

MINUTES OF ENGLEFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at Englefield Village Hall on Tuesday 14th January 2025

Present:

Cllr E. Crookes
Cllr R. Smith
Cllr L. Dennison
Cllr J. Goodwin

Apologies:

Cllr P. Myles

In attendance:

N. Rands (Clerk)

No members of the public were present

1. Apologies

The Council accepted the apologies of Cllr P. Myles

2. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Crookes declared an interest in agenda item 9b, pertaining to the planning application for North Street Farm padel tennis court.

3. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of this Council held on Tuesday 15th October 2024 were approved as a true record of the meeting.

4. Open Forum for Members of the Public

No member of the public present

5. Financial Update

- a) The Clerk provided an overview of payments and receipts versus budget for the financial year to date, which was noted by the Council.
- b) The Council approved a donation of £50 to Carebus and £50 to West Berkshire Libraries.
- c) The Council noted the new banking charges of £4.25 per month effective from 14th January 2025, and agreed to keep banking arrangements under review.

6. 2025/26 Budget and Precept

- a) The Council reviewed and agreed the proposed budget for 2025/26 and approved a precept request of £5,000.
 - b) The Council discussed potential uses of the Community Infrastructure Levy 2024/25 payment of £688, and agreed to budget £200 for 'Slow Down' signage for North Street.
- Actions:

- Explore the repair or replacement of the solar light located in North Street telephone box – Cllr Crookes
- Obtain quotes for ‘Slow Down’ signage, including post and fixings - Clerk
- Explore potential locations of ‘Slow Down’ signage with the Englefield Estate and, if necessary, with West Berkshire Council – Cllr Crookes
- Explore whether “Quiet Lane” status still available and how to seek – Cllr Crookes

7. Payments Made

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

- i. Town and Parish Council Websites – Website hosting and maintenance October 2024 – October 2025
£175.00
- ii. HMRC – Council Administration Income Tax Q2 2024/25
£120.80
- iii. Englefield Village Hall – Hall hire 15th October 2024
£30.00
- iv. Clerk Salary & WFH Allowance – October 2024
£177.71
- v. Clerk Salary & WFH Allowance – November 2024
£177.71
- vi. Autela Payroll Services – Payroll services August-November 2024
£75.05
- vii. Triangle Management – Dog bin maintenance December 2024 – February 2025
£70.20
- viii. Clerk Salary & WFH Allowance – December 2024
£177.51

8. 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 £15.48 to £16.10 per hour, effective from 1st April 2024 (to be back-dated).

9. Planning

- a) The Council noted that no planning applications have been received since the last meeting of the Council.
- b) The Council discussed the Non-Material Amendment that has been requested to the planning permission granted in 2021 for North Street Farm padel tennis court, and agreed to object on the basis that they don’t feel it is a Non-Material Amendment due to the impact on highways and potential disturbance to residents.

10. Local Plan 2022-2039 Review Consultation

The Council noted the public consultation taking place on changes to the district’s Local Plan 2022-2039, which closes 31st Jan 2025.

<https://www.westberks.gov.uk/lpr-proposed-main-modifications>

11. Traffic and Highways

- a) The Council noted the upcoming planned road closure on Ashampstead Road as a result of major repair works at Bradfield College.
<https://www.bradfieldcollege.org.uk/about/bradfield/cdf/>
- b) Cllr Dennison provided an update on damage to the verge at North Street corner, the damage to the grass verge following construction at Malpas Farm is planned to be remedied once the weather improves.

The following meeting dates were confirmed:

Tuesday 11th March 2025 6:30p.m.

Thursday 22nd May 2025 6.30p.m. – Annual Council Meeting

Thursday 22nd May 2025 7.00p.m. – Annual Parish Assembly

The meeting finished at 19:44

Chairman: Date: