

**Minutes of the meeting of the COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE held
in the Committee Room at Eskdale Road Community Centre
on Tuesday 10th September 2024 at 7.30pm**

PRESENT: Cllrs B Ezra (Chair), D Field, J Theobald, D Willmer and C Jenkins and P Woods.
 Clerk: Apologies Absent: none
 Assistant: P Rayner Residents: 3

C24/64	ELECTION OF CHAIR Cllr Ezra was nominated by Cllr Wood and Cllr Field was nominated by Cllr Theobald.. Cllr Ezra received 2 votes – from Cllr Wood and Cllr Willmer Cllr Field received 1 vote from Cllr Theobald. Cllr Jenkins abstained. Cllrs B Ezra was duly elected as chair.	
C24/65	APOLOGIES – None	
C24/66	APPOINTMENT OF NEW COMMITTEE MEMBER It was AGREED to appoint Gaurav Shrivastava to the committee	
	OPEN FORUM FOR PARISHIONERS The following points were raised: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A resident brought to the attention of the committee two planning applications for Environmental Impact Assessment Screening Opinion Requests for the land running from Risborough Road to Wendover Road. • A representative of Stoke Mandeville Football Club outlined the club’s planned usage of the playing field for the 24/25 season. 	
C24/67	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION There were no new requests for dispensation.	
C24/68	MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The minutes of the meeting of the Communities Committee held on the 9th July 2024 were unanimously AGREED as a true record and were signed by the Chair. The action plan was reviewed and would be updated accordingly. 	
C24/69	FOOTBALL CLUB CONTRACT RENEWAL <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The football club representative explained that due to the large number of girls they now have playing they would like access to the toilets inside the community centre on match days. This request will be forwarded to the SMVCA committee but it was thought they may not agree. This led to a discussion about installing an outside toilet block and it was AGREED that this would be investigated further. The football club representative explained their desire to have a storage facility. The proposal is to have a 20 ft ISO storage container which the football club would pay for. It was AGREED in principle that the football club could install a storage container and that discussion about location would be added to the agenda for a future meeting. The football club representative agreed that formal training would only take place 2 nights a week during the summer and on evenings agreed with the parish council but pointed out some training that takes place is not organised by the football club. He also explained that the club had sent out an information sheet to all club members explaining that people should car share or walk, parking should be on the right hand end of the car park and they should not park in front or residents property. On that basis the draft contract was AGREED without changes. 	Clerk Assistant Clerk Clerk

	<p>d) The football club representative offered for the club to mow the grass. It was AGREED they could mow the grass on occasions when the frequency of mowing by council contractors means it is too long for matches.</p> <p>e) The club also offered to take over the contract for all the mowing of the field. It was AGREED to consider this.</p>	Clerk
C24/70	<p>BUS SHELTERS The committee considered 4 options and it was AGREED to recommend to the full council that we purchase 2 double front shelters in a green colour similar to existing shelters from AceShelters with solar lighting for the one outside the Freemantle care home for a total cost of £11,753 to include delivery, installation and demolishing/removal of the old Wendover Road shelter by AceShelters and installation of a new concrete base outside the care home by a local contractor.</p>	Assistant Clerk
C24/71	<p>BUG HOTELS a) The committee considered 3 options and it was AGREED that the bug hotels offered by Lindengate were the best ones and we should install 4 of that design, one in each ward. b) It was further AGREED that we should approach the Men in Sheds organisation to see if they could make bug hotels to the Lindengate design and put "SMPC" on them.</p>	Assistant Clerk
C24/72	<p>ALLOTMENTS Cllr Willmer passed on some comments he had received from residents about the allotments. These concerned the offering of smaller plots, keeping the allotments tidy, provision of a mower and rotovator and creating an allotment association. The Asst Clerk explained the current management of the allotments and the income vs expenditure and it was AGREED that no changes needed to be made.</p>	Assistant Clerk
C24/73	<p>OTHER AGENDA ITEMS The following agenda items were deferred to the next meeting.</p> <p>FLAGPOLE BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION SPEED ACTIVATED SIGN STATION COFFEE SHOP PLAY IN THE PARK</p>	
C24/74	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING The next meeting will be Tuesday 1st October 2024.</p>	

The meeting closed at 21:19

Signed _____

Dated: 1st October 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
9/07/24	C24/61	Suggest locations and get additional quotes for bug hotels.	Asst Clerk	In progress
10/9/24	C24/69	Investigate options for an outside toilet block.	Asst Clerk	
10/9/24	C24/69	Add a discussion on use of the community centre toilets by the girls' football team to the next SMVCA committee meeting agenda.	Clerk	
10/9/24	C24/69	Consider giving the contract to mow the field to the football club	Clerk	
10/9/24	C24/70	Add recommendation to purchase bus shelters to the agenda for the next full council meeting	Clerk	
10/9/24	C24/72	Arrange to show Cllr Willmer around the allotments	Asst Clerk	