 2025: Round-Up the nettles by self-help (cost – up to £20, probably less), ask the local resident to trim back the hypericum every year.

18. Noticeboard at Follyfield. Deferred to January meeting.

19. Footpaths. On HANK 1, Denis DeSouza said the route wasn't clear, he had offered to provide signs and help with the work; also the bridge seemed weak and he had asked for Wilts Council help and advice. On HANK 19, the Chair and he would walk the route before deciding on anything else. **Action: Chair, Denis DeSouza**

20. Anti-Speeding Update. At LHFIG, our request for signs below the village nameboards ("Check your Speed etc") had been turned down as against Traffic Regulations; the Traffic Team would now look to propose some suggestions.

Chairman

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21. BKV Celebration. Dai Davies said he viewed this as an occasion to bring in new people. The PC agreed there should be a 'celebration', using up to £100, and that the Chair and Dai Davies would discuss arrangements. **Action: Chair, Dai Davies**
22. Planning. Decided at Wilts Council since the last meeting: Minety Solar Farm, variation of conditions requiring noise reduction kits – approved.
23. Cllrs Observations and Items for Next Meeting.
- 8 May 25 – 'VE 80' – 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE Day.
24. Next Meetings. 6 Jan, 3 Mar, (12 May AVM), 19 May APCM, 7 Jul, 1 Sep, 3 Nov.

The meeting closed at 9.35pm.