

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

HELD ON

Thursday 28 September 2023, At Zeals Village Hall

<https://www.hugofox.com/community/zeals-parish-council>

The meeting was opened at 7.10 pm

PRESENT: Cllrs C Spencer, (Chairman), J Gray, M Gibbons, A Patch, P Thomas, D Corbin
Mrs F Hill (Clerk)

PUBLIC SESSION

2 Members of the public were present

Before the meeting commenced Cllr Spencer congratulated Cllr Thomas on the birth of his new baby. All councillors joined in the congratulations.

ZPC 23/32 TO RECEIVE AND AGREE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Cllr L D'Ambrumenil - Her apology was approved

ZPC 23/33 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 23/34 THE MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THE 27 JULY 2023 AND PLANNING MEETING HELD ON 30 AUGUST. Council **APPROVED** and **SIGNED** the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 27 July 2023 and the planning meeting on the 30 August as correct records.

Proposed Cllr Patch, Seconded Cllr Gibbons
Resolved 6 – 0 - 0
(for-against-abstain)

ZPC 23/35 ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING (not covered by other agenda items)- None

ZPC 23/32 CLERKS REPORT

- (i) *The Clerk gave an update on the recent SLCC training day she attended. She took part in the 'Calendar Year of a Clerk', Agendas and Minutes, Code of Conduct and Finance sessions.*

The Code of Conduct is being updated and currently NALC, SLCC and Wiltshire Council are in discussions about the new version. When this is agreed The Clerk will use this as a basis to update the Zeals Code of Conduct.

Finance covered many topics but the critical one at the moment is the pay award for staff has still not been agreed for the current year (23/24) therefore making it difficult to budget for next year (24/25). The advice given was to assume £1 per hour for this year and budget a further £1 per hour for next year and they were confident this would cover all levels of hourly paid staff.

The Clerk is part way through her FILCA training and has paused for the moment to do the budget and precept training as she prepares this year's budget.

ZPC 23/33 FINANCE MATTERS

- (i) The Parish Council **NOTED** the balance of the account. £2558.38 (30/8/23) in the current account and £10,072.28 in the deposit. The clerk added that two significant payments had come in recently which took the total as of 28/9/23 to £4230.73.
- (ii) The Parish Council **RESOLVED** to pay the following:

Mrs Hill Salary 14/7/23 - 18 /9/23 37 1/2 hrs @ £13.17 - £493.88 Mrs Hill - Expenses inc Homeworking allowance (£8pm = £16) Aug -Sept £60 FILCA	£569.88	Chq 112
HMRC Tax and NI for Clerk	£0.00	By DD
Adrian Light Grass cutting 3/8 12/8 28/8 10/9 25/9 @ £45	£225	Chq 113
G Poynton - Allotment Rent	£150	Chq 114

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

--	--	--

Proposed Cllr Patch, Seconded Cllr Thomas

Resolved 6 – 0 - 0

ZPC 23/34 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

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

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	Discussion took place regarding the planning application and it was RESOLVED not to hold a separate meeting. The building that would be knocked down was an eyesore and this would be a better visual property that did not impact on any other property. It was RESOLVED to support this application.	
---	--	--

Proposed Cllr Gray, Seconded Cllr Gibbons

Resolved 5 – 0 - 1

Cllr Spencer declared an interest

- (ii) Council **NOTED** the Applications considered/determined since last meeting:

PL/2020/06061 – Fountain Cottage	Zeals PC objected	Still awaiting WC decision
PL/2023/07051 – Boyes Transport	PC objected	Still awaiting WC decision

ZPC 23/35 COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW – Mere Town have submitted a request to amend the boundary between Zeals and Mere. Currently the boundary line goes as far as Norwood House. Mere proposes taking the area known as the Hillbrush Estate into their boundary, up to where the A303 crosses the B3092.

- (i) Further to an email from Community Governance Review (CGR) Council was asked to **NOMINATE** a councillor to liaise with the CGR and the Parish Council during the time of the review (up to a year). Cllr Gray volunteered to be the liaison and Cllr Patch will assist her. Council **RESOLVED** that they would oppose the boundary being moved closer.

Proposed Cllr Patch, Seconded Cllr Gibbons

Resolved 6 – 0 – 0

- (ii) It was **RESOLVED** that once Cllr Gray has had the chance to liaise with CGR, Council would initiate a petition to garner support from local residents to maintain the current boundary. This could be situated in the garage. **Cllr Gray and the Clerk** will liaise to keep the public informed via the Zeals Village News.

