

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
ZEALS PARISH COUNCIL**

HELD ON

Tuesday 28 November 2024, At Zeals Village Hall

zealspc.org.uk

The meeting was opened at 7.10 pm

PRESENT: Cllrs C Spencer (Chairman), J Gray, P Thomas, M Gibbons, A Patch,

Mrs F Hill (Clerk)

PUBLIC SESSION

0 Members of the public were present.

WILTSHIRE COUNCIL REPORT: - Cllr G Jeans

Cllr Jeans asked the parish council to note that police response times are slow as the police will now come from Trowbridge rather than Warminster.

LHFIG have allocated 40% of their funding for next year. This could result in any new projects not receiving the 75% funding.

Election expenses will be charged for an election in May if this is contested. This will be a share of the total. But any contested elections between May 25 and May 29 the parish council will be liable for the total cost.

ZPC 24/29 TO RECEIVE AND AGREE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs , L D'Ambrumenil and D Corbin, - these were approved.

ZPC 24/30 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

(i) To consider any written requests for dispensations by the clerk. - none received.

(ii) To receive any declarations of interest - none received

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 24/31 MINUTES

Council **RESOLVED** to approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of the parish council meeting held on the 26 September 2024.

Proposed Cllr Gray, Seconded Cllr Thomas

Resolved 5 – 0 – 0
(for-against-abstain)

ZPC 24/46 FINANCE MATTERS

(i) Council **NOTED** the balance of the account. **£23,899.32** (31/10/24) in current account and £10,217.00 in the deposit account.

(ii) The Parish Council **RESOLVED** to pay the following payment and any that come in after the agenda has been sent out.

Account	Amount	Chq Number
Adrian Light - grass cut @ £45 30/9 24/10 8/11	£135	Chq 1149
WALC – Councillor Training – invoice yet to be received as training delayed	£40 TBC	
Mrs Hill Salary 1/9/24 – 30/10/24 35 1/2 @ £14.17 = £503.04		

JG

Expenses inc Homeworking allowance (£8pm = 8pm) September -October = £16 Back Pay April – October 136 1/4 hrs @0.67 = £91.29	£610.33	Chq 1152
JG Poynton – allotment rent	£150	Chq 1153
HMRC Tax and NI for Clerk	£TBC	By DD
Jimmy Flynn Website and hosting	£165	Chq 1151
Upper Stour St Martins LCC	£250	Chq 1154
Zeals Village News	£50	Chq 1155
Mere Link	£150	Chq 1156

(iii) To note payments paid out under delegated powers:

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Proposed Cllr Patch, Seconded Cllr Thomas

Resolved 5 – 0 - 0

(iv) Council **RESOLVED** to agree the budget for 2025/26.

Proposed Cllr Gibbons, Seconded Cllr Gray

Resolved 5 – 0 - 0

(v) Council **RESOLVED** to request a precept of £6247.64. There is no increase in this since the previous year.

Proposed Cllr Patch, Seconded Cllr Gibbons

Resolved 5 – 0 - 0

(vi) Council **RESOLVED** to use £6000 CIL money from EMR to cover the parish council's contribution of £6,000 to the repairs on the village hall. £5,000 will come from the Hall Committee and £4,000 will come from the Area Board (Hall committee have received this).

Proposed Cllr Gibbons, Seconded Cllr Thomas

Resolved 5 – 0 - 0

(vii) Council **RESOLVED** to increase the clerks pay to £14.84 per hour in line with NALC pay scales from 1 April 2024. The backdated amount is included in the Clerks pay this month.

Proposed Cllr Patch, Seconded Cllr Gibbons

Resolved 5 – 0 - 0

(viii) Council **RESOLVED** to pay the new clerk monthly directly into the bank. Set up as a standing order for the contractual 20 hours per month. This ties in with the monthly record that is logged with HMRC. Overtime, expenses and homeworking allowance to continue to be paid at meetings and holiday pay to be paid at the end of the year if appropriate.

Proposed Cllr Spencer, Seconded Cllr Patch

Resolved 5 – 0 - 0

(ix) Council **RESOLVED** to pay DAPTC (Dorset equivalent of WALC) £50 to advertise the position of clerk on their situations vacant board. The clerk will see if she can combine an advert with Stourton and wait to see if a new enquiry comes to anything.

Proposed Cllr Patch, Seconded Cllr Thomas

Resolved 5 – 0 - 0

(x) Council **RESOLVED** to pay for a handover period and in light of Christmas to allow the old and new clerk the time to handover everything by the January meeting.

