

MINUTES OF ENGLEFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at Englefield Village Hall on Tuesday 9th January 2024

Present:

Cllr E. Crookes
Cllr R. Smith
L. Dennison
Cllr P. Myles

In attendance:

N. Rands (Clerk)

No members of the public were present

1. Apologies

No apologies were received

2. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Crookes declared an interest in agenda item 9a, pertaining to the planning application for Cobbs Farm Shop

3. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of this Council held on 17th October 2023 were approved as a true record

4. Open forum for members of the public

No members of the public present

5. Financial Update

The Clerk provided an overview of expenditure versus budget for year to date, and forecast position at financial year end

6. 2024/25 Budget & Precept

The proposed budget for 2024/25 was discussed and agreed
The Council approved a precept request for 2024/25 of £5,000

Actions –

- Clerk to investigate potential options to replace the existing dog waste bin with one with larger capacity, or a combined general waste and dog waste bin
- Clerk to confirm any impact on cost of bin emptying for larger capacity or dual bin

7. Payments for Approval

The following items were approved for payment:

- i. Autela Payroll Services - Payroll services Q3 2023/24
£54.58

8. Payments Made

The Council noted that the following payments have been made since the last meeting of the Council:

- i. Englefield Village Hall – Hire fee 17th October 2023
£30.00
- ii. Council Administration Salary & WFH Allowance November 2023
£167.31
- iii. Council Administration Salary & WFH Allowance December 2023
£167.11
- iv. Triangle Management - Dog Bin Maintenance October-December 2023
£63.18

Personnel Matters

The Council approved the implementation of the pay award agreed by National Joint Council for Local Government Services, increasing the Parish Clerk's pay from £14.48 to £15.48 per hour, effective from 1st April 2023 (to be back-dated).

Traffic Concerns

The Council discussed the concerns relating to difficulties crossing, or pulling onto, the A340 at the junctions with The Street and North Street due to speed and volume of traffic, and lack of visibility.

Actions –

- Clerk to request information from West Berkshire Council relating to the number and location of reported accidents; volume of traffic; and speed of traffic over a five year period between the A340 junctions with Common Hill and Chalkpit Cottages.

9. Planning

a) The Council discussed the following application(s):

- i. 23/02748/FUL - Cobbs Farm Shop, Wickcroft Farm, Pangbourne Road, Theale
The change of use of existing barn to farm shop together with external alterations
The Council agreed its response as being supportive in principle, but concerned about the potential impact on traffic volume

b) The Council noted that no decisions have been received since the last meeting of the Council

10. Date of Next Meetings

- a) The date of the next meeting was confirmed as 19th March 2024
- b) The date of the Annual Council Meeting and Annual Parish Assembly was agreed as Tuesday 14th May at 6.30p.m. and 7.00p.m. respectively

The meeting concluded at 19:44