

Minutes of the Meeting of East Hendred Parish Council, Thursday 4th January 2024 at 7.30pm in Snells Hall

Present: Cllr John Sharp (Chair), Cllr Aloysius Atkinson, Cllr Mark Francis, Cllr Mark Beddow, Cllr Jason Champ, Cllr Charles Pappenheim, Cllr Roger Turnbull, Cllr Stocks and Cllr Dorling

Clerk: Hannah Champ

Finance Officer: Julia Evans

County Councillor:

District Councillor: Sarah James

Members of the Public: Three (3) Gerry Bird, Ivan Mulford, Darren Hunt

01/24	<p>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Cllr Sally Povolotsky</p>	
02/24	<p>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST Cllr Francis – 3a & 19</p>	
03/24	<p>OPEN FORUM</p> <p>a) Speed control measure, A4185 from Harwell Campus to Rowstock Mr Hunt attended the meeting. Mr Hunt is the vice chair of the Rowstock Residents Association and has been trying to lower the speed limit along the A4185 for around 10 years. He stated the Council had done some work around average speed checks but the volume of traffic speed along the road, especially with heavy goods vehicles being diverted from the A34, was increasing. Mr Hunt would like the speed limit along the A4185 to be reduced to 40MPH. Cllr Sharp stated that as there are no houses on either side of the road a 30MPH limit would not be possible. Cllr Francis stated that from a highways perspective the speed survey work carried out showed compliance with the 60MPH limit to be good. The speed limit could be reduced to 50mph, but funding would be needed. Cllr Turnbull put forward that warning signs further up the road would be useful to warn drivers they were coming into a 30MPH limit zone. This would need to be funded. Clerk to write to Oxfordshire County Council to request warning signs and a reduction to 50MPH. Cllr Sharp to speak with Harwell to see if they would help with funding.</p> <p>b) Sports Club – Planning pre-application Mr Bird & Mr Mulford attended the meeting. Cllr Sharp mentioned that the Council had sent a letter to Mr McKenna in response to the pre-application matter along with the movement of the playpark for the cricket nets but had not yet received a response. Mr Bird mentioned the contents of the letter and had points to raise. Regarding parking spaces and cricket nets, they would not be losing spaces but gaining space by moving the cricket ground. Surveys have been carried out during football matches on a Saturday with the local residents and parking is the number one issue. With the proposal this will change the number of spaces to 33-34 spaces which will cover more than enough on a football match day and stop cars parking on Mill Lane itself. Regarding the Cricket nets the cricket club need 3 nets, Mr Bird mentioned that our proposal of reducing to 1 net would not be feasible as this is a main part of the cricket club. If they were to lose nets this would reduce the number of Children and Adults that can use the nets which would reduce the number of people attending the club. Mr Bird stated that the ECB's recommendation is for a north-south orientation for cricket nets. At the moment where the nets are this is an east-west orientation which means they face into the sun. By moving these nets next to the play park this also opens up a large space to have further sporting activities, for example Padel. Mr Bird mentioned that the pre-application is a request for a discussion with the Vale of White Horse Council and not a full planning application. For the Sports Club to be able to raise funds for the project they would need planning permission and pre-application advice is needed to make the planning application more likely to succeed. Cllr Sharp asked if East Hendred Parish Council were to assist with the Pre-application would they want the Council to then do the full application. Mr Bird stated that they would not be able to submit a full application without the approval of the Parish council as owners of the land. Clerk to email Sports Club to arrange a meeting as soon as possible to discuss further.</p>	<p>CLERK/JVS</p> <p>CLERK</p>

2023/24

04/24	ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 7 DECEMBER 2023 The minutes were reviewed and approved. Proposed Cllr Pappenheim. Seconded Cllr Champ. RESOLVED. The minutes were signed.	
05/24	MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 7 DECEMBER MEETING NOT OTHERWISE COVERED ON THE AGENDA a) The sale of social housing in the village. Cllr Sharp has contacted Sovereign. No feedback yet. b) Community Speedwatch. Cllr Dorling mentioned that they were waiting on approval of sites. c) Bin Liners. Cllr Beddow proposed the remaining 5 bins need the new bin liners. Proposal of £39 to cover this. Proposed Cllr Beddow. Seconded Cllr Atkinson. RESOLVED	JVS CLOSED
06/24	POLICE REPORT. Report was circulated and read out.	
07/24	COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT Report was circulated and read out.	
08/24	DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT A written report had been circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr Beddow mentioned the Clay compaction trial and wanted to know the results as soon as they were available. Clerk to write to Thames Water to request these results as soon as they are available	CLERK
09/24	FINANCIAL MATTERS	
10/24	a) January payments. The payments totalling £4928.51 were approved. Proposed Cllr Stocks, Seconded Cllr Francis. RESOLVED. b) To review the draft budget 2024/25. Precept of £52,000 Proposed Cllr Atkinson. Seconded Cllr Beddow c) Oxfordshire South & Vale Citizens Advice – Grant Aid. Finance officer to provide details of the last years donation for next meeting	CLOSED CLOSED JE
11/24	PLANNING MATTERS	
12/24	a) P23/V2772/FUL – Land south of Hillside, Harwell Campus, Didcot. Cllr Turnbull and Cllr Sharp attended a recent meeting, but this application was not mentioned at all. Cllr Turnbull mentioned that there were at least 2 class A trees that they were looking to remove. If they were to remove all the trees and replant the amount of tree cover would be reduced by two thirds. Cllr Sharp has contacted Jason Stafford at Harwell to understand why this was not discussed at the recent meeting. Cllr Sharp suggested the PC submits a holding objection until we have spoken with the Campus.	RT/JVS
13/24	Applications received since the publication of the agenda. None.	
14/24	To review planning applications awaiting determination by the Vale and those recently approved. None	
15/24	Greensands Update. Cllr James covered this in her report which had been circulated. The report was read out.	
16/24	Proposals for the Steventon Reservoir. Meeting with Thames Water. Cllr Beddow attended a recent meeting. Letter to be drafted to be sent to Derek Stork to see if the Parish Council should write a support letter to OFWAT.	
17/24	Local Plan Reform. Cllr Sharp mentioned that next week the next round of local planning starts for a 6-week consultation period. East Hendred Parish Council need to be involved in this. Meeting to be arranged to involve the public. Cllrs Sharp and Turnbull to present. Finance Office mentioned that Harwell Campus has been classed as a key employment site. Meeting to be arranged before end of January.	RT
18/24	Relief for Rowstock and HIF1. Cllr Beddow stated that the main argument against spending money on the relief road is that it does not meet its objectives. increasing road capacity should be the last resort. A major objective of Oxfordshire Highways is	

