

Iwerne Minster Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting at the Abingdon Hall on the 12th of February 2024 at 7pm

Present: Cllr P Le Prevost – Chairman, Cllr J Goodliffe, Cllr S Trim, Cllr A Thomas, Cllr H Marsh and Cllr K Skinner

In attendance: Mrs N Phillips – Clerk to the Council – Dorset Councillor Jane Somper. There were 3 members of the public present.

Public Consultation: there were none.

23/65. To receive and accept apologies of absence.

Cllr K O'Connor – Vice Chairman

23/66. Declaration of interest and dispensations.

There were none.

23/67. Approve minutes from the meeting dated the 11th of December 2023

The minutes were proposed by Cllr J Goodliffe and seconded by Cllr S Trim and all Councillors agreed that the minutes were then a true and accurate record of the meeting; the Chairman duly signed these.

RESOLVED: to approve the minutes dated 11th of December 2023 (23/67, no budgetary provision required)

- **Play Area update** – Cllr K O'Connor sent a message that the cogs are working in the background and is back in touch with the playground designers to start re-addressing new designs that suit information found in the questionnaires. Cllr K O'Connor will do a detailed low down and circulate in the near future to one and all.
- **Bench update** – Cllr A Thomas reported that the base has been put down and has been left for the concrete to set before installing the bench. The total donations to date for the bench from local residents are for the sum of £575.00 and the total cost for the base and supplying the bench is for the sum of £1090.00 (plus vat). The Parish Council have already allocated the additional funds for village furniture. After debate Cllr J Goodliffe agreed to fix the bench when it arrives and liaise with the Clerk to arrange delivery on a suitable date the week before Easter. The other bench will be repaired in the spring. Necessary paper work with the Ranston Estate is signed but needs the Estate to complete and set what it deems as a "peppercorn rate".
- **Grit bin and notice board for Oakwood Drive update** – The Parish Council agreed to now investigate costs to supply and install a notice board and a small grit bin for Oakwood Drive. **Action - Clerk**

23/68. To consider planning application received.

There were no planning applications to consider but Cllr Trim tabled the following Tree Applications:

- **P/TRT/2023/06456 School Garden Tower Hill** - T1 - Walnut - Reduce branches on east and south-east side overhanging neighbouring garden, garage and shed by no more than 3m, to reduce the overhanging into the garden, and is now over the roof of the garage and woodshed. Tree Works TPO Split: Refuse T1 Walnut, Grant Crown lift secondary and tertiary Laterals.
- **P/TRT/2023/06384 Clayesmore School, The Lodge** T1 - Lawson Cypress - Remove tree as it is too close to one of the buildings as pictured. T2 - Sycamore - Remove tree due to multi stem and therefore prone to snap and lots of epicormic shoots. Tree Works - TPO – Consent
- **P/TRC/2024/00453 Copse House Post Office Road** T1 - Ash - Fell or pollard to a 10-12 foot from ground as tree is very large for size of area and a BT line running beside the tree. Tree is growing towards dwelling opposite and is starting to drop branches. Iwerne Minster Parish Council has been consulted on the felling of this tree. The tree contributes to the local amenity, it was proposed not to support the felling but suggest the pollarding which has been highlighted as an alternative by the applicant.
- **P/TRT/2024/00535 Clayesmore School Blandford Road** Multi-stemmed Cypresses x 12 - Remove as they are overgrown hedging that have got out of control. Iwerne Minster Parish Council has been consulted on this removal; It was proposed we support this application.

- A new application has just been received. - **P/TRC/2024/00752 Blenheim House, Post Office Road – T1 – Willow – Reduce Crown.**

23/69. To receive Dorset Council's Unitary Councillor's report.

The full report can be found on the Parish Council website. The following are bullet points from the report.

