

**Minutes of the meeting of the COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE held
in the Committee Room at Eskdale Community Centre
on Tuesday 2nd April 2024 at 7.30pm**

PRESENT: Cllrs B Ezra, D Field, L Prestage, P Woods, J Theobald, and C Jenkins (from 20:10).
 Clerk: None Absent: None
 Assistant: Mr Peter Rayner Residents: None

C24/29	APOLOGIES – Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Willmer. Cllr Ezra welcomed Cllr Theobald to the committee.	
	OPEN FORUM FOR PARISHIONERS No points were raised from the floor.	
C24/30	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION Cllr Theobald excused himself from voting on item 4 – The Village Green – due to an interest in the Village Society which proposed the changes being discussed.	
C24/31	MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING a) The minutes of the meeting of the Communities Committee held on the 12th March-2024 were unanimously AGREED as a true record and were signed by the Chairman. b) The action plan was reviewed and would be updated accordingly.	
C24/32	VILLAGE GREEN a) It was discussed that the dropped kerb installed last year makes wheelchair access onto the green easier, but the uneven grass surface makes using a wheelchair on the green itself difficult. There was discussion over whether the Parish Council would be allowed to make changes to the green given that it is owned by Buckinghamshire Council. Cllr Theobald reported that the Village Society had discussed this with Buckinghamshire Council, and they said they would allow changes and that match funding could be available. Cllr Theobald will provide copies of the correspondence to the Assistant Clerk who will then follow up to confirm this is still the case. It was AGREED that now that there is a dropped kerb, further work should be done to provide wheelchair access on the green. The nature of this work will be confirmed in a future meeting. b) We also discussed the proposal to put a rope and post fence on the Lower Road boundary. It was thought this might actually attract children to play on it and therefore be more of a danger than a safety feature. It was AGREED that the boundary of the green should be left without any type of barrier.	Asst Clerk
C24/33	MVAS The Assistant Clerk reported that the current MVAS which we share with Weston Turville is proving to be unreliable, has some bulbs not working and can no longer download data but repair was uneconomical. We discussed the option of a cheaper battery powered version that would need batteries changed every 7 days or a more expensive solar powered version which would be maintenance free and more environmentally friendly. The Assistant Clerk had contacted the clerk at Weston Turville Parish Council who will ask if their Parish Council would want to contribute to and share a new MVAS.	Asst Clerk

	It was AGREED to purchase a Truvelo solar powered MVAS (last year's price £4229) regardless of whether Weston Turville Parish Council wanted to contribute.	
C24/34	BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION It was AGREED to enter the competition again this year.	Asst Clerk
C24/35	BARRIER ACROSS THE FIELD The football club may want to mark out additional pitches in the future which would only be possible if the metal barrier across the field is removed so we had a discussion on the purpose of the barrier and whether it should be removed. Cllr Ezra reported that she thought the barrier was originally installed over 40 years ago when amateur fireworks displays were held, and it was to separate spectators from the display. Nobody could think of any reason why we needed the barrier anymore. Cllr Field said it was actually a hinderance to vehicular access needed for community events. It was AGREED to get estimates of the cost of removing the barrier.	Asst Clerk
C24/36	SUMMER COMMUNITY EVENT – Sunday 26-May Cllr Field provided an update on progress with planning the event and made the following points in addition to what was reported at the last meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Running order and timings of artists agreed. • A different ice cream van has been booked. • 27 stalls now booked including BBONT. They won't all fit in the marquee but many are bringing their own gazebo so all should be under cover. • SM football club will provide the BBQ/burgers stand • Walkie Talkies have been purchased. • The marquees need to be erected on the Saturday Cllr Prestage gave an update on Parking: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are currently not enough marshals to cover the duration of the event 12:00 – 20:00 plus set up/shut down so more volunteers are needed. 	
C24/37	D DAY 80 CELEBRATION – Thursday 6-Jun a) Cllr Jenkins provided an update on progress with planning the event and made the following points in addition to what was reported at the January meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school has agreed to allow parking on the playground. • We may need parking marshals and signage for parking. • Cllr Field will lend his PA system for the event. • We will distribute leaflets but only 1,000 compared with 5,000 for the May event b) It was AGREED to purchase 100 commemorative coins at £4.99 each.	
C24/38	DATE OF NEXT MEETING The next meeting date will be Tuesday 14-May-2024.	

The meeting closed at 20:50

Signed _____

Dated: 14-May-2024

Action List

Date	Minute	Description	By Whom	Status
14/03/23	C23/17	Replace the footpath map on the Eskdale Road Community Centre but not until it is clear what the post HS2 situation is.	Asst Clerk	On hold
14/11/23	C23/80	Get quotes for repair of small and large cracks as per the specification provided by Alexander Associates. Update 12-Mar, quote for £17,157 received based on doing 20m per day as per spec. As there are 172m to do this will take 9 days. Update 2-Apr, requested quote do unlimited meterage each day but no response. 8-May, no response from any of the contractors contacted.	Asst Clerk	In progress
9/1/24	C24/06	Write to Arriva and redline regarding 130 and 300 bus routes once Risborough Road is closed to traffic. Update 12-Mar, Cllr Woods reported that Buckinghamshire Council are looking into it and Cllr Field has raised it with HS2 and they are considering a bus turning circle in Risborough Road. Update 2-April, we discussed requesting that one bus turns at the station and the other at the proposed turnaround on Risborough Road.	Asst Clerk	In progress
6/2/24	C24/19	Purchase a Lighted Lamp for Peace.	Cllr Jenkins	Complete
12/3/24	C24/20	Trim conifer hedge on remaining graves	Asst Clerk	
12/3/24	C24/23	Erect the fallen soldier for D Day 80. Erect on the evening of Wednesday 5-June and remove on the morning of Friday 7-June.	Asst Clerk	
12/3/24	C24/24	Apply for a Community Board grant for the May event 8-May, no grant available.	Clerk	Complete
2/2/24	C24/25	Pass correspondence between the VS and BC regarding the village green to the Asst Clerk who will follow up with BC to confirm whether they are happy for the PC to do work on improving the green and whether match funding is still available.	Cllr Theobald Asst Clerk	
2/2/24	C24/26	Purchase a Truvelo MVAS 8-May, sign is installed and working. Once the Asst Clerk tries moving it he will contact the Weston Turville PC clerk and discuss whether it is mobile enough for them to want to share it.	Asst Clerk	Complete
2/2/24	C24/27	Enter the BKV competition.	Asst Clerk	Complete
2/2/24	C24/28	Get quotes for removal of the barrier across the playing field.	Asst Clerk	
2/2/24	C24/29	Purchase 100 x D-Day 80 commemorative coins 8-May, it was decided to just purchase 30 once Cllr Jenkins had considered who to give them to.	Asst Clerk	Complete
2/2/24	C24/30	Inform local police about the May event	Asst Clerk	Complete