

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2025 held at Tackley Village Hall

**Present:** Councillors Liz Marshall (LM) Chair), Angus Paxton (AP), Richard Holland-Oakes (RHO), Sue Lygo (SL).

County Councillor Andy Graham (AG), District Councillors Genny Early (GE) and Tim Sumner (TS).

Cherie Carruthers (CC) (Clerk to the Council)

13 Members of the public

### 24/103:Public Participation:

- i. **Julie Farren** -Village Hall update: At the latest AGM it was reported that the financial position is better than last year, with reserves sitting at £24,278 the previous year end and £52,483 this year. They closed with a surplus of £28,000, £17-18,000 was donations from Pop up Pub. £9,000 from another source donated to help with development. £3,500 paid out in professional fees and Architects for development.

At the Trustees meeting, it was agreed that the Village Hall needs to change from a regular registered charity to a charitable incorporated one. The main reason is that the trustees are personally liable to repay any debts that the Village Hall incurs. If CIO legal entity which means that can enter a contract as a body rather than personal person. 10<sup>th</sup> March 2025 is the deadline for anyone wishing to object to changing into CIO.

**Electricity cable:** confirmation that a wayleave was signed in 1931, last lease ran out 2014, easement lodged in 2011 to do with electricity, Mrs. Farren has written to SSEN to ask whether they can build over the top cable. They may need to ask Clerk for permission, as the land belongs to TPC.

- ii. **Greg Elphick** – Blandford Fly Project – did not attend the meeting.
- iii. **Dr Claire Robertson** – Blandford Fly Project - Dr Robertson referred to her questions previously submitted to council in Appendix A. She voiced concerns about Blandford Fly proposal.
- iv. **Malcolm Ridout** – Blandford Fly Project – advised that at the 6<sup>th</sup> February meeting with the Canals & River Trust, Environmental Agency and Greg Elphick attending, they discussed the process of depositing pesticide (BTi) in the river. The meeting confirmed that there was no systematic collection of medical data that motivated the plan for blackfly control, which at the moment is driven by concerns over nuisance biting and anecdotal reports of more significant reactions. The meeting clarified that the EA had not given permission to go ahead with the project as stated in communications from Greg Elphick. The EA do not regulate Bti, so they do not need to give permission. There have been no wider ecological assessments of the impact of using Bti in the UK.

Studies from the Stour river were restricted to assessing the direct impact on non-target species. Other studies have shown ecological impacts on birds and predatory insects as a consequence of removing the food source represented by the insects killed. The EA had noted the danger of proceeding without knowledge of possible effects of BTI use through removing insects from the food chain and had recommended at the least baseline studies to assess possible impacts. EA expressed concern on what the ecological effects could be, significant biomass – without considering other bottom line we do not know – but could be significant when seeing steep declines in biodiversity.

AG asked what representation has been made to OCC on this matter and if so, to who. LM advised that most councillors and residents appear to be against the project.

Malcolm Ridout asked if TPC will raise concerns to OCC, LM confirmed TPC would. AP noted that the information sent originally to the PC was misleading. AG suggested writing to him and he will copy in Officer Callum Miller (MP) for legislation issues.

**24/104:Apologise of absence:** Cllr's Andrew Lines (AL) (Vice Chair), John Gibbins (JG), Steve Hill (SH) were noted.

**24/105:Declaration of interest:** LM in items 11.i – a family member is a recipient of a payment.

**24/106:** Minutes of Parish Council meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2025 were approved as a fair and true record: Proposer RHO, seconder AP, with agreed amendments to 24/099 to read that the burial ground will not be extended and therefore unlikely to receive further burials.

**24/107:Matters arising from minutes of Jan meeting:**

- **Crecy Hill Dog bin:** CC has asked Publica to relocate bin, no response yet.
- **Sandbag Store:** Awaiting quote from Martin Harris asked the size to enable quote, agreed 2m<sup>2</sup>
- **External Audit Certificate for Open Spaces:** CC still outstanding.
- **Noticeboard replacement:** CC updated quote to include legs is £2,800.00 plus VAT, Awaiting further quotes.
- **S106 Feedback forms:** Finish end of Feb, will collate for end of March.
- **Village Hall Noticeboard** – Julie Farren gave permission for A3 board on side of hall.

**24/108: To consider District Council matters.**

**GE:** Woodstock LCWIP is live – including the proposed reduced speed limit at Sturdy's Castle. LM asked when the results will be available, AG was not sure, but it is going to cabinet within the next few months.

WODC motioned to write to the Environment secretary about Thames Water. The high court's decision regarding the structuring of the company will be delivered tomorrow, Windrush Against Sewage campaign has been working hard to stop this.

**TS:** WODC is offering support to families and individuals experiencing or at risk of hardship, they can check if they are claiming all they are entitled to via the WODC website or by contacting a DCllr direct.

**24/109: To consider County Council matters.** AG updated the following from County:

- **Devolution** – the County Councils must submit their reform proposals by the 21<sup>st</sup> March 2025. Oxon and Berks are working together to scope this out. Final decision will be made by the Secretary of State. Will not come into effect until approx. 2027-28.
- **OCC Budget** – Budget passed, with more money available for gulley cleaning and flooding. A 3 years deal is coming forward for child and adult social care.

**24/110:Housing Needs Assessment:** It was approved that the survey will run from 10<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025.

**24/111:Parish amenities:**

- i. **Safety Railings:** Works complete. Thanks to RHO for sorting.
- ii. **Nature Spaces Update:** LM noted that a decision or not to plant whips in the Heath hedge line needed making by Cllrs. She asked if they could meet to discuss on 24<sup>th</sup> Feb – agreed.
- iii. **Trees** – Cherwell Rise, green space trees did get replaced, but the screen trees between Balliol Close and the development that were promised will not be done now. Cora has signed it off, TS and GE will step in and see if they can support.

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**24/112: To consider matters of finance and policies:**

- i. Ratification of Payments – invoices to be emailed beforehand: It was approved that the following payments were ratified and the impact the payment would have on the budget and reserves. Proposed: AP, seconded: RHO: **APPROVED**

Gross Amount (£)	VAT Value (£)	Payee	Details	Power
867.53		Clerks Pay	Jan Salary	LGA 1972 S111
50.00		B Marshall	Jan bin emptying	LGA 1972 S112
906.00	151.00	Greenscythe	Jan Green Spaces maintenance	Open Spaces Act
420.00	70.00	Ron Varney	Hedge Trimming	Open Spaces Act
5606.08	934.34	Neville Walton	Replacement Railings	Open Spaces Act
140.00		Jim Pitts	Mower service reimbursement	Open Spaces Act

**24/113: To consider other matters:**

- i. **Moles at Allotments:** CC to contact a contractor to take advice.

**24/114: Next Meeting Agenda Items:**

- Section 106 feedback
- Noticeboard Quotations

**Next meeting:** 17<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at 7pm.

Meeting closed at 20.16pm.

Signed as a true record of the Tackley Parish Council Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2025.

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Date.....