

MIDGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

C/o 2 Old Orchard, Upper Woolhampton, RG7 5TE

Email: clerk@midghamparish.co.uk

Tel: 07896321058

MEETING MINUTES

This meeting was conducted strictly in accordance with Standing Orders as adopted by Council in May 2021. All Councillors are reminded to acquaint themselves with these Standing Orders.

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| Chair: Tony Markham | Clerk: Alice Owens |
| Councillors: Francis Long, Derek Lombardo | Members of Public: 2 |
| District Councillor: Graham Pask | Apologies: Anthony Fenn |

1. To receive apologies

Anthony Fenn

2. To receive any declarations of interest

There were none

3. To receive and approve the minutes of the meeting held on 23rd January 2023

Cllr Long felt the minutes were accurate but wanted to make it clear that he did not feel they could reflect the tone of the meeting. Cllr Long read from an article in The Sunday Times (26/3/23) detailing top tips for good chairmanship; this included the fact that tone should be inclusive, the Chair should speak last and that personal views should not lead the tone of the meeting; Cllr Long also pointed out that the article stated that a Chairperson should be a guiding hand. Cllr Long did not want this to be a personal comment on the PC Chairman but feels it is regrettable that the PC has lost a councillor and that councillors should not be driven away from a public service duty.

All councillors agreed that the minutes were accurate and were signed and filed.

4. To receive correspondence

Risk Assessment for Plant Sale on Sunday 9th April

West Berkshire Local Plan newsletter: 7 Days Left to Comment

Forthcoming Elections

Nomination paper pack link

Chairman received an email from a parishioner about the storage containers outside Hambledown Cottage on School Hill – the parishioner believes the shipping containers have been there for approx. 5 years. DC Pask offered to look in to this; will make enquiries about whether there is a temporary licence in place for the containers.

5. **A4 bus shelters**

Traffic officer from West Berks contacted the Clerk to report that the back glass panel on a bus shelter on the A4 at The Coach and Horses was damaged. Clerk and Chairman were unsure to whom the bus shelter belonged; traffic officer stated that, on the whole, bus shelters were owned by relevant town and parish councils, and that there had been history of Midgham PC making repairs to this particular shelter.

Quote obtained from Externiture Ltd. (recommended by West Berks traffic officer) for replacement of damaged glass panel for £218.52.

Cllr Lombardo suggested that a quote should be obtained also from Thatcham Glass Centre to look at a polycarbonate panel **ACTION** – Clerk to contact Thatcham Glass Centre for quote.

6. **Electoral procedures**

Chairman indicated that councillors had received the electoral procedures pack from the Clerk; guidance and forms to fill in.

7. **Plant sale on village green**

Young person in the village has asked if she can hold a plant sale on the village green; risk assessment received and all councillors are happy for the sale to go ahead.

8. **To receive the District Councillors Report**

DC Pask reported that the Local Plan had been submitted for examination.

The budget had now been set with notable allocation for social services and pot hole repairs; DC Pask urged councillors to report potholes as they are found.

DC Pask bid farewell as he will not be standing at the next election; the Chairman thanked DC Pask for the time and energy he has spent on the community, and extended the parish council's

10.2 Awaiting Planning Decision

- **23/00462/FUL** – The Nurseries, Bath Road - Retrospective: Retention of Cabins for Class E G(i) Office Use – **PC Objected**
- **23/00463/FUL** – The Nurseries, Bath Road - Retrospective: Change of Use to allow Retention of Six Storage Containers for Self Storage – **PC Objected**
- **22/00153/FULD** – Hall Court Farm – Change of use to C3 – **PC have no objections**
- **22/02209/HOUSE** – 8 Rowlands Copse – Rear extension – **PC have no objections**
- **22/02912/FORMB** – Land at Church View Farm - Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989 to install or keep installed an electric line above ground. It is proposed that 2 spans of existing HV overhead line are to be upgraded to 3 phase with the addition of a third wire. – **PC have no objections**

11. Other matters the Chairman feels necessary

Chairman gave a formal thanks to the new Clerk at her first ‘year end’.

Cllr Lombardo raised the issue of the height of the back hedge at the play area; there was a request for this to match the perpendicular hedges **ACTION** – clerk to contact Odin Manners

12. To determine dates for the next meeting

15/5/23 at 1900

Changed to 22/5/23 post meeting – all Councillors informed

13. To record the meeting closed

1920