

**Minutes of the meeting of the COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE held
in the Committee Room at Eskdale Community Centre
on Tuesday 12th March 2023 at 7.30pm**

PRESENT: Cllr B Ezra, Cllr D Field, Cllr D Wilmer, Cllr C Jenkins, Cllr L Prestage, Cllr P Wood
 Clerk: Mr Tony Skeggs
 Assistant: Mr Peter Rayner
 Absent: None
 Residents: 6

C24/21	APOLOGIES – None	
	<p>OPEN FORUM FOR PARISHIONERS The following points were raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A resident asked about progress on requests from the Village Society regarding improvements to the village green. These were improved wheelchair access and a boundary rope and post fence. These points will be considered for inclusion on a future agenda. • A resident asked about progress regarding a path with a bridge between the Abbey Homes estate and the Eskdale Road playing field and explained that around 100 residents signed a petition requesting a path. The clerk explained that Abbey Homes have said they are not interested in working with the parish council to provide a path. There seems to be some confusion over whether Buckinghamshire Council are going to adopt the land and whether there will be a ransom strip retained by Abbey Homes. The Parish Council will follow up with Buckinghamshire Council. • A member of the church leadership team explained the need for the parish church to do fund raising for repairs and requested a stand at the 26-May community event so they can promote the church, raise funds and recruit more people into their bell ringing group. 	
C24/22	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION None	
C24/23	<p>MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING</p> <p>a) The minutes of the meeting of the Communities Committee held on the 6th February-2024 were unanimously AGREED as a true record and were signed by the Chairman on the understanding that the date for the summer community event is changed from Monday 26-May to Sunday 26-May.</p> <p>b) The action plan was reviewed and would be updated accordingly.</p>	
C24/24	<p>BURIAL GROUND</p> <p>The Clerk explained that a relative of somebody buried in the burial ground complained that the grave was covered by an overgrown hedge. On inspection it was discovered that significant portions of around 8 graves were obscured by the conifer hedge that has grown very wide over the years despite regular trimming. There are also two benches that were difficult to use due to the hedge. The Assistant Clerk has trimmed behind the benches and above some of the graves. Three options were discussed:</p> <p>a) Trim the lower branches above the rest of the obscured graves and continue to trim the hedge each year to maintain access to the graves and benches.</p> <p>b) Remove the lower branches on all the conifers to expose the lower part of the trunk.</p> <p>c) Remove the conifer hedges completely and replace with a native British hedge.</p> <p>It was AGREED to pursue option (a).</p>	Asst Clerk

C24/25	<p>CLIMBING WALL</p> <p>A proposal to install a wooded climbing wall on the Eskdale Road playing field and on Hawkslade was discussed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was AGREED to propose to the full council that we purchase a 10m wall for the Eskdale Road playing field at a cost of £5750. • While the committee felt it was desirable to also install a wall at Hawkslade, the Parish Council do not own the land there so will need to be some investigation into who owns the land near the existing park and whether they will allow installation of a climbing wall there. 	Clerk
C24/26	<p>SUMMER COMMUNITY EVENT – Sunday 26-May</p> <p>Cllr Field provided an update on progress with planning the event and made the following points in addition to what was reported in previous meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will be a DJ so that there will be non stop music throughout the day. • A circus workshop has been booked. • There will not be children’s signing group as it has proved difficult to coordinate. • A few more small businesses are needed. • A few more craft stalls are needed. • It was AGREED the church can have stand in one of the small gazebos. • 5000 leaflets will be printed, the same quantity as last year. • A delivery service is being investigated to avoid councillors having to do deliveries. • The Clerk will put in a community board bid for a grant. • We will start advertising on social media at the end of March. 	<p>Asst Clerk Asst Clerk</p> <p>Clerk Asst Clerk</p>
C24/27	<p>D DAY 80 CELEBRATION – Thursday 6-Jun</p> <p>a) Cllr Jenkins provided an update on progress with planning the event and made the following points in addition to what was reported in previous meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Celebrations will start at The Fremantle Care Home with the local community invited to enjoy afternoon tea 3pm to 4:30pm there will be a singalong by the Village Society choir and a line dance to Glen Miller’s “in the Mood” by a local group. • Celebrations will continue at The Bull from 5pm until late with the following performers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Polka Dots, vintage harmony group ○ Sing-a long with the Village Society choir ○ Frank Sinatra tribute ○ Music then and now from Jamie Felton • A fish and chip van will be at The Bull 5pm-9pm. It has been decided not to offer any free fish and chips as it would be difficult to define and then police the criteria for qualifying. • We will light a lamp for peace at 9:15pm on the village green <p>b) It was AGREED to erect the fallen soldier just for the day.</p> <p>c) The Clerk reported that he obtained a community board grant to cover the cost of The Polka Dots.</p> <p>d) There was a discussion on whether to produce leaflets and get them distributed at the same time as those for the May community event but it was decided not to do that as the distribution would be too wide for what will be a much smaller event.</p>	
C24/28	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</p> <p>The next meeting date will be Tuesday 2-April-2024.</p>	

