

**Minutes of Wokefield Parish Council Quarterly Meeting
29th January 2025 held at Burghfield Community Sports Association**

	<p>trimming had been undertaken. The complaint was still that sight lines were compromised because the hedges were too far out into the road in places. It was also noted that in a couple of places road signs were not able to be seen because of this. JT would contact AWE about their roadside hedges. CF would continue submitting notices.</p> <p><u>4d Matters Arising from 11 November 2023</u></p> <p>9 - Notice Boards - SF had obtained a couple of quotes for noticeboards similar to previous types, but now approximately £6k each. CF had obtained a price of around £1300 + VAT (not wood). One side lockable, one side a pin board. RT proposed purchasing 3 as would be long lasting. Need to obtain quote for erecting and disposal of those which are broken. It was agreed to purchase, using some of reserves if necessary as would enable residents to post notices as well.</p> <p>11 - Any Other Business - Pitchkettle Farm - CF reported that the appeal had been refused. Cllr NC had since e-mailed with some questions. JT to respond to e-mail.</p> <p><u>4e Matters Arising from 13th August 2024</u></p> <p>9 - Screening Solar Farm & Bloomfield Hatch solar farm - JT informed the committee that he still had had no response to his request for an update and corrections to inaccuracies regarding route for solar energy from Bloomfield Hatch to grid. He had now also written to District Councillors and awaited their response. RT suggested new Labour MP be appraised of situation as no solar planning seemed complete.</p> <p><u>4e Matters Arising from 9th October 2024</u></p> <p>6.2 Authorisation of future payments - SF had requested an invoice for the library service but not seen as yet so had not made payment as yet. SF to chase.</p>	<p>JT/CF SF</p> <p>CF/SF</p> <p>JT</p> <p>SF</p>
5	<p><u>District Councillors' Reports</u></p> <p>No further reports had been seen. As soon as received would be published on website.</p>	
6	<p><u>Review Standing Orders</u></p> <p>SF highlighted changes made to the standing orders following the introduction of the Procurement Act 2023 which was coming into effect from February 2025. A change had also been made to reflect that correspondence should no longer be sent, nor was sent, to Councillors via post but was sent by e-mail. The amendments were agreed and adopted.</p>	
7	<p><u>Financial Matters</u></p>	

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	<p>7.1 Balance remained at £12,041.12. No payments or receipts had been made since the last meeting. £3,582.74 of this was CIL money with restrictions attached.</p> <p>7.2 Authorisation for future payments This remained the payment for library services once invoice received and Clerk fees once PAYE set up.</p>	SF
8	<p><u>Precept for 2025/26</u> SF submitted expenses for current year and reserves that were being kept. It was agreed that a small figure should be retained for work on the website and this would be included within the reserves as they were mindful of the potential liability from this.</p> <p>RT proposed it remained at £1750 as the previous 2 years. All agreed.</p>	
9	<p><u>Any Other Business</u> Hedges - RT raised the possibility of using some reserves in areas where a flail hedgetrimmer was not going to be of any use. JT advised he had received an e-mail from Paul Hendry of District Council that Parish Councils should be inspecting and managing the health of trees they had responsibility for. Surveys needed to be by competent individuals. It still had never been determined as to whether WPC owned any, and JT was again going to seek guidance on this.</p> <p>Verges - RT noted that further to the hedges, various verges were also overgrown reducing visibility for road users. Within the letter JT wrote concerning hedges/trees he would also ask Council's responsibilities relating to verges.</p> <p>Planning Application - JT advised that VP had asked for 24/01557/FUL at James Farm to be called in.</p> <p>CF asked that Planning Applications be a set item agenda in future.</p> <p>Screening for Potential Solar Application The meeting in November had been cancelled. CF would write and request an update rather than rearranging the meeting.</p>	<p>JT</p> <p>JT</p> <p>SF</p>
9	<p><u>Date of Next Meetings</u> 14th May 2025 @ 7pm</p>	
	<p><u>Meeting Declared Closed</u> Time: 21.07</p>	

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(Prepared by: SF on 28 February 2025)