

WOODCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES 231

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 26th September 2024

The meeting started at 7.00 pm.

In attendance:

Cllrs Lucy Quinn (Chair), Gina McKay, Rob Woods and Neil McKay.

Also in attendance were Ian Philo the Clerk, Borough Councillors Aline Hicks and David Ledger, Neighbourhood Watch Representative and Kent Police Volunteer Peter New and 5 members of the public.

1. Apologies for Absence

Councillor Wade Nash sent his apologies which was approved, and County Councillor David Robey sent his apologies.

2. Declarations of Interest

2.1. Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

None.

2.2. Other Significant Interests

None

2.3. Other Interests

None

3. Acceptance of Minutes.

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on the 22nd August 2024 were agreed as a true record.

Proposed by Councillor Lucy Quinn and seconded by Councillor Rob Woods.

The council voted 4-0 in favour.

Meeting adjourned for public participation 7.05 pm..

There were no comments from the members of the public.

Meeting reconvened at 7:05 pm.

4. Co-option of New Councillors

The Council agreed to accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and voted unanimously to co-opt the following as members of the Parish Council:.

Wendy Hookey

Roger Knight

Peter Ruddick

The Declaration of Acceptance of Office forms were duly signed and witnessed by the Clerk, and took their places on the Parish Council.

5. Planning applications

5.1. PA/2024/1651

Oak Lodge, Susans Hill, Woodchurch, Ashford, Kent TN26 3RE.
Single storey rear extension to replace existing conservatory.
The Council voted 7-0 to support this planning application.

5.2. PA/2024/1429

3, Brattle, Woodchurch, TN26 3SW.
Erection of a part single-storey, part two-storey rear extension, following the demolition of the existing outbuilding and conservatory.
The Council voted 7-0 to support this planning application.

5.3. PA/2024/1192

Orange Farmhouse, Brook Street, Woodchurch, Ashford, TN26 3SX.
Installation of 14 ground-mounted solar panels for the provision of domestic power supply.
The Council voted 7-0 to support this planning application

6. Committee of The Whole Update and Recommendations

The Chair, Councillor Lucy Quinn noted that the recommendation of the committee to coopt 3 new councillors had already been agreed.

The Chair, Councillor Lucy Quinn, requested Peter New (Neighbourhood Watch Representative and Kent Police Volunteer) to make his presentation in regard to alternatives to installing CCTV.

It was explained that despite Woodchurch being a low crime statistic, everywhere is vulnerable, in particular theft from vehicles and deliveries left on doorsteps. Whereas burglaries are almost non-existent now, the focus on items stolen has shifted from TVs and computers etc to personal information items such as passports and utility bills. Scams are of particular concern and the advice is either do nothing in a rush or nothing at all.

Before installing CCTV, any organisation should consider why they require it and what criminal activities they are intending to prevent. Due to the nature of a village, knowledge that any camera that was not real would spread quite quickly in his opinion. The aim should be preventing crime at source and report any crime or attempted crime no matter how small. Any major crime such as drug dealing is an immediate call to 999.

The Council voted 7-0 to put the consideration of CCTV on to a future meeting.

7. Youth Engagement

There was a pause in the meeting to allow the new councillors to read the report and recommendations by the Committee of The Whole on options for a youth council circulated prior to the meeting and published on the website.

The Council agreed to defer this to the next meeting.

8. Neighbourhood Plan

The Council agreed to defer this to a later meeting, pending more information on the Ashford Borough Council Local Plan, and to invite a representative from other communities that have created one, noting there is a financial cost involved however, grants are available.

9. Trench Across Car Park

The Clerk declared a third contractor had submitted a quote at £5,610 plus VAT. The Council agreed to delegate the decision to the Clerk to instruct the contractor that is able to complete the work in the time frame that best fits in with UKPN. The Council voted 7-0 in favour of this action.

10. Public Convenience Refurbishment

The Clerk had further advertised the work on Check a Trade but had received no further contractors willing to take on the work. The Clerk stated he could recommend one of the contractors from work carried out at his property but refused to state which until the Council had decided. The Council agreed 7-0 on contractor B (£11,498) given the more detailed breakdown.

(It was subsequently noted that the Clerk could personally vouch for B).

11. Newsletter Article

The Council agreed to defer this article to the next meeting, in order for the Newsletter Editor to explain the complexities involved in producing a permanent 4-page article in the monthly newsletter.