- **Revenue Support Fund** - Dorset Council Organisational Revenue Support Fund for Culture has awarded £486,000 to 28 organisations over the next three years. This funding has been spread across the Dorset Council area to ensure residents and communities have cultural benefit around the county. Here is a link to see what organisations have received this funding. <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/your-community/support-for-voluntary-and-community-organisations/funding/awards-of-the-organisational-revenue-support-fund>
- **Winter Grit funding** – Cllr J Somper and the highways team in this area have been responding to calls for advice and assistance during recent weeks on flooding and icy roads.
- **Community Asset Transfer** - Dorset Council's Community Asset Transfer Policy is being presented to Overview Committee and seeks to recognise and maximise the benefit of devolution of assets to local communities, particularly to Town and Parish Councils. This policy supports the delivery of this devolution by providing clear guidance and support for applicants. (Expression of Interest (EOI) and Business Case), to allow applicants to assess against a set of pre-set criteria if an asset is potentially suitable for Community Asset
- **Transport Survey** - Residents, businesses and visitors are being invited to share their views on what they consider to be the big transport opportunities and issues across the whole of Dorset. Link to survey <https://consultation.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/transport-policy/ltp-dc-bcp/consultation/subpage.2023-11-27.2266907995/> **Cllr Somper was keen for this to be promoted to the village as a whole.**
- **Grants For Community Tree Planting** - A new grant scheme aimed at supporting local communities to plant and care for trees in their area is now open for applications. More information is available from the following link: <https://dorset-nl.org.uk/resource/dorset-community-tree-fund/>
- **Reporting Any Highways Related Problem** - Highways problems can be reported on the following link: <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/roads-highways-maintenance/report-a-problem-on-the-road-or-pavement>
- **Information on the Air Show at Compton Abbas Airfield – 10th and 11th of August 2024** – Cllr J Somper is working with all Parishes that could be affected by the Airfield show in August and with the necessary authorities to try and ensure that everything that can be done to lessen the impact on the villages are in place. More information will be released nearer the event date.

Cllr J Somper's contact details are as follows [-CllrJane.Somper@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:CllrJane.Somper@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk)

23/70 Chairman's report

Nothing to report.

23/71. Accounts

To acknowledge the payment schedule for December 2023 that had been circulated and agreed via email to pay, and January 2024, both listed below.

Payee	Detail	Expense Amount	Receipt Amount
N Phillips	Clerks wages Dec	588.93	
HMRC	Paye/NI	147.00	
Nest	Clerks pension	45.71	
N Phillips	Clerks expenses Dec	78.28	
Donation for Bench	Donation for bench		200.00
Donation for Bench	Donation for bench		80.00
T Signs	Signs for rec and play area	126.00	
Abingdon Hall	Hall Hire Dec	20.00	
Total for December		£ 1,005.92	

Payee	Detail	Expense Amount	Receipt Amount
N Phillips DD	Clerk wages	£ 548.93	
British Telecom	Phone and broadband annual	£ 241.97	
Donation for Bench	Donation for bench		£ 50.00
Donation for Bench	Donation for bench		£ 75.00
HMRC DD	Paye/NI	£ 147.00	
Nest pension DD	Pension for Dec	£ 85.71	
Parish Magazine Printing	Unpaid inv 8208 8213 10010	£ 227.00	
Iwerne Valley Maintenance	Grass cutting Jan feb march 24	£ 629.85	
Radley Fencing & Landscape	Concrete for bench	£ 696.00	
N Phillips	Clerks expenses	£ 78.24	
Viking Direct	Stationery	£ 198.06	
Cllr H Overton	Emergency Plan	£ 56.04	
Peter Robinson	Repairs to xmas lights	£ 31.76	
Abingdon Hall	Donation towards elect xmas	£ 15.00	
Total for January		£ 2,955.56	

To approve the Clerks, pay rise for 2024-2025 – The Chairman had circulated the Clerks proposed pay rise, under the guide of NALC wage scales for 2024-2025. It was agreed to award the Clerk a Point increase from 30 to 31 plus the annual NALC pay scale increase for the year. This was proposed by the Chairman and seconded by Cllr J Goodliffe all in favour.

RESOLVED: to ratify the payments for December 2023 and agree the payments for January 2024 and award the Clerk a pay increase from scale 30 to 31 for 2024-2025 (23/71 Current Account – Clerks wages)

To consider grants and donations for 2023-2024

The Clerk had not received any grant applications for 2023-2024.

After debate it was agreed to allocate £100.00 towards the cost for the Emergency Plan to supply radios, holders, etc. to be used for emergencies and other village events. It was also agreed to donate funds towards the pop-up event that Cllr S Trim is organising again for the village in 2024. The amount will be agreed at a later date once costs have been finalised.

23/72. Officers' reports:

