

ST PAUL MALMESBURY WITHOUT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 27th March 2024 at 19:00 in Crudwell Village Hall

Present: Cllrs Hatherell (Chair), Briggs, Clogg, Hopkins, Jones, Ingham, Maslin, Merriman, Payne, Stephens and Smith (WC-Sherston Division)

Public: 7 present

126 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Budgen

127 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COUNCIL'S CODE OF CONDUCT

None

128 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME IN RESPECT OF ITEMS OF BUSINESS INCLUDED ON THE AGENDA

None

129 TO ADOPT THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON THE 28th FEBRUARY 2024

The minutes of the meeting on the 28th February were adopted as a true record and signed accordingly.

130 TO RECEIVE REPORT #03.1 ON PLANNING UPDATES AND REVIEW NEW APPLICATIONS

Cllr Hatherell presented Report #03.1 and the council considered the following planning applications. Full comments submitted by the council can be viewed online at Wiltshire Council under the relevant application reference.

Site	Reference	Comments
Field View, Milbourne, Malmesbury, SN16 9JB	PL/2024/02133	No objection
Land adjacent to Rossley House, Milbourne, SN16 9JA	PL/2024/02250	No objection
Old Coach House, Rodbourne, SN16 0ES	PL/2024/01628	No objection

Cllr Hatherell noted planning application PL/2021/09852 - Land east of Waitrose, for 28 self-build dwellings was upheld at Appeal.

131 FINANCIAL REPORTS

The RFO presented the accounts for the year to date. The bank statement dated 29th February 2024 was noted and showed balances of £43,808.19 and £94,268.18 and matched the reconciliation statement. Cllr Hatherell signed the original bank statements as correct and evidence of verification.

The RFO presented the payments schedule, this was approved and Cllr Hatherell signed the list of payments for authorisation as per supporting evidence; Cllr Clogg first authoriser, Cllr Stephens second authoriser.

Payment No.	Payee Details	Reason	Amount (£)
1	Wiltshire Association of Local Councils	Procurement training course (clerk)	£36.00
2	Hathaway Landscapes Ltd	Waste collection March 2024	£302.40
3	R J & S H Mellows	Home working allowance Qtr 4 2023-24	£78.00
4	Wiltshire Council	Contribution to road signage/markings in Corston	£360.00
		TOTAL	£776.40

Action: Cllrs Clogg & Stephens

132 TO CONSIDER ARRANGEMENTS/DATE FOR THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Cllr Hatherell proposed the Annual Parish Meeting be held at 18:30 on Wednesday 24th April and the Parish Council Meeting to follow at 19:15. All agreed. Cllr Smith was asked to give a Wiltshire update.

Action: Cllr Smith

133 TO RECEIVE REPORT #03.2 TO CONSIDER THE ACQUISITION OF THE PLOT OF LAND DIRECTLY ADJACENT TO THE CORSTON LOCAL NATURE RESERVE

Cllr Briggs presented report #03.2 and the council discussed the benefits of attempting to acquire the land immediately north of the Corston LNR. All agreed this was worth investigating further.

134 TO CONSIDER A SUBMISSION INTO THE LIME DOWN SOLAR PARK STAGE 1 CONSULTATION

A number of residents were in attendance and the following concerns were raised regarding this proposal:

- Not against renewables but these could be limited to brownfield sites and roof tops, not on agricultural land. It is a move from energy insecure to food insecure.
- The site is too big - it affects 2500 acres of rural countryside and will totally change the outlook. It is industrialisation of a rural landscape. How can the visual impact of this be mitigated. Wiltshire already has more solar parks than any other county. Another 2000 acres will need to be dug up to get the power to Melksham.
- Plans for the east and west access points are through small villages on minor roads and would have 34 HGVs for 24 hours a day for 7.5 - 8 months (although 2 years has also been mentioned) during the construction phase. This could cause a lot of damage.
- 2 potential sites for battery storage are being considered. These would result in noise pollution.
- The impact on the flow of water, especially near Gauzebrook, needs to be considered.
- A significant number of bridleways and footpaths will be affected and plans shown on the webinar for the protection of rights of way are not a proper reinstatement. There will also be concrete parking bays.
- Any community benefits would have to be fought for.

It was noted that the final decision is not a local, Wiltshire Council, one, but will lie with central government. Cllr Hatherell thanked residents for attending and for their input and Cllr Smith for his thoughts and comments. He confirmed the council would submit a response.

135 TO CONSIDER THE COUNCIL'S DRAFT CIL SUBMISSION TO WILTSHIRE COUNCIL

Cllr Briggs presented the draft CIL submission, with this year's income and expenditure detailed at the end of the document. Cllr Hopkins noted that VAT was included in the expenditure figures, as last year, and asked whether the advice from the WC CIL Department - that figures should be reported as gross - had been received in writing. He questioned this advice as the council reclaims the VAT element from businesses (not Wiltshire Council), so the Council could appear to be overstating its expenditure here as it is shown as gross in the CIL report while its accounts will show expenditure in net terms. Councillors agreed that to safeguard the council we should write and ask this direct question.

Action: Cllr Budgen

136 TO CONSIDER A DONATION TO THE 2024 MALMESBURY-IN-BLOOM EVENT

The Council approved a donation to the sum of £200 to sponsor Malmesbury Town Council's Malmesbury-in-Bloom 2024 ideally for the floral display in the same location as last year, on the railings by the small Waitrose steps facing the pedestrian crossing. The Clerk will inform the organisers and request an invoice.

137 TO RECEIVE VERBAL REPORTS ON HIGHWAYS, FOOTPATHS, PATIENTS PARTICIPATION GROUP, PERSONNEL COMMITTEE, FINANCE COMMITTEE, PROJECTS WORKING PARTY & WEBSITE WORKING PARTY

Highways

The gully sucker is still awaited. The Parish Steward managed to get the sweeper for an hour in Corston. Cllr Smith followed up pothole repairs along Common Road with the resurfacing team and will chase this issue.

Footpaths

Cllr Clogg reported that the landowner was reconsidering the 41m path at Cowbridge and the decision is awaited.

Patients Participation Group

The next meeting is in a week’s time. Cllr Merriman raised a lighting issue.

Personnel Committee – no report

Finance Committee - no report

Projects Working Party

Cllr Briggs reported that conditions were too wet for levelling of the Rodbourne Road playing field and work was postponed for another month or more, depending on weather conditions. Cllr Ingham stated the tarmac area and basketball hoop can still be used.

Quotations for the new play equipment will be opened on the 9th April and these will be discussed at the PWP meeting on the 12th. It was agreed to have an Extraordinary Council Meeting to consider the quotes; the clerk will send out possible dates and times.

Website Working Party – no report

The meeting closed at 20:20

The next meeting will be held at 19:15 on Wednesday 24th April 2024 at Crudwell Village Hall (after the Annual Parish Meeting at 18:30).

..... Chair Dated