



Minutes

Minutes of the Full Parish Council held on Monday 2nd December 2024 at 7.00pm at The Village Barn, Eastern Way, Heath & Reach

Signed – S D Grierson-Hill

12.24.0 INTRODUCTION:

- a) Meeting attendees: *Cllrs. Fitzpatrick (DF), Boyden (MB), Inns (AI), Bevan (JB), Reading (CR) & Gell (SG).*
- b) Apologies for absence: *Cllr. Smith.*
- c) Absentees: *None.*

12.24.1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: *Cllr. DF – item no: 12.24.6b) CB/24/03064/LB 3 Leighton Road – Installation of internal lift.*

12.24.2 APPROVAL OF PARISH COUNCIL/COMMITTEE MINUTES:

- a) Approval of full Parish Council minutes for November 2024 – Approved and signed by Cllr. Dawn Fitzpatrick.

12.24.3 PUBLIC FORUM – members of the public have a cumulative 15 minutes to address the Parish Council. No resolutions other than those on the agenda can be resolved from items raised in the public forum.

3 members of the Public (MOP) present.

MOP 1 – Concerned about the decline of ground in dog off lead area. He recently counted 41 holes 17 of these deeper than 2 ft. There is definitely Badger activity, but the damage is done mainly by dogs. Dog owners are standing by whilst their dogs dig.

DF asked Clerk to add to next agenda.

MOP 2 & 3 were present regarding item 12.24.7b) MOP 2 spoke about an email he had received from a group called HGVWatch. His first thought was that this was part of Speedwatch. He was not happy with receiving the email as it included false accusations of traffic offences and. After a conversation with MB and the Clerk week before meeting and again during the meeting MOP 2 was assured that HGVWatch is nothing to do with the PC. PC advised MOP 2 that should he continue to receive unwanted emails and feel harassed, he should contact Police for advice.

12.24.4 PARISH COUNCIL REPORTS:

- a) CBC Councillor Mark Versallion report:

i) CBC Budget – CBC have overspent in this financial year significantly and it will only get worse. Cllr.DF asked if there is a risk of CBC going bankrupt. MV responded with ‘not this year as Conservatives built £94,000,000 in reserves, half of this has been spent, reserves are down to £40+ million. 65% of council will go bankrupt in the next 4-5 years. Council tax will rise by 5%. Highways, buses, unblocking of drains and such like will be cut’.

ii) MV continues to lobby hard Gary Powell (CBC) regarding traffic calming. Ideas that MV has been given regarding possible CBC traffic calming ideas, and using PC money, would include: 30mph buffer zone on Brickhill Road, re-mark dragons’ teeth and all centre lines, ‘Welcome to Village’ signs, replace damage railing, corner of Birds Hill & Woburn Road, new bend in road sign, brick-based bollards.

Cllr. DF confirmed this is all a waste of money and will not help with the speeding. MV suggested the only help he could see is the pathway outside Red Lion Court to be extended, which would allow for parking but also make road narrower, however, due to finances this is a long way off of CBC carrying out this work.

MV to forward documents containing suggestions to Clerk and recommends that when



official document is received from CBC, PC refuse to accept it. Cllr. DF was adamant PC money would not be used for suggested items that will have no effect of traffic calming, and as MV had also said, the suggestions listed are the responsibility of CBC.

- b) Clerks report: Emailed to all members prior to meeting.*
- c) PCSO Apostolidis to attend meeting: Over the last 3 months Police records show 0 crime, 0 ASB and 12 traffic offences within Heath and Reach. Police are doing speedchecks but only work for limited period (as little as 5 minutes) due to google maps/Waze etc notifying drivers of Police presence. However, It will continue as it is seen as a deterrent whilst there but not a long term solution. MB thanked Police for attending.*

12.24.5 MATTERS ARISING (for info only):

- a) Wooden crosses for cremation area update: Clerk confirmed these have been received and will be situated in area D of Cemetery when tidy up of area is carried out. Clerk to liaise with Cllr.JB to arrange.*

12.24.6 Planning & Environment:

- a) CB/24/03161FULL 23 Woburn Road – Double storey side extension, single storey rear extension NO COMMENT.*
- b) CB/24/03064/LB 3 Leighton Road – Installation of internal lift – NO COMMENT.*
- c) CB/TCA/24/00558 - Work to three trees on Heath Green – crown lift and remove deadwood, remove long branch extensions – NO COMMENT.*
- d) CB/TCA/24/00572 – The Coach House, Leighton Road – Works to tree within conservation area. Remove down to ground level and replace with smaller native species tree – NO COMMENT.*

12.24.7 MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION & RESOLUTION (where possible)

- a) McAfee renewal – Virus protection for Clerks laptop is due to expire. Renewal price £109.99 – IT WAS AGREED.*
- b) HGV's – Discuss contact from HGV driver regarding an email titled 'HGV Watch'.*
- c) Setting up a CERT (Community Emergency Rescue Team) – Update on status of setting up CERT. – Clerk confirmed early stages of setting up the CERT is underway. Cllrs. CR, MB and clerk are current points of contact.*
- d) Purchase of further electronic SID signs – Following success of obtaining figures, PC to discuss the purchase of further equipment to use elsewhere in the Village. Item d & e combined. MB reported recent speedwatch figures showed 600 vehicles through Village with 7/8 cars travelling above 36mph. More volunteers have now joined speedwatch. Cllr. MB continues to forward SID's data to Mark Versallion & CBC. Jennifer Yeboah, Principle Highways Officer, Integrated Transport (CBC) contacted MB and held a TEAMS meeting with him. Although the meeting was short, 20 minutes, MB felt it was very positive. Firstly Jennifer gave a quick update on development with parking issues in Thrift Road. The possibility of double yellow lines along the park side of the road have now passed the first stage and are now with the Contractors for plans to be drawn up. The installation of double yellow lines would inhibit cars from parking on the grass verge. After looking at figures from the SID's Jennifer has confirmed data recording strips will go down in the first two weeks of January 2025. MB appreciated Jennifer asking for his advice on the position of the strips and these were agreed by The Axe & Compass & The Heath Inn. Once data has been collected and reviewed, Jennifer will then organise a site meeting with PC to consider possible options. MB invited MV to join site meeting, MV agreed to attend. MB asked if PC could use CBC posts around Village to position SID's on. Jennifer will take advice from Engineers to ensure the posts are strong enough, she has no objection if so.*



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MB to provide prices at Finance meeting for replacement SID.s equipment, purchase will take place if posts are suitable for use.

e) Speedwatch and traffic calming update: see item above (d)

f) Renewal of contracts for Bryants Lane car park & pavilion: *Clerk confirmed the contracts are now with Solicitors and are being scrutinised before forwarding for signing.*

12.24.8 FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION:

a) Treasurers: £ 5,761.31

32day notice account: £ 76,047.13

Savings: £ 380.46

Unity Bank £ 37,100.00

b) Payments:

Markland Gardens	£ 507.25
Reynold Landscapes	£ NIL
Sue Grierson-Hill	£ 1,002.02
HMRC	£ 57.74
Sue Grierson-Hill (expenses)	£ NIL
G I Rogers	£ 360.00

DD / SO:

Bri Gas (Clock tower)	£ 48.40
British Gas (Bryants Lane)	£ 206.52
Litter picker	£ 57.20
Anglian Water	£ 45.00
NEST Pension	£ 16.87
Waste Managed	£ 98.40

12.24.9 AOB/Items to go on next agenda.

None.

12.24.10 Date of next meeting:

6th January 2025

Meeting closed at: 7.41pm

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