



# Whiteparish Parish Council

**MINUTES** of the Meeting of Whiteparish Parish Council held on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2024 at 7.30pm in the Memorial Centre, Whiteparish.

**Present:** Cllrs King (Chairman), Agate, Bishop, Camley, Gould, Harris, Hayday, McFarland and Pavey.

**In attendance:** Maria Pennington (Parish Clerk), Wiltshire Cllr Richard Britton and 4 members of the public.

## **Public participation**

A representative from the Parochial Church Council, Whiteparish thanked the Parish Council for previous grant funding and spoke in support of its current grant application.

A member of the public spoke in support of planning application PL/2024/10680 Blaxwell Farm, Romsey Road, Whiteparish SP5 2RR.

Wiltshire Councillor Britton updated on Wiltshire Councils expression of interest for the Heart of Wessex devolution and that it wishes to be considered within the first tranche of devolution deals. Government is currently considering postponing 2025 elections for those councils that are taken forward within the first tranche so that they can be held alongside mayoral elections in 2026. This would impact town and parish elections but it is hoped a decision will be made early in 2025.

## **To receive and accept apologies for absence.**

**292/24** Prior to the meeting apologies were received from Cllr Francis and Cllr Palmer due to prior commitments. Whiteparish Parish Council RESOLVED to accept the apologies. PC Kelvin Ramsey had also sent his apologies.

## **To receive any Declarations of Interest, and to decide upon any requests for Dispensations relating to matters on this agenda.**

**293/24** There were no declarations.

## **Exclusion of the press and public. To agree any items to be dealt with after the public, including the press, have been excluded under the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960.**

**294/24** Whiteparish Parish Council RESOLVED to discuss item 24 To approve a new 2-year grounds maintenance contract "consideration of quotations" following the exclusion of the press and public.

## **To approve and sign as a correct record the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2024.**

**295/24** Whiteparish Parish Council RESOLVED to approve the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2024 and they were signed by the Chairman.

## **To approve and sign as a correct record the Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2024.**

**296/24** Whiteparish Parish Council RESOLVED to approve the Minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2024 and they were signed by the Chairman.

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Whiteparish Parish Council – Parish Council Meeting Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2024  
Minutes approved as a true and accurate record, and signed as so by the Chairman presiding

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Date.....

**To consider and agree a response to planning applications received:**

**297/24 PL/2024/10536 - Barn adjacent to Squirrels Holt**, Parkwater Lane, Whiteparish. Demolition of existing barn, and erection of dwelling, landscaping and associated works. Whiteparish Parish Council RESOLVED to make no comment to this application.

**298/24 PL/2024/10680 Blaxwell Farm**, Romsey Road, Whiteparish, Salisbury, SP5 2RR Retrospective planning application for an agricultural track. Whiteparish Parish Council RESOLVED to make no comment to this application.

**Planning and enforcement update.**

**299/24** The Clerk had circulated the update prior to the meeting and there were no queries.

**Finance update.**

**300/24** There were no updates.

**To consider a grant application from the Parochial Church Council, All Saints' Church, Whiteparish for financial assistance of £1,590.63 towards grass cutting of the churchyard.**

**301/24** A grant application towards half the annual churchyard grass cutting costs for 2024 had been received. Whilst this is over what the Parish Council had budgeted it was agreed to vire the additional funds from the Community Support Fund and Whiteparish Parish Council RESOLVED to agree a grant for £1,590.63.

**To approve accounts for payment and to record the bank balances.**

**302/24** Whiteparish Parish Council RESOLVED to authorise payments totalling £1,984.33  
Unity Trust Bank Current Account 12.12.24 £16,082.06  
Unity Trust Bank Savings Account 12.12.24 £78,166.56  
Cambridge & Counties 1 Year Bond £20,000.00 maturity date 04.06.25  
Cambridge & Counties 2 Year Bond £31,271.51 maturity date 19.06.26

**To set the Budget for year 2025/2026.**

**303/24** Further to the Finance Committee meeting on 27th November 2024 the Clerk had circulated the proposed budget. Whiteparish Parish Council agreed to accept the Finance Committees recommendation, with no further budget allocation given to LHFIFG projects and any call for a contribution for a LHFIFG project would come from the Parish Council general reserves, and RESOLVED to accept the proposed budget for 2025/2026.

**To review and approve the Financial Reserves Policy 2025/2026.**

**304/24** Whiteparish Parish Council RESOLVED to approve the revised Financial Reserves Policy 2025/2026.

**To set the Parish Precept for year 2025/2026.**

**305/24** Further to the budget for 2025/2026 being accepted, Whiteparish Parish Council RESOLVED there is a £5k reduction in the precept with the precept set at £37,448.50 which is 11.26% decrease from 2024/2025 for a Band D property.

**To review and approve the Financial Regulations.**

**306/24** Whiteparish Parish Council RESOLVED to approve the Financial Regulations with no amendments.

**To review and approve the Risk Assessment.**

**307/24** Whiteparish Parish Council RESOLVED to approve the Risk Assessment with one amendment to business continuity.

**To review and approve the Finance Committee Terms of Reference.**

**308/24** Whiteparish Parish Council RESOLVED to approve the Finance Committee Terms of Reference with no amendments.

**To review and approve the Statement of Internal Control.**

**309/24** Whiteparish Parish Council RESOLVED to approve the Statement of Internal Control with no amendments.

**To review and approve the Unity Trust Bank Mandate.**

**310/24, 129/24, 113/23** The Clerk advised that Cllr Francis has confirmed he will activate his online banking as soon as he is able.