The meeting closed at 21:04

Signed _____

Dated: 2-April-2023

Action List

Date	Minute	Description	By Whom	Status
12/05/22	C22/18	Work with Buckinghamshire Council to get yellow lines on corners in Hampden Road. Update 12-Mar, Will be included in the Carters Ride consultation in April 2024.	Clerk	In progress
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
9/05/23	C23/37	Continue to work with Chiltern Railways and The Chiltern Society to rewild and tidy up the station approach green space. Update 12-Mar, Chiltern Society have completed planting. Paperwork has been filled in to create the Friends of Stoke Mandeville station adoption group.	Asst Clerk	In progress
12/09/23	C23/60	Follow up on government funding scheme for chess tables. Update 12-Mar, no information available.	Clerk	Closed
14/11/23	C23/79	Source 3 conifer trees 2 x 5ft and 1 x 8ft Update 12-Mar, 5ft and 8ft rooted trees have proved hard to obtain. One 3 ft tree has been planted and another small one will be planted.	Cllr Field	In progress
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. Next step is to request quote to do unlimited meterage each day.	Asst Clerk	In progress
14/11/23	C23/82	Contact British Legion to see if they can provide a ceremony at a D-Day event. Update 12-Mar, The British Legion have nobody available. We will have a Lamp for Peace instead as recommended by the BL.	Cllr Jenkins	Complete
9/1/24	C24/01	Obtain quotes for supply and installation of an Oxford Teak 6ft bench with carving. Update 12-Mar, order placed 1-Feb on 6-8 weeks delivery.	Asst Clerk	In progress
9/1/24	C24/02	Obtain quotes for supply and installation of a rope and post fence at Brudenell Drive. Update 12-Mar, Posts delivered, rope to be ordered, quotes for installation received. Agreed not to wait for BC to reinstate grass when dry before installing posts.	Asst Clerk	In progress
9/1/24	C24/04	Investigate Community Board match funding for play ranger sessions. Update 12-Mar, Community Board said this should come out of parish funds.	Clerk	Complete
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	Asst Clerk	In progress

		Field has raised it with HS2 and they are considering a bus turning circle in Risborough Road.		
6/2/24	C24/18	Book St John's Ambulance for the community event. Update 12-Mar, request submitted awaiting confirmation.	Asst Clerk	In progress
6/2/24	C24/18	Check with the SMVCA if they will allow tables from the hall to be taken outside for the community event. Update 12-Mar, agreed as long as they are returned clean.	Clerk	Complete
6/2/24	C24/19	Purchase a Lighted Lamp for Peace from The British Legion. Update 12-Mar, Cllr Jenkins has reserved one and will provide details to the assts clerk to place an order.	Asst Clerk	In progress
12/3/24	C24/20	Trim conifer hedge on remaining graves	Asst Clerk	
12/3/24	C24/21	Investigate ownership of land adjacent Hawkslade play area with a view to getting permission to site a climbing wall there.	Clerk	In Progress
12/3/24	C24/22	Ascertain whether the grass verge on the Abbey Homes estate adjacent to Eskdale Road playing field is being adopted by Buckinghamshire Council.	Clerk	Completed
12/3/24	C24/23	Erect the fallen soldier for D Day 80. Put it up on the evening of Wednesday 5-June and remove it on the morning of Friday 7-June	Asst Clerk	
12/3/24	C24/24	Apply for a Community Board grant for the May event	Clerk	