

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting of Bitton Parish Council held on Tuesday 10 October 2023 at 7.30pm at the Community and Youth Building, Rear of Redfield Edge School.

PRESENT: Councillors: P Collins, L Efthymiou, S Hawking, V McNab, St Nash, Su Nash, S Rickerby, A Thomas, N Watson

Officer : Mrs K Fry – Clerk

The Chair outlined the procedures for exit from the building in the event of an emergency.

128/23. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Cole, Friend, Hardman, Scudamore and Williams. These were accepted.

129/23. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 12 September 2023 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

130/23. PLANNING COMMITTEE

The minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 2 October 2023 were presented.

RESOLVED that the minutes be received as presented.

131/23. ENVIRONMENT AND LEISURE COMMITTEE

The minutes of the Environment and Leisure Committee meeting held on 19 September 2023 were presented.

RESOLVED that the minutes be received as presented.

132/23. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

The Clerk circulated a quote received from Beaver Electrical to put the external lamp post at the Community Building on a separate timer. This is currently switched off due to costs but leaves the footpath vulnerable on dark nights for users of the building.

RESOLVED to accept the quote of £784.22 plus VAT and the Clerk to arrange for the works to be carried out as soon as possible.

The Clerk reported that a meeting has been arranged with herself and several local Clerks together with Mark Pullin of South Gloucestershire Council to discuss our current issues and concerns. The Clerk has held off writing to Dave Perry until after this meeting takes place.

133/23. REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES AT OTHER MEETINGS

Councillor Hawking reported that she had attended the recent Freres Almshouse meeting. There were still concerns over asbestos and an overhanging tree causing subsidence. She reported that several residents will be updating the resident's handbook. This was last updated in 2002.

Councillor Watson reported on the meeting that he had attended with neighbouring parishes on the WestLocal Idea. Minutes from the meeting had been circulated and Councillor Watson expanded on the actions members of the working group are undertaking. The main objective is to provide a steady service from Warmley to Keynsham.

134/23. CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk reported that budget preparations are underway and a meeting with the Finance Committee has been arranged for Thursday 2 November 2023.

The Clerk reported that the bus shelter on Barry Road had been hit and was not repairable. It has been removed for safety reasons. She will contact the insurance company and arrange for quotes for replacement shelters.

The Clerk reported that screws had been removed from the multi-gym at Redfield Hill Playpark. It was unsure whether this was out of spite or an opportunity to obtain scrap metal. Replacement screws have been ordered and the park will remain closed in the meantime.

The Clerk reported that the ceiling repairs will be carried out at the building between Wednesday 25th October and Friday 27th October inclusive.

The Clerk notified the Council of her holiday dates.

135/23. GRIEVANCE POLICY

The Grievance Policy was circulated for review following Councillor Hardmans amendments.

RESOLVED to adopt the policy and the Clerk to update the website.

136/23. COMMUNITY BUILDING

Following the resignation of the Caretaker the Clerk notified the Council that she had employed an external cleaning company to clean the building 3 times a week. This leaves the unlocks and locks for parties on weekends needing covering.

RESOLVED to include this as an agenda item for November when more Councillors are in attendance. Councillors are in the meantime asked to think of options moving forward.

137/23. THE LATE JOHN MARTYN MAY

Following the donation received from The Late John Martyn May, Councillors were asked to consider ways on how this can be spent to benefit the residents of Oldland Common.

RESOLVED to place the £1,000 in earmarked reserves and install a bench in the new grounds of the Chief Trading Post.

138/23. ALLOTMENT RENTS

RESOLVED from January 2025 allotment rents will increase to £25 for a Full Plot and £20 for half a plot. The Clerk to arrange for this to be included in the renewal letters.

139/23. TO ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF THE 2ND HALF YEARLY PRECEPT PAYMENT

This was noted.

140/23. TO RECEIVE A REPORT ON THE COUNCIL'S FINANCES FOR THE PERIOD 1.4.23 TO 30.09.23.

The Clerk circulated a financial report for the period 1.4.23 – 30.6.23. This was noted.

141/23. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

The Clerk submitted a schedule of accounts for payment and authorisation.

RESOLVED that the accounts listed be settled and the schedule signed by the Chair with the addition of the following:-

D & M Property Maintenance	£450.00
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The meeting ended at 20.15pm

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Chair