

Welford • Hoe Benham • Easton
Welford Parish Council
Weston • Wickham • Halfway

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on Wednesday 6th March 2024 at 7.05pm in Wickham Village Hall

Present: Sam Kynaston (Chair) Martyne Ellard and Paul Stanley,
In attendance Angela Boyce (Parish Clerk), District Councillor Tony Vickers and two members of the public.

1. **To receive apologies for absence** Sam Bell and Henry Burgoyne-Probyn, District Councillors Denise Gaines and Dennis Benneyworth.
2. **To receive any Declarations of Interest.** There were none.
3. **To confirm and sign the minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 3rd January 2024**
RESOLVED the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd January 2024 were signed as a true and accurate record.
4. **Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Meeting held on 3rd January 2024.**
 - 4.1 **Vehicles using B4000 update on speed watch campaign** The Chair has looked into the speed watch campaign and has a number of volunteers who want to join the group. Once the group has been set up and training has been given, the PC will need to agree to purchase new speed guns, which will also be rolled out across the parish.
5. **OPEN FORUM.** A contractor asked the Parish Council if they would consider using them for their dog waste collections. The Parish Council had a discussion and agreed to put this on the next agenda, The Clerk to investigate what is required to move the contract from the existing provider to the new contractor.
A question was raised regarding whether the Parish Council could send out meeting dates and agendas to parishioners by email. There was a discussion, it was confirmed that the Parish Council had previously agreed they do not send notifications to Parishioners by email. The agenda is posted on the website and village noticeboards prior to the meeting. The Clerk to post it on the Facebook page in future.
6. **Reports**
 - 6.1 District Councillor's Report. District Councillor Tony Vickers discussed the members bids that have been approved. He also discussed the issue from the last meeting regarding the green on Mant Close in Wickham. There was a discussion regarding the public footpath at Weston. Councillor Vickers mentioned the issue with the Marsh Common, which has now been resolved and will be discussed later in the meeting. The District Council will update the Parish Council in due course when a decision is made. Councillor Vickers discussed the budget and there is a rights of way improvements plan which is coming up for a decision in May and is currently out for public consultation. Details can be found on the WBC website. Councillor Vickers reported that the plans for the Thatcham flood alleviation scheme programme is still awaiting a decision. By next summer there should be a fully adopted local plan.
 - 6.2 Chair's Report There was nothing to report.
 - 6.3 Clerk's Report The Clerk discussed the members bids for the bench, she will contact the contractor and West Berkshire Council to check if the bench can be moved to a new location by the bus stop.

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7.33pm, District Tony Vickers left the meeting, due to other engagements.

7. **Correspondence** There was no correspondence received.
8. **Marsh Common** The chairman used his discretion to move this item to the end of the meeting under a Part 2.
9. **MUGA and Marsh Common Grounds Maintenance** The Parish Council agreed to continue to use DK Gardening Services for the next 12 months for the MUGA and Marsh Common Grounds Maintenance contract. Clerk to notify the contractor and to confirm new rates.
10. **War Memorial** Charles Puxley has requested assistance from the Parish Council to repair and maintain the War Memorial. The Parish Council have approved in principle but require the quotations that have been received and the work required. Clerk to request this from Charles Puxley with a view to approve at the next meeting.
11. **Budget 2024-25** After a discussion, the Parish Council agreed the Budget for 2024/25.

12. **Planning**

Applications

23/02958/HOUSE Benham Grange, Bath Road, Halfway. Outdoor Swimming Pool and Associated Works. The PC had no objections.

Decisions The following planning applications were approved.

23/02845/HOUSE Weston House, Lambourn Road, Weston. Proposed removal of existing flat roofed extensions and replacement with an oak framed kitchen extension.

23/01529/FUL Moselwood, Newbury Road, Wickham. Proposed annexe.

13. **Finance** The following payments and receipts were approved.

13.1 **Payments**

06-Jan-24	Wickham Village Hall Hire	25.00
26-Jan-24	Angela Boyce Microsoft Software	60.00
26-Jan-24	Clerks Salary January	462.00
28-Dec-23	PLAYDALE Basket Ball Backboard	641.00
28-Dec-23	Clerks Salary December	443.00

13.2 **Receipts**

09-Feb-24	Interest Received	2.60
09-Jan-24	Interest Received	2.50
11-Dec-23	Interest Received	2.70
03-Jan-24	VAT refund	1,663.71

14. **Parish Plan update** There was no new updates to report, the Chair to recirculate a previous email to the Parish Council for their input.

15. **Risk Assessment** The Risk Assessment was not approved, The clerk to get clarification on a matter. The risk Assessment approval to be deferred to the next meeting.

16. **Asset Register** The Asset Register for the year ending 31st March 2025, was agreed.

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17. Parish Assembly The Parish Council agreed to hold the Parish Assembly on Wednesday 22nd May 2024 The Clerk will invite The Great Green Bedwyn project to come and do a talk at the Assembly.

PART 2

It was proposed by the Chair Sam Kynaston and seconded by Cllr Martyne Ellard that, in accordance with Standing Orders 3.d, the Public and Press be excluded because the following matter relates to a confidential matter regarding an issue with a member of the public. The motion was passed. The members of the public were requested to leave the meeting.

There was an issue with interference with the common, which has now been resolved.

18. Close of meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 8:20pm

The next Parish Council meeting will be the annual meeting of the council, held on Wednesday 1st May 2024 at 7:00pm in Wickham Village Hall.