

**Whitchurch Parish Council**  
**Clerk to the Council – Mrs Ann-Marie Davies**

**Minutes of the meeting of Whitchurch Parish Council on Tuesday 8 December 2015 in the Methodist Church, at 7.30pm**

**Present: -** Chairman Ashley Bond (arrived late as he had a prior engagement)  
Vice Chairman Paul Foot  
Councillor Charlotte Lincoln  
Councillor Sue Ford  
Councillor Paul Alderman  
Councillor Mark Parrott

Plus 2 residents

- 1. To note apologies for absence:** to accept apologies for absence – Apologies were received from Councillor David Meakin and District Councillor Netta Glover.
- 2. To receive a presentation from Community Impact Bucks –** Ali Curson attended from Community Impact Bucks (CIB). She apologised for the previous lack of response from CIB and proceeded to give a very informative presentation to the group. CIB is an independent charity which relies on support from organisations such as Parish Councils. Whitchurch PC currently pays £50 per annum and that allows us access to services such as:- telephone support, information and guidance on policy and procedures linked to our community buildings, access to the rural community buildings loan fund, a quarterly newsletter, networking events, energy efficiency audits, discount for use of the i-van, Aon insurance and online booking system Hallmaster. For an additional fee CIB can also help and advise how to set up a Community Transport Scheme and a Neighbourhood Plan. Ali signposted the group to her colleague Jean Fox who could advise further on the Neighbourhood Plan and also the Rural Exception Schemes. The Clerk was asked to invite Jean to a future meeting. **ACTION: AMD**

Ali also confirmed that she could assist the Parish Council in putting a welcome pack together for new residents into the village. She would liaise with the Clerk on this issue.

- 3. Open Forum for Parishioners:** (under adjournment) – Chairman Ashley Bond at this point took over the Chair from Vice Chairman Paul Foot who had stood in until his arrival. A resident reiterated his earlier plea via email to Councillors for maps of the village and also any copies of DVDs which related to the village. Through his website he had received enquiries from people researching ancestors. The Clerk agreed to look through cabinets she held to see if any maps or DVDs were stored. **ACTION: AMD**  
He also asked about the Worldwide Whitchurch Weekend (WWW) planned for 2017. He was advised that this would be discussed alongside objectives for the Parish Council, early in the New Year – meeting date to be arranged. It was suggested that the WWW may be better deal with by the WCCA.  
The resident also urged the group to report highways faults direct to the TFB website where the reporting tool was very easy to use and also informative. Go to [transportforbucks.net](http://transportforbucks.net)  
Another resident referred to the tree donated by the WWW team and asked if a ceremony would be planned for the planting of the tree and to maybe involve local children. The Chairman replied that at this stage only the siting of the tree had been arranged but would keep her comments in mind for the planting.  
A discussion arose over demographic data relating to Whitchurch. The Clerk was asked to try and source information. **ACTION: AMD**

**Whitchurch Parish Council**  
**Clerk to the Council – Mrs Ann-Marie Davies**

It was thought that Oving PC may be installing a skate ramp in their village. The Chairman would liaise with the Oving Clerk to ascertain whether this was accurate information. **ACTION: AB**

4. **Declaration of interest in items on the agenda:** to declare any interests – The Chairman declared his interest as Members of the AVDC Strategic Development Control Group and also the Development Management Committee. Councillor Alderman also declared an interest in the discussion over future meetings in the Church Hall as he had an interest in the venue currently used by the Parish Council.
5. **To confirm the minutes of the meeting of 10 November 2015** – the minutes were agreed and signed as a correct record.
6. **To update on matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting and agree any further actions required.**

Councillor Foot agreed to take a look at the zip wire as there appeared to still be an issue with the seat hitting the side parts. It was agreed that if ROSPA had not highlighted it as an issue, it would be left alone. **ACTION: PF**

The Clerk reported that she had been unable to speak with the Team Leader of the Community Payback team but she would continue to chase. **ACTION: AMD**

New chippings for the Recreation Ground would also be left till the spring to order.

7. **Planning:** To discuss planning applications and make recommendation, and to include those planning applications received after this agenda is published, if urgent:

**15/03969/AOP – Land adjacent to Bushmead Road, Whitchurch** – outline application with all matters reserved for a residential development of 14 dwellings and formation of new access – Council resolved to **OBJECT** to this planning application. A statement of reasons is being prepared by Councillors.

**15/03971/AOP - Land adjacent to Bushmead Road, Whitchurch** – outline application with all matters reserved for a residential development of 13 dwellings and formation of new access – Council resolved to **OBJECT** to this planning application. A statement of reasons is being prepared by Councillors.

