

# SEER GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

### HELD ON TUESDAY 4<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2025 AT 7.30pm

**Present:** Cllr. L Hungin (Chairman), Cllr N Baddeley, Cllr J Holder, Cllr D Tryon, Cllr A Anderson, Cllr H O'Flanagan, Cllr J Maddox and Cllr C Hughes.

**In attendance:** Mr I Hawes, Mrs K Hawes, Mr P Zetter, County Cllr Carl Jackson and Mrs E Bates (Clerk).

- I. OPEN SESSION:** County Cllr Carl Jackson had contacted the Rights of Way (RoW) Team to help get the fallen Oak removed that has been blocking footpath 8 for over a year. He reported a more encouraging response from RoW although they said the clearance work will be weather dependent as they need to arrange heavy lifting equipment and may not be able to carry out the work until the end of April. Cllr Jackson also reported that enforcement of the parking restrictions should be in place next week with both the Police and Enforcement Officers visiting Seer Green.

Mr Zetter, Club Secretary for Seer Green United Football Club, came to discuss the impact of the proposed return of Jordans Taverners Cricket Club to the football clubs use of the Recreation Ground. It was agreed that Mr Zetter would be included in discussions with the Cricket Club to ensure that if they return it works well for both clubs.

- II. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Cllr T Brewis. The apologies were accepted.

**Approval of Minutes of the previous meeting:** The minutes for the January meeting were approved by Cllr Tryon and Cllr Holder. The minutes were duly signed as a correct record of the meeting.

#### **Update on Actions from Previous Meeting:**

STAKEHOLDER	ACTION	STATUS
Hungin/Anderson	The tiled flooring in the shower room at the Pavilion has become loose.	Cllr Hungin will arrange for the Plumber to coordinate with Cllr Anderson to resolve the tiling issue.
Brewis/Hungin	It was unanimously agreed that the Parish Council would like to adopt and improve the area of land at the front of Cherrywood Close.	Cllr Brewis is progressing the application with Land Registry.
Councillors	It was identified that the Green Meadow gate post by Stable Lane is loose and needs to be reinstated. The gate catch is also stiff and will be reported to a local contractor for repair.	The repair will be included for a larger project along with other fence repairs.
Maddox/Holder/Hungin	It was discussed how to survey the views of Seer Green's children and young people on any enhancements to facilities and equipment.	A draft will be prepared.
Hughes	The Chilterns National Landscape had sent information about an upcoming consultation on proposed changes to the statutory management plans for the Chilterns National Landscape and invited the Parish council to contribute.	The consultation information will be reviewed.
Baddeley/Councillors	The significant damage from the recent storm was discussed.	A document will be prepared at the informal Councillor meeting on 11 <sup>th</sup> February to scope the repairs.

**Matters arising from the previous meeting not listed on the Agenda:** No matters were arising.

**III. MONTHLY RISK INSPECTIONS:**

- i. **Health and Safety Issues identified and recommended actions:** Cllr Brewis completed the January inspection on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2025. There were no risks identified. The February inspection will be carried out by Cllr O’Flanagan. **(Action – Cllr O’Flanagan)** The Allotment Association reported that currently there were no spare plots. Mr Richardson and Mr Perks met with Councillor Hughes to discuss the work on boundary alongside Recreation Ground. They agreed we will get rid of all non-tree growth next to boundary fence and the trees need topping to control growth and stop them overshadowing the plots at the rear of the allotments. The allotments association will continue to plant hedging along boundaries to make them secure and eventually eliminate the need for fencing. The Allotment Association will trim the rear hedge as they have done for the last few years.
- ii. **Maintenance issues identified and recommended actions:** Thanks were given to Cllr O’Flanagan, Cllr Hughes and Cllr Brewis for sorting out the repair of the footpath in Green Wood following the damage from the fallen Oak.
- iii. **Other Health and Safety Issues (not covered above):** Cllr Brewis reported concerns with the fence and overhanging foliage on Footpath 16. He has reported the issues to the Rights of Way team to contact the landowners.

**IV. DECLARATION OF INTEREST:** No declarations were made.

**V. CORRESPONDENCE:**

The council had received a request to have coloured tiles inset into a Cremation Memorial in the Cemetery. There was concern about setting a precedent and it was felt that it was important to keep the style of the existing permitted memorials. It was suggested that there may be a different solution available which will be discussed with the family. **(Action – Clerk)**

A competitive insurance quotation had been received from Hiscox Insurance Company Limited for the period from the 1st April 2025 to the 31st March 2026. The premium (including IPT and all fees) for the year will be: £3,227.00. The scheme offered a 3 year binding Long Term Agreement and it will be investigated as to whether there are any caveats to increase the rate. **(Action – Cllr Tryon)**