	sustainable transport. The objection to the scheme is that Highways are not meeting their own objectives. The study for the scheme does not include buses from Wantage. Cllr Beddow mentioned the HIF1 enquiry starts on 28 th February 2024. Cllr Turnbull to be involved and will write his objection and circulate.	RT
19/24	MEETING WITH ST MARY'S Finance Officer looked up the amount of money spent on tree maintenance and surveys; St Marys have suggested to Cllr Sharp that a fund is built up by placing a certain amount in each year to cover the costs. Cllr Sharp to arrange another meeting.	JVS
20/24	LUDBRIDGE AND RIDGEWAY CLOSE MATTERS None	
21/24	JUBILEE PLAY PARK Clerk had emailed Wicksteed for an update on the installation of the equipment. Response from Wicksteed stated they are looking to start installation mid-Feb with a view to have the park completed within 2-3 weeks depending on weather. Wicksteed will make contact with the Clerk to arrange a pre-installation meeting on site.	
22/24	VILLAGE FAIR Cllr Dorling had approached local village organisations before the Christmas period and had some very good feedback. Cllr Dorling to start putting together a plan for the 12 th May.	HD
23/24	ROWSTOCK None	
24/24	COMMUNITY ART PROJECT Cllr Dorling mentioned there was no further update, still waiting on the management company.	HD
25/24	HENDRED ESTATE ITEMS None	
26/24	WORKING GROUPS / REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS AND UPDATES	
27/24	<p>a) Allotments – Clerk to work with Mrs Shortis on handover. Contact made with a view to meet and handover in the next month. Meter readings now due, Cllr Francis to collate.</p> <p>b) Communications:</p> <p>a. New Website – Clerk mentioned about having home address on the website and requested for this to be removed and replaced with email address and telephone number. This was agreed.</p> <p>b. Review of suggestions register. No new suggestions have been received.</p> <p>c. Parish Council Facebook page. Cllr Dorling still going through a draft social media policy. Cllr Dorling has been in touch with other Parish Councils to discuss their media policies.</p> <p>c) Infrastructure</p> <p>a. Courtesy Lights. No new issues were reported.</p> <p>b. Playground Maintenance. Thank you to Cllrs Francis and Champ for organising the bark spreading. Cllr Beddow mentioned after a recent inspection one of the benches was missing a few panels exposing metal, Cllr Beddow volunteered to repair and replace. Cllr Champ mentioned a few shackles on the bridge to the slide are wearing out, these will need to be kept an eye on and will need replacing in the near future.</p> <p>c. Snells Walkway. Replacement of treads and beams – proposal for £1000 expenditure to cover 2 bays for repair. Cllr Pappenheim mentioned the cost of the full repair is around £12,000, at the moment we need to make a start on the repairs. Cllr Pappenheim has suggested we spend £1000 on repairing 2 sections/bays. Proposed Cllr Pappenheim. Seconded Cllr Atkinson. RESOLVED</p> <p>d. Grounds Maintenance. None</p>	CLERK MF CP HD
28/24	ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY Nothing to report.	
29/24	HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT Cllr Beddow to check back on minutes of recent Highways meeting	MB
30/24	HARWELL LIAISON AND HARWELL CAMPUS	

	Cllr Sharp mentioned that had been no recent meeting of the Liaison committee. . Met with new Director, and as Deputy Chairman Cllr Sharp was invited to the 10 th Anniversary of SOFEA which runs the Community Larder system and has a keen focus on education for children with special educational needs.	JVS
31/24	SPORTS CLUB Meeting to be arranged to discuss pre-application. Clerk to email Sports Club to arrange a meeting within the next 2-3 weeks. Cllr Pappenheim suggested the pre-application documents are sent across to us before the meeting. Clerk to request Lease to be circulated to all councillors in the meantime.	CLERK
32/24	GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE Cllr Sharp mentioned the current contracts we have which need to be gone through. Clerk and Finance officer to work on these and identify any out of date.	CLERK/JE
33/24	ANY OTHER BUSINESS Cllr Stocks has been approached by multiple villagers regarding potholes. Cllr Pappenheim recommended they report on Fix My Street and contact Sarah James if there is a particular need to follow up any reports.	
34/24	PLAYGROUND INSPECTIONS a) January – Cllrs Champ and Beddow b) February – Cllrs Beddow and Pappenheim	JC/MB MB/CP
35/24	DATE OF NEXT MEETING Thursday 1 st February 2024	

The meeting closed at 21:45.