Proposed Cllr Spencer, Seconded Cllr Gibbons

Resolved 6 – 0 – 0

- (iii) Council **NOTED** that Zeals is still awaiting CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) from the nursing home being built on the site in question. **The Clerk** will chase this. This could be a significant sum which is required to be put into the community and there are still some potential building plots on this piece of land that could benefit Zeals' residents.

ZPC 23/36 VILLAGE GREEN

Cllr d'Ambrumenil had been asked if the Parish Council would consider the below.

- (i) Following discussion that although it might be a visual addition to the green, having a flag pole required a significant amount of work changing flags for the appropriate days, maintaining the pole and the flags. It was **NOTED** there was already a flag pole on the Church. Council **RESOLVED** not to have a flag pole on the village green.

Proposed Cllr Spencer, Seconded Cllr Gibbons

Resolved 6 – 0 – 0

- (ii) Council **AGREED** to Cllr Spencer asking a contractor to consider the cost and necessity of grinding out the stump of the cherry tree.
- (iii) Council **RESOLVED** that following advice from a tree surgeon that the ash tree has dieback the lower branches of ash tree be taken off. **Cllr Spencer** was authorised to engage a contractor to carry out the work up to the value of £200.

Proposed Cllr Thomas, Seconded Cllr Corbin

Resolved 6 – 0 – 0

ZPC 23/37 BELLS LANE

- (i) The Parish Council **RESOLVED** to let the matter of the fence encroaching the road drop and no longer pursue it at County level.

Proposed Cllr Spencer, Seconded Cllr Gibbons

Resolved 6 – 0 – 0

ZPC 23/38 WESTFIELD PLAYGROUND

- (i) Cllr Patch **UPDATED** the meeting following her recent end of August check. Seeds 4 Success had recently done some weeding but the weeds were already beginning to show through again. Discussion took place to find a method to keep the weeds under control but the matter remained unresolved. **Cllr Corbin** will contact Elite (the provider) to ask for safe solutions. Otherwise, the playing area was in good order other than the fence which Cllr Corbin confirmed he was awaiting quotes.
- (ii) Council considered offering a donation to Seeds4Success in return for their work in cleaning up the playground. It was agreed that the youngsters are working to gain

credits towards achievable treats rather than monetary gain. Council **AGREED** not to donate anything further.

ZPC 23/39 ALLOTMENT

- (i) Council **NOTED** there are no chains currently on the gates at the allotments. Allotment holders had decided these were not required on the main gate and were not useable on the far gate. **The Clerk** will retrieve the two chains and padlocks.
- (ii) Council **RESOLVED** to renew the Agreement to lease the Allotment area from the landlord. Cllr Spencer signed the lease on behalf of the Council. Cllr Spencer thanked the landlord extending the appreciation of the whole village.

Proposed Cllr Spencer, Seconded Cllr Patch

Resolved 6 – 0 - 0

- (iii) The Clerk was asked to visit the allotments to check all were being tended. It was **NOTED** that with rewilding being popular at the current time the term being tended would be subjective. The Clerk had been recently but was happy to revisit if a particular allotment was raised as a concern.

ZPC 23/40 WEBSITE

- (i) Following the email sent out by Hugo Fox. The current website is about to close. Council was asked to consider the various packages available. Council **RESOLVED** to engage Jimmy Flynn Web Services, a local provider to build a new website with the domain name zealspc.org.uk and to provide each councillor with a council email rather than using their personal ones. **The Clerk** will contact Jimmy Flynn and ask him to build a holding page to cover any time lost between the old one being taken down and new one being launched.

Proposed Cllr Gray, Seconded Cllr Spencer

Resolved 6 – 0 - 0

ZPC 23/41 VILLAGE HALL REPAIRS

- (i) Council did not discuss this item.

ZPC 23/42 CORRESPONDENCE Council NOTED the items below

- (i) Email from allotment holder 14/8/23 (previously circulated)
- (ii) Email from Hugo Fox 8/8/23 regarding the introduction of subscription service to replace free website (previously circulated)
- (iii) Email from CGR 14/9/23 regarding the Boundary Review (previously circulated)

ZPC 23/43 ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

- (i) Boundary Review

ZPC 23/44 DATE OF NEXT MEETING –Thursday 23 November 2023 at the Village Hall at 7.00 pm

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 ended at 8.20