

**Minutes of Parish Council meeting held on Monday 13th
May 2024**

Councillors Present: Cllrs R Scott (Chair), R Wuczke, P Edwards, Mike Richards, Melanie Richards & R Alexander.

Clerk: C Underhay

22: To receive apologies for absence:

All councillors were present

23: Declarations of Interest:

No Declarations of Interest were received.

**24: Approval of Minutes of the meeting held on 15th April
2024:**

It was proposed by Cllr Edwards & seconded by the Chair that the Minutes of the Meeting's held on 15th April 2024 were approved as a correct record. This was then resolved by all Councillors.

25: CBC Cllr Mark Versallion Report:

Cllr Versallion was not present at the meeting.

26: Public Forum:

No matters were brought to the Council's attention.

**27: Matters arising from the Minutes not dealt with
elsewhere on the agenda:**

None.

28: Planning – Applications received:

The Chair advised that no planning applications had been received.

29: Cemetery Matters:

Cllr Edwards reported on following:

“Letters to loved ones” – installation instructed - the work is to be carried out by a trusted contractor – no other quotes required.

New bench – 3 quotes presented for consideration –

Schoolfurniture-direct (memorial bench) - £493.88 inc vat

CostcuttersUK – plastic outdoor bench - £436.21 inc vat

Schoolfurniture-direct (Witton Memorial Bench) - £561.43

After conversation, the Councillors, it was proposed by Cllr Edwards and seconded by the Chair that the Witton Memorial Bench was chosen. This was based on the quality and reviews. This was then resolved by all Councillors.

The “spoils” are still being considered, as it was felt it may mainly be weeds (but we cannot see exactly what the situation is as the weeds are so high). Cllr Edwards to arrange weedkiller and then to reconsider.

30: Finance:

The Chair asked the Clerk to speak.

1. To authorise accounts for payment:

It was resolved that the following amounts could be paid:

Cheque	To	Amount	For
2116	Destroyed		
2117	C Underhay	£308.90	Salary
2118	HMRC	£215.60	Clerk tax
2119	P Edwards	£592.96	New cemetery bench
2120	Fenland Leisure	£2106.48	Park swings
2121	Goldleaf	£655.14	May Maintenance

A standing order for £26 was paid to C Underhay on 1st April 2024 for working at home allowance. A direct debit for £10.25 was paid to Clear Methods on 18th April 2024 for payroll administration. A credit of £46.50 was received on 30th April 2024 in respect of interest. The Precept amount of £23,004 was received on 8th April 2024.

Payment of all the above was proposed by the Chair, seconded by Cllr Wuczke, and then resolved by all Councillors.

2. Account Balances & Budget. To review summary of spend against budget:

Bank account balances as at 30th April 2024 – current account £27,992.20 and savings account £35,518.14. Spending against budget comes to £2702 This represents 9% of the full year budget to 31st March 2025, with 8% of the year gone.

31: A5:

The Chair advised that a further meeting with Balfour Beatty has been arranged (re M1 closures)– he will report further at next month's meeting.

Cllr Alexander noted that the new road constructed off the A5 to the new Tilsworth wind farm construction site could cause issues on a busy stretch of the A5 (it is located virtually opposite the Toddington turn) – the Chair noted that this was subject to a planning application some years ago that was passed. The Chair advised that he would contact the Clerk at Chalgrave Parish to see what their thoughts were. Perhaps some signs saying "lorries turning" may help. The Chair will discuss when he next talks to A5 management team.

32: Notice Boards:

The Clerk presented various quotes – one Company stood out (GeViews) where a large Notice Board comes to £1037. The Clerk was authorised to obtain a “mock up” of a Notice Board with our Parish name on for consideration.

33: Village Hall:

Nothing to report.

34: Handyman:

CLlr Alexander advised that he has the following tasks to undertake

- Refurbish Hockley Court Notice board and move it to the bus stop
- Build the bench in the park
- Move the existing bench in the park to a better location

35: Development of HAS26:

The Chair noted he has included this as a standing item – nothing to report at this meeting

36: The Park:

1. Swings:

The Clerk reported that this work has now been completed.

2. Tarmac at the park:

The Chair asked the Clerk to go forward and obtain three quotes for the tarmac “topcoat.”

CLlr Edwards also advised that he has written 6 times this year to CBC re the land adjacent to the park (to the right as you enter the park). He said he will try once more, before approaching our MP.

37: Correspondence Received (for information only):

The Chair noted a letter had been posted directly to him from a resident regarding the land adjacent to the A5 and school (HAS26). This was in the form of a Freedom of Information Act request; to supply any information we have about development of that land. It was noted that the Parish Council are not privy to any information – and do not even know if the land has been sold to a potential developer. No Planning Applications have been received. We were approached late last year from a potential developer who wanted to meet the Parish Council in a “closed” environment – the Parish Council declined this request as our meetings need to be transparent and observable. The Clerk (as the Councils responsible Officer) will respond to the resident.

38: Items for inclusion in the next agenda:

Finance Policy

The meeting closed at 8pm

Colin Underhay – Clerk – 18th May 2024

Signed as a true copy..... (R Scott - Chair) 10th June 2024