**15/04014/APP - Land adjacent to Orchard Barn, Bushmead Road, Whitchurch** – erection of one detached dwelling – Council resolved that it had **NO OBJECTIONS** to this planning application. The Clerk was asked to advise AVDC of all three decisions once information was available. **ACTION: AMD**

8. **Finance:**

- a. To draw cheques

The Council resolved to draw the following cheques:

H Moore	chq 505	£9.07
Ann-Marie Davies	chq 506	£413.61
D P Alderman	chq 507	£30.00
SLCC	chq 508	£103.00

**Whitchurch Parish Council**  
**Clerk to the Council – Mrs Ann-Marie Davies**

- b. To agree accounts for October 2015 – The accounts for October were agreed as a correct record.
- c. To decide whether to make a donation to the Buckingham Winslow & District CAB – After discussion Councillors decided not to contribute to this service on this occasion.
- d. To decide whether to raise the parish precept for 2016/17 – Councillors had a lengthy discussion over this subject. It was recognised that whilst the Parish accounts were healthy, Councillors had to keep in mind the pressure to take on the devolved grass cutting service from Bucks County Council which would have an impact on Parish Council budgets having to absorb part of the costs, and also Councillors were presently exploring whether to go down the route of writing a Neighbourhood Plan – this could involve up to £10,000 in costs to the Parish Council. With this in mind, and as there had been no increase in precept last year, Councillors voted to marginally increase the precept from £50.49 to £51.80 per household per annum. This would provide the Parish Council with just under a thousand pounds extra.
- e. To consider the Clerks annual subscription to the Society of Local Council Clerks (costs to be shared with Hardwick PC) – The Clerk advised the group that Hardwick would pay half towards this subscription and Councillors voted to share the cost. A cheque was raised to the SLCC – see point 8a for details.
- f. To decide whether to fund a Play around the Park session in 2016 – The Clerk advised that there had been a steep rise from £260 to £310 for this two hour session managed by AVDC. She also advised that only 30 children had attended in 2015. Councillors voted to not support a Play in the Park session for 2016. The Clerk was asked to advise AVDC.

**ACTION: AMD**

**9. Highways, Footpaths & Footways, Street Lighting:**

- a. To discuss the state of repair of the Sandpath – Councillor Ford and Councillor Foot reported that the Sandpath was now in a very bad state of disrepair and pedestrians were forced to walk in the road.

There was also a large pothole in the second and third Ashgrove Garden roads which had also been the cause of an accident to a local resident.

The Clerk was also asked to speak to the Local Area Technician (LAT) about the parked car at Post Office Lane and if he had taken steps to request its removal.

The Clerk was asked to advise the LAT on all three of these issues.

**ACTION: AMD**

Mud on paths at Ashgrove Gardens was also an issue as residents were mounting kerbs and driving across muddy verges to access their drives. The Clerk was asked to advise the Vale of Aylesbury Housing Trust of this situation.

**ACTION: AMD**

The Clerk was asked to report streetlights out by The White Swan public house on the right hand side as you drive towards Aylesbury and also to report that a light was on constantly at the end of Bushmead Road on the right hand side.

**ACTION: AMD**

The Clerk and Chairman would liaise regarding lights still out by Two Hoots.

**Whitchurch Parish Council**  
**Clerk to the Council – Mrs Ann-Marie Davies**

**ACTION: AMD/AB**

- b. To update on the Transportation Devolution event held – Unfortunately Councillor Foot had been unable to attend therefore there was no update given.

**10. Recreation Ground – Nothing to report.**

**11. To consider correspondence and other communications received since last meeting:**

- a. To consider whether to commission a Neighbourhood Plan – At the meeting the Chairman suggested a representative from Oving PC may be the right candidate to come and speak to the Parish Council about Neighbourhood Plans. Following the meeting it has been decided that the representative from Community Impact Bucks would be best placed. The Clerk will contact Jean Fox from CIB.  
**ACTION: AMD**

- b. To consider the option of using the new Church Hall for 2016 meetings – The new Church Hall was £8 an hour and no apparent restriction on the day of the meeting. The Clerk was asked to contact the new Church Hall administrator to see if the second Monday evening in the month was available for a two hour slot. If Councillor Meakin could also be available on Mondays the Clerk was asked to book.  
**ACTION: AMD**

The Clerk was also asked to write to the Methodist Church Hall administrator to thank him for all his help in allowing the Parish Council to use the current facilities, and sometimes at short notice.  
**ACTION: AMD**

The Clerk referred to an email previously circulated to Councillors which asked if dog bins in the Recreation Ground could be resited. Following enquiries to AVDC the Clerk reported that as no vehicular access was present at the lower end of the field, AVDC stated that this would not be practical. The Clerk was asked to respond to the resident.  
**ACTION: AMD**

Councillors discussed the feasibility study which had eventually, because of the Clerks constant approaches, finally been received from Transport for Buckinghamshire (TFB). Councillors aired their disappointment at the missed deadline (by over two months), lack of communication from TFB over a five month period, and also their belated advice which was to undertake a comprehensive parish consultation which was too late to complete in time to apply for the associated funding. Councillors asked the Clerk to contact TFB, copied to County Councillors, and state that they were only prepared to pay half of the expected £4800 fee as TFB did not fulfil their side of the agreement. **ACTION: AMD**

The Clerk had received details about a Cycle Race which was taking place on 26 June 2016 in two stages – 8.30-10.30am then 11.30-3.30pm. Councillors discussed this matter and asked the Clerk to contact the organiser to request that following safety concerns regarding traffic, would it be possible to leave the Marshalls in place to deal with any straggler cyclists.  
**ACTION: AMD**

**12. To agree the date of the next meeting – subject to confirmation from the new Church Hall, the date was agreed as Monday 11 January at 7.30pm.**

Signed:

Date

8 Station Road  
Stoke Mandeville  
Aylesbury  
Bucks HP22 5UL

[www.whitchurchpc.org](http://www.whitchurchpc.org)

[annmariedavies55@gmail.com](mailto:annmariedavies55@gmail.com)

01296 614274