**VI. FINANCE:**

From 4<sup>th</sup> January 2025 to 1<sup>st</sup> February:-

Payments amounting to:-	£9,709.89
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Income received:-	£3,044.67
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The closing bank balances on 2 <sup>nd</sup> February 2025 totalled:-	£105,529.13
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- VII. PLANNING:** The new planning applications were reviewed and discussed. Notices of new planning applications continue to be displayed on the noticeboard and website. Two planning applications was permitted and one was refused. Planning application PL/24/3843/FA Old Vicarage, Long Grove, Seer Green was discussed and it was agreed that the building was of historical importance to the village. It was resolved to object to the application for “Demolition of existing detached dwelling and annexe, and replacement with new detached dwelling and associated landscaping.” It was also agreed that County Cllr Jackson would call the application into committee. **(Action – Cllr Hungin)** Concern was also raised about application PL/24/3899/VRC for the variation or removal of a Condition for Altwood, Long Bottom Lane, Seer Green, HP9 2UL, in order to extend the basement. Concern was raised about the damage that this ongoing application has caused to the highway infrastructure on Long Bottom Lane. The drains and ditches are now blocked with clay/mud which caused the road to badly flood. There is considerable mud left on the road which is a danger to cyclists and the contractors are now parking on the pavement, causing damage to the verge/ditch area. Contact will be made with the Planning Officer and Cllr Jackson also agreed to raise the issues with Bucks Council. **(Action – Cllr Hungin)**

**VIII. PRINCIPAL AGENDA ITEMS.**

- i. **CEMETERY & GREEN WOOD:** The significant damage from the recent storm was discussed. A document will be prepared at the informal Councillor meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> February to scope and prioritise the repairs required so that contractors can be engaged. **(Action – Baddeley, Councillors)**

- ii. **COMMUNITY BOARD APPLICATION:** It had previously been agreed to submit an application for improved safety surfacing under existing play equipment (swings and spinner) in Green Meadow. The total project will cost £11,914.03 and the Parish Council would fund £4,500. £7,414.03 is to be requested from the Community Board to complete the project in the new financial year. **(Action – Cllr Holder)**
- iii. **FINANCIAL REGULATIONS:** The Financial Regulations had been updated, following a review of the new NALC standard template for Financial Regulations 2024. An updated version has been circulated and was unanimously agreed to be adopted. **(Action – Clerk)**
- iv. **WILDLIFE CAMERA:** The new camera had been tested and provided excellent quality images. It was agreed to position the camera to monitor the Owl box in Green Wood with the kind help of Mr Hawes. **(Action – Cllr Baddeley, Hungin)**
- v. **COUNCILLOR COMMUNICATIONS:** The Councillor WhatsApp group was agreed as being a very helpful method of communication. It was agreed that if anything important is raised or noted then this would be communicated to the whole council by email. **(Action – Cllr Hungin)** It was also agreed that the informal Councillor meeting would be minuted and the notes circulated to all councillors and the clerk. **(Action – Cllr Hungin)**
- vi. **WILDFLOWERS:** It was agreed that wildflower beds would be prepared and sown on Chalfont Road and Bayne Hill. The Gas board had warning signs at the junction of Bottom Lane and Long Bottom Lane so this area will be monitored to see if it will be safe to work in this location. **(Action – Clerk)** Subject to discussion with residents it was agreed that the large grass area in Long Grove will be partially cut, but swathes of naturally growing wildflowers will be left to grow in the spring around the trees. **(Action – Clerk)**

#### **IX. UPDATES ON OTHER MATTERS (Reports by Exception)**

- i. **JUBILEE HALL:** The electrical work recommended following the 5 year fixed wiring inspection will be carried out over the half term holidays. It is also hoped that the car park will be fully repaired although the contractor has kindly carried out a temporary repair. **(Action – Clerk)** The lights in the John Orme Room have been upgraded to soft white LED.
  - ii. **PAVILION:** Following a request from Little Ducklings to have an electrical socket in the changing room it was agreed to ask Mr Watson for a quotation for the work. **(Action – Cllr Hungin)** The Pavilion Sub-Committee agreed the type of new heating and hot water timer that needs to be installed. Heat Industrial will be chased to proceed with the work. **(Action – Cllr Baddeley)**
  - iii. **BIODIVERSITY:** No items were raised.
  - iv. **PARISH COUNCIL PROPERTIES, OPEN SPACES AND SERVICES:** The Recreation Ground boundary hedge with the allotments will be reduced in height on 5<sup>th</sup> February. Two holes had appeared on the Recreation Ground. It was agreed to fill these holes and seed the area. **(Action – Cllr Anderson)** Some areas of the Recreation Ground were not draining well so it was agreed to consider work to these areas which will be discussed with Amersham Town Council. **(Action – Cllr Anderson)** It was agreed to request that the salt bin near Vicarage Close is moved back to nearer Bayne Hill so that the hill and pavement could be gritted when icy. **(Action – Clerk)**
- X. INFORMATION ITEMS:** The brewery had informed the council that the landlord of the Three Horseshoes does not want to proceed with the full agreement so they are looking for a new tenant. The brewery asked for their details to be forwarded to anyone who may be interested. An informal Councillor meeting will be held after the Parish Council Surgery at 11.30am on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2025.

The meeting closed at 9.05pm

**NEXT MEETING – The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at 7.30pm at Seer Green Baptist Church, Wood Pond Close, Seer Green, HP9 2XG.**