- **Governance & IT: Cllr S Trim reported the following:** – Cllr S Trim had a very interesting telephone conversation with Lyndsey Trinder from Digital Dorset. She is interested in attending a Pop-Up event in the village to promote Digital Dorset. The Village WhatsApp Community was discussed, and Lyndsey said she would contact the volunteers to see if there are any with expert knowledge of WhatsApp who might be prepared to either attend a Pop Up or perhaps a coffee morning in the village to help train people to use WhatsApp. They cannot offer one to one training in people's homes but may be willing to attend an event to train a number of people at the same time on digital technology. Lyndsey has also invited Cllr Trim to attend a BT and Openreach Webinar to discuss Digital Voice at the end of February, Cllr Trim has already attended events, but we are learning more all the time, so she has accepted the invitation. Cllr S Trim has received good responses from organisations to attend the Pop-Up event. It was reported that Clayesmore School are looking at ways in which villagers can use the sports centre again. To this purpose they are circulating a questionnaire to as many people in the village, which is being helped by the village networks. Cllr S Trim reported that she has received a phone call from a resident who has not been able to open the questionnaire, via WhatsApp. Cllr S Trim will help the resident with its completion if they ask. It is highly recommended that local residents complete the questionnaire, which may help provide access to the leisure centre facilities again. Cllr J Somper reminded people why the use of the leisure centre was removed for the public, due to the safeguarding of the pupils.
- **Emergency Planning: Cllr P Le Prevost reported the following:** – The open meeting for the emergency plan at the Church was very well attended. Cllr J Somper stated that she felt that the Emergency Planning Team had done an outstanding job involving the residents and producing a plan.
- **Highways: Cllr J Goodliffe reported the following:** – Water seeping onto Watery Lane: At least two reports to Highways have been made so far, 1226855 and 1235466, but other than putting a couple of cones and a warning sign there nothing has happened. Ice on Watery Lane and Old School Lane: Severe icing on both, on Watery Lane due to seepage, see above, on Old School Lane coming from the gardens on the east side. He spread grit on both, but because ground water kept flowing, a new layer of ice formed overnight.

Thick in places, 1.0 cm after the third night. Yesterday a number (7+) black bin liners full of what looked like litter-pick rubbish, were left along the length of Tower Hill and one on the road down to Stubhampton. The black bags were on the road and could easily be hit by a vehicle, spilling the rubbish. These had now been cleared.

Hedges along the south end of the A350 have all now been cut back. Some not enough, there are still sections where you would not be able to get a buggy or invalid carriage past, but it is a start (a metre is the minimum width). Next year this needs to be monitored.

The path on the west side of the A350 opposite The Talbot has been cleared. Unfortunately, a bit carelessly, just swept into the gutter where the leaves will block the drains. Cllr J Goodliffe will ask Claysmore School to be more careful where they blow the leaves.

- The Clerk will chase Dorset Council waste department officers regarding replacement bins.
- **Footpaths and Rights of Way - Cllr A Thomas reported the following:** – Many of footpaths inevitably very muddy and several incidents of fallen trees. N65/21 fallen tree to top of Preston Hill rectified by Ranston estates. To Cllr A Thomas' knowledge there have been no further incidents of barbed wire being thrown across the footpath though the previous stated intention by Ranston to install a 5-bar gate to eliminate future incidents has not been enacted. Cllr A Thomas will check whether this is still required. N65/16 Large Mass Bramble blown off fence - reported to Iwerne estate. This was cleared by local resident, thank you to the resident that was kind enough to clear the area.
- **Recreation:** – New dog signs have arrived and are being dealt with by Cllr. K. O'Connor.
- **Environment and Community Resilience: Cllr J Goodliffe reported the following:** There are now 17 dwellings in the village where voltaic panels are installed, an increase of 4 since the last count. This does not include the large arrays on Claysmore buildings.
- Cllr J Goodliffe has received an enquiry from Shroton PC about the state of the river, to which Cllr J Goodliffe has responded and copied to the Environment Agency. The EA have responded asking for a precise location of concern. It was agreed for Cllr J Goodliffe to request that three areas along the water courses are checked.

Other Organisations/Groups:

- **Speed Watch:** nothing to report.
- **Neighbourhood Watch: Cllr S Trim reported the following:** – Cllr S Trim had a very interesting meeting with Clare Jennings, the Dorset Council Community Resilience Liaison Officer, during the meeting she mentioned she attends events to promote Emergency Planning and Cllr S Trim explained the pop-up event held last year. Clare has given Cllr S Trim a number of organisations she thought would be interested in attending such an event.
- **Abingdon Hall:** Are still working on obtaining funds for the roof repairs. The Clerk will forward information about a grant for repairs to village/community halls. **Action - Clerk**
- **Village Defibrillator** – nothing to report.
- **DAPTC** – any information received is circulated by the Clerk.

23/73. Clerk Report – had circulated the information and forms to the Councillors for the local elections to be held in May. If anyone is interested in becoming a Councillor, the Clerk is happy to forward details.

23/74. To consider any other matters arising from recent correspondence – Nothing further reported

23/75. Items for next agenda – Elections – Annual Parish Meeting

FUTURE MEETINGS

The next Parish Council and Annual Parish Meeting will be held on **Monday 8th April 2024**
at 6.30pm, at Abingdon Hall, Iwerne Minster

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.10pm.

Signed by the Chairman

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Iwerne Minster Parish Council website <http://www.iwerneminsterparishcouncil.gov.uk>

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