

Ruscombe Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting of the Parish Council

Held in the William Penn Room, Loddon Hall, Twyford

On Wednesday 8th Jan 2025 at 7:30pm

Councillors Present: Mr P Cassidy (Chair), Mrs A Hasted, Mr N Barnes and Mr C Bell.

Others Present: Mr F Newman (TPC) and Mrs S Castle

Clerk in attendance: Mr G Winder

7:30pm Mr Cassidy opened the meeting.

1/25 Apologies for Absence: Mrs E Cameron, Mr G Merrick and Mr M Andrea (BC).

2/25 Declaration of Interest: No new declarations received.

3/25 Minutes: The minutes of meeting held on 4th December 2024 were proposed by Mr Barnes, seconded by Mrs Hasted and approved unanimously.

4/25 Councillor Vacancies:

Mrs Sally Castle was considered for Co-option.

Proposed by Mr Barnes, seconded by Mrs Hasted and carried unanimously by all present.

Acceptance of Office form was presented and completed for the record.

5/25 Matters Arising: Matters arising from the prior minutes were reviewed and progress shared with Council.

- Clerk has raised damaged verges in Ruscombe Lane with WBC.
- Clerk has pushed back on Stanlake Lane footway by encouraging them to survey the site formally with RPC Councillors assistance if required. Clerk will update Council when a suitable response has been received.
- Cllr Barnes has received a quote for decorative security LED lights for the church, awaiting response from Vicar.
- Cllr Barnes has progressed Church Lane flooding issue with WBC. Further work will be undertaken and Church Lane will be closed 21, 22 January for new pipework and gullies to be installed. Access for residents will still be maintained. The order lasts 18 months, so Council hopes flooding issues will be resolved in that time period.
- Clerk shared CIL Tracking in shared folder to Council.
- Cllr Merrick has obtained Loddon Hall building plans for survey.

Carried forward:

- Cllr Merrick to ask CR for list of signs needed.

6/25 Public Comments sent to the Clerk or Councillors:

Clerk received an enquiry about councillor vacancy. Interested party was advised that no vacancy available at present and invited to attend Council as a resident.

Mrs Hasted asked about the 'no parking' bollards being used in Millgate Court driveway. It was concluded that they are unofficial but having some deterrent effect on reducing cars parking in that area which are then moving to other roads in Ruscombe. Council does not use or condone unauthorised parking control measures.

The various street lighting issues were discussed in connection with the lack of progress to resolve these.

Action: Clerk to chase all lighting issues and report back to Council.

7/25 Update from Twyford Parish Councillor:

Mr Newman provided update to RPC:

- EGM approved contract for new skate park and construction will take 2-3 months.
- Meet your councillor session booked for Saturday 11th January.
- Next full Twyford Parish Council Meeting - 28 January at 19.45.

Action: Chair and Vice Chair to attend the Meet your Councillor session.

8/25 Update from Wokingham Borough Councillors:

No BC present.

Progress on the Local Plan was discussed. Mr Newman shared that he had spoken to BC Conway BC and BC Ferris and confirmed that the LP was approved by WBC and is now out for consultation.

9/25 Planning Applications:

No planning applications to consider.

10/25 Projects:

Update from Mrs Hasted using shared Project Tracker:

- Mrs Hasted requested invoice information for projects.
- Update on New Road bollards – Clerk advised that WBC may need to replace rather than refurbish.
- Missing boundary signs need to be added to tracker

Action: Clerk to add invoice details to share folders.

11/25 Finance – Precept for 2025/26:

Clerk presented draft Precept form with proposed uplifts to budget for inflation and NI increases.

Chair stated his wish to keep the Precept unchanged for the coming year and use the reserves to make up any shortfall. This was put to Council.

Proposed by Mrs Hasted, seconded by Mrs Castle and approved unanimously.

Action: Clerk to submit agreed Precept Request Form to WBC before the deadline.

12/25 Finance - CIL Spending:

Quotes for consideration:

None this meeting.

Clerk shared latest CIL tracking report in new folder location and drew Council's attention to the remaining CIL funds which amount to £3000 and are unlikely to be added to in the coming financial year.

13/25 Finance – Payments to Consider:

Clerk Wages £1,032.80 #1/12
Clerk Expenses £5.49 #2/12
Cllr Merrick £54.00 #3/12
Cllr Cassidy £440.40 #4/12
Cllr Hasted £50.00 #5/12
CR Landscapes Orchard Tidy #6/12
Gillet and Johnson £222.00 #7/12
CR Landscapes Oak Benches £982.80 #8/12
Sundew Ecology £200.00 #9/12
Windowflowers £2532.00 #10/12
SSE Electricity £200 TBC #11/12

Payments proposed by Mr Barnes, seconded by Mrs Castle and approved by Council unanimously.

14/25 Reports From Liaison Reps:

NPCG – Mr Barnes will attend next meeting on the 12th February.

BPLF – Mr Cassidy will attend in early February and forward details to Council.

Loddon Hall – AGM to be held at end of January.

15/25 Any other business:

None raised.

Chair closed meeting at 8.30pm

Chair Signed _____

Date _____

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 5th February 2025

Chair initials _____