

WINTERBORNE WHITECHURCH PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes

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Minutes of Full Council held on Wednesday 13th November 2024 in The Old School Room
Meeting commenced at 7.00pm.

Councillors in attendance:

Julien Turner, Ricky Trim, Liam Deeney, and Alan Holford-Walker

There were 4 members of the public in attendance

Cllr Emma Parker (Ward Councillor) and Cllr Andrew Parry (Leader of Conservative Group)

FULL COUNCIL

1. Co-option of new Parish Councillor for Winterborne Whitechurch

Mr Geoff Eaton was proposed, seconded and duly coopted as a member for Winterborne Whitechurch Parish Council.

2. Apologies for absence

Cllr Ian Bruce sent his apologies.

3. Declarations of pecuniary or other interest

Cllr Deeney declared an interest in agenda item 15.

Cllr Turner declared an interest in agenda item 16.

4. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 18th September 2024

These were signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

5. Clerk's report

The Clerk confirmed a letter had been sent to Centrica, requesting information on the Eco Hub. No reply had yet been received.

6. Chair's update

The Chair was happy that the Parish Council had had 6 months of stability and would now be able to turn to matters of a higher level.

7. Public participation – items on the agenda only

There were no matters at this time.

8. Dorset Councillors report and update on letter from PC sent 22nd October 2024

Cllr Parker confirmed that the panel for the 20mph request for Chescombe Lane was to sit on the 29th November 24.

She also mentioned that a meeting was being organised for all Parish Clerks within the Ward to discuss areas of common interest.

Cllr Parry stated that Ward members do many more duties within Dorset Council than that of a Ward member, but could not clarify the role of a Ward member to the Parish council within the Ward, which had been the sole purpose of the earlier letter from the Clerk, and then from the Chair seeking clarification.

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Neither of the Ward Councillors responses had answered the questions raised – which (as notified in advance) would now require a further Parish Council input to Dorset Council. Members agreed to place this item on the next agenda.

Cllr's Parker and Parry then left the meeting.

9. Planning

There were no new applications to discuss.

10. Financial matters

a. Payments for authorisation

There were 5 payments (PV's 28-32), totalling £ 6319.46 that were approved and authorised for payment.

b. Budget and bank balances

The budget spend was 35.18% at 66.67% through the financial year.

Bank balance stood at £ 26121.90.

c. Lloyds Bank charges

Members acknowledged the mandatory business bank charges of £4.25 per month effective from the 01st January 2025.

11. Traffic calming measures update

Cllr Turner was disappointed to announce that the scheduled meeting with the PCC on 12th November Nov 24 had to have been cancelled at the last minute due to Parish Council illness.

A new date had been set for the 03rd December 24.

12. Bus Shelter update

The Clerk confirmed the delivery and installation was confirmed for the week of 18th-22nd November 24.

Cllr Deeney would be able to assist if needed.

13. Play Park Inspection

The external inspection had been conducted and there were no major issues.

Cllr Deeney confirmed that he would act as the point of contact.

14. Land at Field Close update from SNG

The Parish Council had received the terms and conditions of the sale of the roundabout land. This amounted to thousands of pounds whereas the Parish Council were looking for a peppercorn sale agreement.

All members agreed that this was cost prohibitive and declined to move forward.

The Clerk would proceed with Plan B, to establish a point of contact to liaise with to try and ensure the area is well maintained.

15. Funding request from Village Hall

The request for £100 to offset the children's Christmas party was unanimously approved.

16. Procurement of new grass cutting contract at Fields Close and Play Park

There was much debate on the merits of the bids.

It was finally agreed that localism, manageability, and cost were the primary procurement factors and so to that end, it was agreed to offer a 1-year contract to Mr Tim Cox with Cllr Turner (working sub-group) acting as the interface.

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17. IT and website provisions

In line with new legislation and the need to refresh the current website, members agreed to use Hugo Fox, at a cost of £9.99 per month for domain hosting a gov.uk name, and £12.99 for gov.uk email addresses.

18. Capital projects 25/26

A basic bus shelter opposite Lady Bailey caravan park and funding for the additional SID at Chescombe were agreed. £2000 and £5000 were set aside retrospectively.

Members thought this an excellent opportunity to go out to the community and ask them their views (knowing some random ideas would come back).

Cllr Deeney offered to letterbox a poster which was gratefully accepted.

19. Initial Budget setting 25/26

During the discussion, it was noted that £3K for new swings in the Play Park was meant to be a one-off charge. With this in mind, an initial Precept of £ 14700.00 was agreed which was a considerable reduction from the current £ 18500.00.

Formal ratification would be made in January.

20. Public participation – items not on the agenda for discussion only

Concerns were raised at the increase in fly posters in bus shelters.

21. Items and date for the next meeting

Letter to Dorset Council as to the role of the Ward Councillor

Next steps in road traffic calming

Capital project notes from public

Grit Bins

Updated list of duties

Setting the Precept for 25/26

Next meeting was scheduled for

15th January 2025

There being no further business the meeting closed at **2059 hours**.

Julien Turner _____ Chair of Winterborne Whitechurch Parish Council

Dated _____