Proposed Cllr Spencer, Seconded Cllr Patch

Resolved 5 – 0 - 0

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

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

PL/2023/07051 Boyes Transport Yard Appeal	
PL/2024/09763 Fountain Cottage Retention of Fountain Cottage as an independent dwelling	Zeals Parish Council considered this application and concern was raised over access and parking for more than one dwelling on the site, particularly as there is a large garage for the new build house.

Proposed Cllr Spencer, Seconded Cllr Gray

Resolved 5 – 0 – 0

- (ii) Applications considered/determined since last meeting: For Information

Application	Zeals PC Comment	Wiltshire Council Decision
PL/2024/07873 High View Portnells Lane. Alterations and extension to bungalow	Support	Approve with conditions

ZPC 24/47 COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY - CIL

- (i) Council **AGREED** for Cllrs Patch and Gray to investigate the feasibility of providing a bus shelter for the bus stop, using CIL monies. It was NOTED that the location may not be practical.

ZPC 24/48 TRAFFIC

- (i) Council **RESOLVED** not to request an initial speed limit assessment in respect of increasing the 30mph stretch from Bourton to Zeals at the current time. Council wished to monitor the traffic and speeds before making an informed decision.

Proposed Cllr Spencer, Seconded Cllr Thomas

Resolved 5 – 0 – 0

- (ii) Council **RESOLVED** not to pursue the request to remove the bollards at the entrance to the allotments, in light of the senior engineer for traffic at Wiltshire Council stating he would not be recommending this approach. Council would require the support of Wiltshire Council to pursue this at a cost to the parish council.

Proposed Cllr Spencer, Seconded Cllr Gray

Resolved 5 – 0 – 0

- (iii) Council discussed an email sent by a resident regarding the pressure washer and cars parked at the car wash. Members of the parish council had walked past at different times and not found an issue. Council **RESOLVED** not to pursue the issue.

Proposed Cllr Spencer, Seconded Cllr Gray

Resolved 5 – 0 – 0

- (iv) Council discussed the flooding in Bells Lane that had been brought to their attention by a resident. The clerk had received an update following Storm Bert at the weekend and following the visit of the parish steward. There had been no further flooding.

ZPC 24/49 EMERGENCY HUB

- (i) Council **RESOLVED** the Parish Council should sign up to the emergency hub being set up by Wiltshire and Swindon Prepared.

Proposed Cllr Spencer, Seconded Cllr Gray

Resolved 5 – 0 – 0

ZPC 24/50 WESTFIELD PLAYGROUND

- (i) Council **RESOLVED** to agree the offer from Wiltshire Council to transfer the lease (125 years) on Westfield Playground over to Zeals Parish Council. Wiltshire Council will pay over the sum of £35,3920.32 on the transfer.

Proposed Cllr Spencer, Seconded Cllr Patch

Resolved 5 – 0 - 0

- (ii) Council **CONSIDERED** the use of Round-up on the playground following a response from Wiltshire Council. **Cllr Spencer** will speak to his agronomist for a safe option to remove the weeds

ZPC 24/51 WEBSITE & EMAILS

- (i) Council **CONSIDERED** the impact and timing of new emails following the announcement legislation will change giving all parish councillors a .gov.uk email address. The Clerk had discussed this with the website host and there will be an additional cost as the .gov.uk domain will have to be bought through the government at a higher cost than current domains. This has been budgeted for. It has been suggested we wait until May to instigate anything so that if there is a change in councillors there only needs to be one change over.

ZPC 24/52 CORRESPONDENCE: Council NOTED the items below

- (i) Email from Wiltshire council 1/10 noting maintenance of trees does not warrant a grant (previously circulated)
- (ii) Email from Paul Shaddock 2/10 re traffic issues (previously circulated)
- (iii) Email from Craig Campbell 4/10 re use of Roundup. (previously circulated)
- (iv) Email from resident 30/10/24 re the car wash – parking / spray (previously circulated)
- (v) Email from chair of Wiltshire bridleways 4/11/24 regarding the visibility from the bridleway on Bonham Lane. (previously circulated)
- (vi) Email from resident 16/11/24 regarding the flooding in Bells Lane

ZPC 24/53 ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

- (i)

ZPC 24/54 DATE OF NEXT MEETING –Thursday 23 January 2025, immediately following a hall trustees meeting.

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 8.10

Signed
Cllr J Gray

Date 23rd January 2025