

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
ZEALS PARISH COUNCIL**
HELD ON
Thursday 23 November 2023, At Zeals Village Hall
zealspc.org.uk

The meeting was opened at 7.00 pm

PRESENT: Cllrs M Gibbons, (Chairman), P Thomas, D Corbin
Mrs F Hill (Clerk)

Cllr George Jeans - Wiltshire Council

- Highways can't lay tarmac when it is wet as this does not dry properly and the repair will not last – this is what may have caused the postponement of works on Bells Lane.
- Police and Crime Commissioner - there are 150 more police in Wiltshire than 2 years ago. But in the Warminster area there is still only 50% of the required posts filled. The Police and Crime Commissioner is trying to supply mobile police stations to cover areas including Mere. Cllr Jeans has pointed out that Mere has a serviceable empty police station currently.
- Library - Cllr Jeans reminded the meeting that if they are aware of members of the community who are hard up and cold, they would be welcome to sit in the library. There is also a party for those in need on 12 December at the Nadder Centre.
- AONB – this has now changed its name and will be known as Cranbourne Chase National Landscape.
- Budgets - Cllr Jeans reminded the PC about LHFIG and Area Board contingencies. If a scheme goes through LHFIG it will require 25% from the PC. Area Board grants look more favourably on recipients who have the support and a contribution from their parish council.
- Following a question from a recent LCC meeting it had been agreed that if clerks needed to email officers at Wiltshire Council, they should be copying in their unitary councillor. It is difficult for him to step in to help if he doesn't know the history of the query.

PUBLIC SESSION

2 Members of the public were present.

One member of the public was invited to address the council on agenda item ZPC 23/54. He gave a comprehensive history and overview of the plan to support housing. Councillors asked detailed and searching questions on the plans for Alms Houses for youngsters for them to understand the plan and to make an informed decision on the support sought. Councillors were reassured that the Alms Houses would be let to local youngsters with a job or apprenticeship and that the Trustees would interview, take up references and oversee the houses.

AGENDA

ZPC 23/45 TO RECEIVE AND AGREE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs Spencer, Gray, L D'Ambrumenil and Patch sent apologies – all apologies were approved.

ZPC 23/46 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- (i) To consider any written requests for dispensations by the clerk.- none received.
- (ii) To receive any declarations of interest

Members are invited to declare disclosable pecuniary interests and other interests in items on the agenda as required by the Zeals Parish Council Code of Conduct for Members and by the Localism Act 2011

ZPC 23/47 MINUTES

Council **RESOLVED** to approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of the parish council meeting held on the 28 September and the planning meeting held on 7 November 2023.

Proposed Cllr Gibbons, Seconded Cllr Thomas

Resolved 3 – 0 - 0
(for-against-abstain)

ZPC 23/48 ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING (not covered by other agenda items - none)

ZPC 23/49 CLERKS REPORT

The Clerk reported on a recent SLCC branch meeting she had attended updating Council on the background to delays on highways matters. Also, that the weather had delayed some works to road repairs.

ZPC 23/50 FINANCE MATTERS

- (i) Council **NOTED** the balance of the current account at £4715.81 (31/10/23) and the deposit account held £10,090.87.
- (ii) The Parish Council **RESOLVED** to pay the following: and additional amounts that come in after the agenda is sent out.

Mrs Hill Salary Allotment #prize £20 Ream of Paper £5.25 18/9/23 – 31/10/23 24 ½ @£13.17 = £322.67 Expenses inc Homeworking allowance (£8pm) Oct - Nov	£363.92	Chq 122
HMRC Tax and NI for Clerk	£0.00	By DD
Adrian Light Grass cutting 14/10, @ £45	£90	Chq 117
Water 2 Business - Allotment water	£124.68	Chq 121
Mrs R Corbin - Wreath	£19.99	Chq 118
SLCC Renewal ½ share with Stourton with Gasper	£52.50	Chq 123
ZV News – to agree in principle as long as the magazine remains in circulation	£50	n/a
Mere Link	£150	Chq 120
Churchyard of St Martins	£250	Chq 119
Village Hall's application for a grant from the Area Board. To agree in principle to a sum up to £100 if this will aid their chances of getting the grant	£100	n/a

- (iii) To NOTED payments paid out under delegated powers:

Jimmy Flynn – website	445.00	Chq 116
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Proposed Cllr Thomas, Seconded Cllr Corbin

Resolved 3 – 0 - 0

- (iv) Council **RESOLVED** to agree the budget for 2024/25. This includes the £100 towards the hall renovations which would be taken out of reserves.

