

Welford • Hoe Benham • Easton
Welford Parish Council
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**Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Wednesday 4th January 2023 at 7pm in
Wickham Village Hall**

Present: Cllr's Martyne Ellard (Chair), David Hunt (Vice Chair), Paul Stanley, Henry Burgoyne-Probyn, Sam Kynaston (and Sam Bell

In attendance Angela Boyce (Parish Clerk) District Cllr James Cole

1. **Apologies for Absence** received from District Cllr's Claire Rowles and Dennis Benneyworth.
2. **Declarations of Interest from Councillors** None
3. **To confirm and sign the minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 28th September 2022** RESOLVED the minutes of the meeting held on 28th September 2022 were signed as a true and accurate record.
4. **To confirm and sign the minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 2nd November 2022** RESOLVED the minutes of the meeting held on 2nd November 2022 were signed as a true and accurate record.
5. **OPEN FORUM** Nothing to report
6. **Reports**
6.1 District Councillors' Report District Councillor James Cole reported that the West Berkshire Council 2022 review had been distributed. Cllr Cole provided information regarding West Berkshire Council warm spaces project, more information can be found on the West Berkshire Council website.
6.2 Chair's Report – Nothing to Report
6.3 Clerk's Report – The Clerk advised that we were successful with our bid for 50% of the cost of the swings in the MUGA so they can be ordered.
7. **Correspondence** West Berkshire Council Food Waste Collections – West Berkshire Council have reported that the food waste collections is going well.
Home Emergency Plan – SSE sent out a Home Emergency plan leaflet before Christmas, which gives essential information for anyone with a home emergency. This has been published on the PC website.
8. **Grounds maintenance service costs 2023** It was agreed that the Parish Council will go ahead with the West Berkshire Council contract at £886.70 per annum for collection of dog waste bins. Proposed by Cllr Kynaston, Seconded Cllr Burgoyne-Probyn.
9. **Planning Matters** None

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- 10. Parish Plan update** It was agreed that a subcommittee meeting will be arranged for Monday 6th February to discuss the Parish Plan. The Clerk will send out guidance from West Berkshire Council to the Councillors and will book the hall.

11. Finance

The following payments and receipts were approved.

25/11/2022	D K GARDENING SERV - Marsh Common 11/11/22	100
28/11/2022	ANGELA BOYCE - WAGES November	448.26
29/12/2022	WEST BERKSHIRE COUNCIL WPC 601507 - Library Donation	200
29/12/2022	WEL MEDICAL LTD - Defib battery (authorised 2nd November)	204
29/12/2022	THE GOOD EXCHANGE WEST BERKSHIRE COUNCIL - crisis fund	500
29/12/2022	ANGELA BOYCE - WAGES DECEMBER	400.06

- 12. 2023/24 Budget** There was a discussion regarding the budget for next year. To be agreed in March.

- 13. Precept budget 2023/24** It was agreed that the Precept for 2023/2024 financial year would be £11,197.00

- 14. Clerk's salary** The Clerk distributed a notification from National Association of Local Clerks (NALC), who have advised Parish Councils of the pay review increase which is to be backdated from April 2022. From immediate affect it was agreed to backdate the Clerk's salary from £15.16 per hour to £16.16 per hour and to pay the clerks backdated pay of £195.50 in January.

- 15. Notification of external auditor appointment** The Smaller Authorities Audit Appointments (SAAA) who are responsible for appointing external auditors to all opted-in smaller authorities have confirmed that PKF Littlejohn have been awarded the contract for the 2022-23 - 2026-27.

- 16. Horse Chestnut tree update** It was agreed that the clerk would obtain quotations for the inspection and if required, the removal of the tree.

Close of meeting

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 8:37pm.

The next meeting will be held on 1st March at 7pm in Wickham Village Hall.