**311/24** Whiteparish Parish Council RESOLVED to approve the Unity Trust Bank Mandate.

**To consider maintenance of the bus shelter.**

**312/24, 275/24, 228/24** Cllr Harris confirmed he has inspected the bus shelter and no works are required however he advised to monitor any encroaching vegetation.

**To consider the request for a bench near the entrance to Green Close.**

**313/24, 277/64** The Clerk reported that Wiltshire Council have advised this area of land is classified as Open Space and not Highways. A licence with Wiltshire Council would be required and the funding, implementation and ongoing maintenance and insurance would be the responsibility of the Parish Council. As this request was from one resident Whiteparish Parish Council RESOLVED, with one abstention, for the Clerk to request comments from residents regarding siting a bench in this location.

**To update on the additional Speed Indication Devices (SID's) in Whiteparish.**

**314/24, 281/24, 224/24, 196/24, 168/24, 139/24, 102/24, 71/24** The Clerk reported that since the last meeting Elan City extended the quotation until the end of January 2025. Zurich have confirmed the SID's will be covered on the insurance, including being stored at a councillor home until they can be erected.

**To agree the future storage of a Parish Council mantle clock.**

**315/24, 283/24** This item was deferred as Cllr Bishop advised it has not yet been discussed by the Memorial Trust. The Chairman is now currently storing the clock.

**To agree the skateboard park professional inspection in conjunction with the Memorial Trust play area inspection.**

**316/24** Whiteparish Parish Council RESOLVED to have a professional inspection on the skatepark in conjunction with the Memorial Trust and the play area, recognising that it is a more cost-effective route. The inspection is not due until May 2025.

**Rights of Way and Common Land update.**

**317/24** ROW 11 at Newton Lane has been reported overgrown.

**318/24** ROW 5 towards Chadwell Farm has been reported overgrown with the stiles impassable, along with it being very boggy.

**319/24** ROW 24 at Cowesfield continues to have dangerous and broken stiles. This has been ongoing since March 2023. Clerk to chase again.

**320/24** The issue of dog mess on rights of way, including Hop Gardens, was raised. Clerk to contact Wiltshire Council Dog Warden to see what assistance is available.

### **Highway's update.**

**321/24** The Clerk advised that the Parish Steward visit was 12<sup>th</sup> December 2024.

**322/24, 287/24** Wiltshire Council Highways have advised the Vactor Unit visited the Parish on the 7th November and cleared 12 gullies on Common Road and noted all flowing normally.

It also visited on 21st November and cleared all the gullies on the A27 Brickworth Road from the A36 to the 30mph signs at the beginning of the village and noted all flowing as normal.

**323/24** Cllr Hayday advised he had reported a pothole in Newton Lane which was quickly filled.

**324/24** Cllr Harris advised of the potholes at the layby near Richmond Farm. Cllr Britton advised he understands Highways will be attending to them.

**325/24, 37/24, 18/24** Wiltshire Council has apologised that the schools request for a disabled parking bay in Common Road has still yet to be implemented. It is intended to be done as soon as possible.

### **326/24 Reports from representatives for information purposes only:**

**Memorial Trust:** Cllr Bishop updated on the Whiteparish Memorial Trust. Solar panels are to be installed on part of the roof of the Memorial Centre at the end of January 2025.

**New Forest National Park:** There was no report.

**Area Board:** The next Area Board is at Morgans Vale on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2025.

**Whiteparish Education Foundation:** There was no update.

**Neighbourhood Tasking Group:** Cllr Harris updated on the meeting in Downton on 6<sup>th</sup> December. This included the mobile police van should be in Whiteparish on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2025, timings to be confirmed, plus the possibility of a drone for helping to tackle rural crime in the area.

### **Correspondence/communications update.**

**327/24** The Clerk had circulated the update prior to the meeting. There were no queries. The Clerk read out the police report from PC Ramsey.

**328/24** Cllr Hayday updated that the new speed device has been delivered for Community Speedwatch. Whilst the Speed Enforcement Officer was in the village 22 vehicles were caught speeding.

**329/24** The Chairman and Cllr Camley attended the Wiltshire Council Youth Activities drop in on 5<sup>th</sup> December. This event was to gauge response with a view to starting a new youth group, however the Chairman reported that only 1 person attended. The Area board are hoping to promote it more, possibly at the fete.

### **Exclusion of the press and public.**

### **Confidential items.**

### **To approve a new 2-year grounds maintenance contract.**

**330/24** Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated a confidential summary of quotations for a new 2-year grounds maintenance contract at the recreation ground. Whiteparish Parish Council RESOLVED to accept the quotation from Hamblin Ground Care.

The next scheduled Parish Council meeting is to be held on Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> January 2025 at 7.30pm in Whiteparish Memorial Centre.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.25pm.