Proposed Cllr Corbin, Seconded Cllr Thomas

Resolved 3 – 0 - 0

- (v) Council **RESOLVED** to request a precept of £6,247.74. This is a rise of £4.26 per household over the year.

Proposed Cllr Thomas, Seconded Cllr Gibbons

Resolved 3 – 0 - 0

- (vi) Council **RESOLVED** to increase the clerks pay to £14.21 per hour in line with the NALC Pay scales from 1 April 2023. The back pay will be paid at the January meeting.

Proposed Cllr Gibbons, Seconded Cllr Corbin

Resolved 3 – 0 - 0

ZPC 23/51 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- (i) Applications to consider at the meeting: or any urgent applications that come in after the agenda goes out

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- (ii) Applications considered/determined since last meeting were **NOTED**.

Application	Zeals PC Comment	Wiltshire Council Decision
PL/2023/08602 – Extend and alter previous barn conversion – Lower Zeals Farm	Support	Awaiting decision
PL/2023/09220 – upgrade of existing telecommunications base station St Martins Farm	Support	Awaiting decision
PL/2023/ - works to a protected tree – Oak House Portnells Lane	Support	Approve with conditions
PL/2023/08243 Works to Trees – Lady Croft Portnells Lane	Support	No objection
PL/2023/08017 – Eden Grove Erection of an outbuilding to be used for office space and holiday accommodation and installation of solar panels on roof of dwelling	Support	Approve with conditions
PL/2023/06061 – Fountain Cottage Erection of new Garage	Object	Approve with conditions
PL/2023/00624 – Land adjacent to Quarryfields Estate variation of condition 2	No objection	Approve with conditions

ZPC 23/52 COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW –

Council **NOTED** the deadline for the petition is 27 November. There is an online version that is simple to access and there is a paper copy in the Post Office for people to sign if they prefer.

ZPC 23/53 WESTFIELD PLAYGROUND

- (i) Update on checks - Cllr Patch this was deferred until the next meeting.

ZPC 23/54 ALMSHOUSE CHARITY

- (i) Council considered the matter and **RESOLVED** to strongly support in principle the proposed plan.

Proposed Cllr Thomas, Seconded Cllr Gibbons

Resolved 3 – 0 - 0

ZPC 23/55 COMMUNITY EMERGENCY CONTACTS

- (i) Council discussed the email that had been sent requesting emergency contact for the village. Cllrs Thomas and Gibbons agreed they were happy to put their names forward.

ZPC 23/56 VILLAGE HALL REPAIRS

- (i) Cllr Corbin has offered to attend the Area Board meeting on the 29 November to represent the Village Hall. He has two different quotes for works to the gable end of the hall which he will take with him. Following Cllr Jeans' comment about a contribution helping Cllr Corbin he has authority to contribute both support from the Parish Council and £100.

ZPC 23/57 CORRESPONDENCE Council NOTED the items below

Email from Wiltshire Council 15/11/23 asking for Emergency Contacts (previously circulated)

Email from Seeds 4 success asking for an endorsement (previously circulated)

ZPC 23/58 ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

- (i) Community Governance Review
- (ii)

ZPC 23/59 DATE OF NEXT MEETING –Thursday 25 January 2024 at the Village Hall at 7.00 pm.

There will be a Village Hall meeting immediately before this at 6.45pm

Members are reminded that the Council has a general duty to consider the matters above in the exercise of any of its functions: Equal Opportunities (race, gender, sexual orientation, marital status or disability), Crime & Disorder, Health & Safety and Human Rights.

The meeting finished at 8.10pm