

**Minutes of the meeting of the COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE held  
in the Committee Room at Eskdale Road Community Centre  
on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2024 at 7.30pm**

**PRESENT:** Cllrs B Ezra (Chair), D Field and P Woods.

Clerk: Apologies

Absent: J Hudson

Assistant: P Rayner

Residents: 2

<b>C24/50</b>	<b>ELECTION OF CHAIR</b> As there were only 3 out of 7 councillors at the meeting it was <b>AGREED</b> to defer this to the next meeting and Cllr Ezra continued as chair for this meeting.	
<b>C24/51</b>	<b>APOLOGIES</b> – Apologies were received and accepted from J Theobald, D Willmer and C Jenkins	
	<b>OPEN FORUM FOR PARISHIONERS</b> The following points were raised: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A representative from Fremantle Care Home explained the reasons behind the request they had made to the parish council for a bus shelter to be installed at the bus stop outside the home.</li> <li>• A resident expressed the view that the parish council should not charge for the use of the playing field for football practice.</li> </ul>	
<b>C24/52</b>	<b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION</b> There were no new requests for dispensation.	
<b>C24/53</b>	<b>MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) The minutes of the meeting of the Communities Committee held on the 14<sup>th</sup> May 2024 were unanimously <b>AGREED</b> as a true record and were signed by the Chair.</li> <li>b) The action plan was reviewed and would be updated accordingly. It was <b>AGREED</b> to accept a quote of £500 to remove the railings across the playing field.</li> </ol>	
<b>C24/54</b>	<b>REPLACEMENT BUS SHELTER IN WENDOVER ROAD</b> The estimates for replacing the shelter like for like with a new wooden one were reviewed and the cost was considered too high. It was <b>AGREED</b> to get quotes for a metal shelter to match the design of those the parish council installed some years ago on Hawkslade but a 3m long design to match the size of the existing shelter.	Assistant Clerk
<b>C24/55</b>	<b>NEW BUS SHELTERS OUTSIDE FREMANTLE CARE HOME</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) The information provided by Fremantle Care Home was considered and it was <b>AGREED</b> to get quotes for the purchase and installation of a bus shelter for the Aylesbury bound bus stop. This will be the same design as the one for Wendover Road and will be a 3m shelter to cater for the expected number of users.</li> <li>b) The lack of lighting at the bus stop was discussed and it was <b>AGREED</b> to investigate the provision of solar powered lighting for the shelter.</li> </ol>	Assistant Clerk
<b>C24/56</b>	<b>ARMED FORCES COVENANT</b> The template and questionnaire for the bronze award were discussed and, while the committee wanted to show support for the armed forces, it was thought that the small size of the organization and the limited scope of services the parish council provide means we criteria for signing the covenant cannot be met. It was <b>AGREED</b> that the decision should be deferred to the full council with the recommendation that we should not sign up.	Clerk

<b>C24/57</b>	<p><b>CHARGES FOR FOOTBALL SESSIONS</b></p> <p>The football team that hires the playing field for matches at the weekend have regularly been holding organised training sessions one or two evenings each week. There were two issues discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Whether they should be charged to use the field for training.</li> <li>• Whether there needs to be a restriction on parking in order to prevent a group that has hired the hall not being able to park.</li> </ul> <p>Some members of the committee felt there should be a charge while others thought parking was the bigger issue. It was <b>AGREED</b> that no immediate changes would be made but the committee would review the contract before it is renewed in September.</p>	Clerk
<b>C24/58</b>	<p><b>STORAGE SHED FOR GOALS</b></p> <p>The football club have requested a shed in which to store their goals and possible other equipment. There was a discussion whether to provide a shed or maybe a shipping container. There was also a discussion of who would pay and where it would go. No conclusion was reached and it was <b>AGREED</b> to review this as part of contract negotiations for renewing the contract in September.</p>	
<b>C24/59</b>	<p><b>SPEED ACTIVATED SIGN</b></p> <p>The data from the last few months was reviewed. Data from Risborough Road is distorted by the presence of temporary traffic lights. For Lower Road it was noted that the percentage of speeding cars was greater for cars approaching the back of the sign than for the front. It was <b>AGREED</b> to reverse the direction of the sign to try and determine the effect of the display.</p>	Assistant Clerk
<b>C24/60</b>	<p><b>PARALYMPICS RECOGNITION</b></p> <p>A resident has suggested that the parish council do something to recognise Stoke Mandeville as the birthplace of the Paralympics.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It was <b>AGREED</b> to add some sort of permanent recognition on the web site.</li> <li>It was <b>AGREED</b> that something would be put on the web site front page to advertise this year's Paralympics which start on 28-August.</li> <li>It was <b>AGREED</b> to investigate the cost of banners to hang on lamp posts in the village.</li> </ol>	Assistant Clerk
<b>C24/61</b>	<p><b>FOILAGE ON BRIDGE</b></p> <p>The shrubs adjacent to the footpath on the Station Road bridge are the responsibility of Network Rail but they rarely cut them back so staff on the parish council have been cutting back the worse of it when required. It was <b>AGREED</b> that the shrubs need a more severe cutting back and regular pruning and we should seek to contract somebody to prune 3 times a year.</p>	Assistant Clerk
<b>C24/62</b>	<p><b>BUG HOTELS</b></p> <p>Cllr Field described bug hotels he had seen in Halton Village and suggested we could get the Men in Sheds charity to make them. It was <b>AGREED</b> we would investigate locations and costs for providing bug hotels in the parish.</p>	Assistant Clerk
<b>C24/63</b>	<p><b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</b></p> <p>The next meeting will be Tuesday 10 September 2024.</p>	

The meeting closed at 21:05

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Dated: 10<sup>th</sup> September 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

12/03/24	C24/20	Trim conifer hedge on remaining graves	Asst Clerk	In Progress
02/02/24	C24/28	Get quotes for removal of the barrier across the playing field.	Asst Clerk	Complete
14/05/24	C24/46	Get options and quotes for replacement wooden bus shelter.	Asst Clerk	In Progress
9/07/24	C24/53	Get quote for removal/supply/installation of bus shelter on Wendover Road	Asst Clerk	
9/07/24	C24/53	Get quote for removal/supply/installation of bus shelter on Wendover Road	Asst Clerk	
9/07/24	C24/54	Get quote for supply/installation of bus shelter with solar lights outside Fremantle Care Home	Asst Clerk	
9/07/24	C24/56	Review contract for playing field hire prior to renewal in September to consider charges for training, parking restrictions and provision of a storage facility	Clerk	
9/07/24	C24/59	Update website to reflect recognition of Paralympics	Asst Clerk	
9/07/24	C24/59	Get quotes for lamp post banners to recognise the Paralympics	Asst Clerk	
9/07/24	C24/60	Get quote for regular pruning on Station Road bridge	Asst Clerk	
9/07/24	C24/61	Suggest locations and get quotes for bug hotels	Asst Clerk	