

Christian Malford Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

Held on Monday 8 January 2024 at 7.15pm at the Christian Malford Village Hall

Those present were noted as Councillors: S Depla (Chair), I Kirkpatrick, K Assinder, M Cox, C Read, M Johnson and B Kimber. Also present: L Roslyn, Parish Clerk, 8 members of the public and Wilts Cllr for Flooding Nic Puntis.

155⁽²³⁾ Apologies and Reasons for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Hines (work) and I Patterson (personal).

156⁽²³⁾ Declarations of interests from members regarding matters on the agenda

No declarations of interests were received.

157⁽²³⁾ Public Forum Session

Matters raised included the adverse effect the solar farm planning application (PL/2023/10077) will have on neighbouring listed buildings and tourist accommodation, the incomplete surveys by Exagen, the increased risk of flooding, loss of agricultural land and the fact that it will be 2036 before it will be providing electricity to the National Grid; flooding of the River Avon causing the closure of the B4069 to Sutton Benger and access in and out of the village being severely restricted due to the closure at Lyneham Banks – Nic Puntis advised the Parish Council (PC) to contact the riparian owners along the river and ditches to ask that they clear them where possible and for the PC to attend the next Operational Flood Working Group (OFWG) meeting on 25 January 2024 to raise awareness of the issues and request that the drainage team clear drains and culverts. It was noted that James Gray MP had contacted the head of Highways at Wilts Council to discuss emergency access to the village during flooding, etc.

158⁽²³⁾ Minutes for Approval

It was **resolved to approve** the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on 6 December 2023, and they were duly signed.

159⁽²³⁾ Finance

- a) It was **resolved to approve** the monthly accounts statement for January 2024 and new invoices totalling £871.75 were authorised for online payment.
- b) It was **resolved to approve** the quote from Greenscape Services Ltd., for the Grounds Maintenance Contract 2024-2026 at the Burial Ground and Churchyard.
- c) It was **resolved to approve** the quote from Greenscape Services Ltd., for the Grounds Maintenance Contract 2024-2026 at the Malford Meadow.
- d) It was **resolved to approve** the Budget (v2.0) and Precept at £23,281.49 for 2024-2025.

160⁽²³⁾ Planning Applications

It was **resolved to agree** the following response:

a	PL/2023/10077	Land West of Lyneham Substation, West of Dauntsey Lock - Construction and operation of a renewable energy park comprising ground mounted solar photovoltaics (PV) together with associated infrastructure, access, landscaping and cabling	Object – Request HG to call it in
---	-------------------------------	--	--

168⁽²³⁾ Flooding/Emergency Plan

It was agreed to move this item up the Agenda. Cllr S Depla advised the meeting that the PC had carried out work over the last 2 years to clear Pug Brook and other ditches in the village to mitigate against flooding and were liaising with the gully team to clear drains and culverts, that a working party

will be organised by the PC in the Summer, to clear fallen trees, collected debris, etc., from along the banks of the River Avon, and that a Cllr will be attending the next OFWG meeting on 25 January 2024.

161⁽²³⁾ **Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) Review**

Cllr B Kimber asked the Council to support the appointment of consultants to help create a more comprehensive, robust review of the NDP – this was agreed, and the Clerk agreed to apply to Locality UK for the grant to cover the costs.

162⁽²³⁾ **Highways, Parish Steward, CSW and Speed Indicator Device**

Cllr I Patterson's reports were noted in his absence.

163⁽²³⁾ **Recreation Ground**

Cllr K Assinder's report was noted, and he reported that they had shortlisted 2 contractors from the tenders received for the play park refurbishment and will be meeting with the consultant on 17 January to discuss the next steps.

164⁽²³⁾ **Malford Meadow/Allotments**

Cllr Hines's report was noted in his absence, including the order for an extra free 50 saplings, which will require the purchase of additional stakes and guards.

165⁽²³⁾ **Burial Ground**

Cllr M Johnson's report was noted, and Cllr M Cox will arrange the removal of the whitebeam tree stump and roots.

166⁽²³⁾ **Rights of Way & Village Assets**

Cllr I Kirkpatrick's reports were noted, and his request for expenditure up to £200 for a working group to lay some scalping was approved.

167⁽²³⁾ **Village Hall**

Cllr I Kirkpatrick's report was noted – they are still waiting for the planning permission to be approved before moving forward with fundraising.

168⁽²³⁾ **Environmental/Sustainability Matters**

Cllr S Depla reported that a check had been made on the trees planted last year. Cllr I Kirkpatrick asked for volunteers to help move some soil to cover the exposed spring bulbs at the Foxham end of the village.

169⁽²³⁾ **Wiltshire Council**

No report received.

170⁽²³⁾ **Clerk's Report**

No report was received, and the Clerk had nothing to raise.

171⁽²³⁾ **Date of Next Parish Council Meeting**

The date of the next Parish Council Meeting was noted as Wednesday 7 February 2024 in the Village Hall at 7.15pm.

Meeting ended at 20:49

Chair.....

Date.....