12. Proposed Amendment to Waiting Restrictions at The School

The Council agreed to send the following response to KCC:
Whereas the Council doesn't object to any actions taken by KCC to ease the problems surrounding parking at the school, particularly at drop-off and collection times, the Council would like to know what the benefit of the proposed amendment would be. In particular the Council would like to see the information that it has been based on and know who will be enforcing the proposed amendments. The Council voted 7-0 to support this action.

13. Grant Applications From Woodchurch in Bloom

Two grant applications have been received from Woodchurch in Bloom:
1. £75.00 for new string of lights for the Christmas tree.
2. £250.00 for autumn planting around the village.
The Council agreed to both grants and voted 6-0 in favour. (Councillor Gina McKay abstained after belatedly declaring an interest).

14. War Memorial Clean

The Council resolved to clean the war memorial using nylon brushes and soapy water, the Clerk would place an article in the newsletter seeking volunteers to assist. It was proposed to aim for the clean to take place the weekend before Remembrance Sunday. The Council voted 7-0 to support this action.

15. Sponsor a Christmas Tree

The Parish Council was invited by All Saints Church to sponsor a Christmas Tree this year at a cost is £25.00. The Council voted 7-0 to sponsor a Christmas Tree. (A theme could be decided by corresponding via email or social media).

16. Wreath For Remembrance Day

The Council agreed to donate up to £50.00 towards a wreath.

The Council voted 7-0 in favour.

17. Finances

A VAT refund for £1794.12 has been received on 16th September for the year 2023-2024.

Items for Payment

Items For Payment September 2024				
Payments Made since the last Meeting				
Direct Debit	EDF	Pavilon Electricity	Amount	Vat
			£ 66.00	£ -
Direct Debit			£ -	£ -
Direct Debit			£ -	£ -
Subtotal			£ 66.00	£ -
Items for Approval				
Payment Method	Payee	Description	Total payab	VAT
Bacs	I Philo (TBC)	Salary	£ 866.25	£ -
Bacs	D Jarvis (TBC)	Salary	£ 317.38	£ -
Bacs	ARW KIRK	Green Extension cut and clear	£ 552.00	£ 92.00
Bacs	Mazars	External Audit	£ 378.00	£ 15.00
Bacs	I Philo	Petrol	£ 32.40	£ -
Bacs	HMRC (TBC)	PAYE	£ 94.14	£ -
Bacs	Woodchurch Maemorial Hall	Hall hire for electric recycle event	£ 42.00	£ -
Bacs			£ -	£ -
Bacs			£ -	£ -
Bacs			£ -	£ -
Subtotal			£ 2,282.17	
Total			£ 2,348.17	£ 107.00

Bank Reconciliation for August

Cash Book Opening Balace		7001.15
	Receipts	Payments
Precept	£0.00	£0.00
Transfer	£0.00	£0.00
ABC Grant	£11,027.00	£0.00
Salary Including HMRC	£0.00	£2,284.45
Utilities	£0.00	£66.00
Running Costs	£0.00	£77.25
Income	£11,027.00	
Expenditure		£2,427.70
Cashbook Balance	£11,027.00	£15,600.45
Bank Statement Balance		£7,001.15
Income		£11,027.00
Expenditure		£2,427.70
Bank Closing Balance		£15,600.45
Difference		£0.00
Deposit Account		£75,956.72
Interest		£78.43
Transfer		£0.00
Total		£76,035.15
Total Funds		£91,635.60

18. Correspondence.

Ward Electrical anticipates the commencement of the preliminary wiring in the Hub first week of October.

Another resident had declared an interest in having an allotment. Councillor Gina McKay also declared an interest in an allotment.

A resident highlighted that the weeds on the village green need some attention, this has been forwarded on to the Village Green Charity.

It has been pointed out that the red light on the Hub defibrillator was flashing. The Councillor responsible is aware but the actual defibrillator is in working order.

A resident passed on a request from a group of 7 younger members of the community aged between 8 and 13 for a decent size goal net. This request has been forwarded on to the Village Green Charity.

19. Items for Information or Agenda for Next Meeting

Review and update the HIP (Highways Improvement Plan)
Newsletter 4-page article each month.
Youth council/youth engagement.

20. Date and Venue of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at 7pm on Thursday the 24th October 2024 in the Memorial Hall Annexe.

Signed _____
Chair

Dated _____