

SEER GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON TUESDAY 1st APRIL 2025 AT 7.30pm

Present: Cllr. L Hungin (Chairman), Cllr T Brewis, Cllr J Holder, Cllr D Tryon, Cllr A Anderson, Cllr J Maddox and Cllr C Hughes.

In attendance: Mrs K Hawes, Ms J Chamberlain, Mr R Gill, Mr G Kirkby, Mr A Newton, Mrs S Ash, Mrs A Norbury, County Cllr Carl Jackson and Mrs E Bates (Clerk).

OPEN SESSION: Jane Chamberlain, Rob Gill and Grant Kirkby came to introduce themselves as they were all standing for the Buckinghamshire Council Unitary Ward Councillor positions at the elections on 1st May.

- I. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Cllr H O’Flanagan and Cllr N Baddeley. The apologies were accepted.
- A resident came to raise concerns about ongoing issues at a property in Long Bottom Lane. The local MP’s, Police & Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley and Ward Councillors have been made aware of the issues.
- Concerns were raised about the latest Buckinghamshire diary for household waste collection which was found difficult to read. These issues will be raised with the Ward Councillor.

Approval of Minutes of the previous meeting: The minutes for the March 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 is trying to resolve the tiling issue. Another local contractor will be asked for a quotation.
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.
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.	The work will be scheduled during the Spring.
Clerk	Contact will try to be made with the family who own the memorial headstone that was knocked over by the recent fallen tree.	There is no next of kin contact for this grave. Creative Memorials will be contacted for the cost of reinstating the memorial stone.
Holder	A Youth Survey has been prepared which was reviewed and approved. The survey included ideas for possible new play equipment for Green Meadow and the Recreation Ground.	This will be communicated through the School, Youth Clubs, Community Chat and included in the next Newsletter.

Matters arising from the previous meeting not listed on the Agenda: Bucks Council Rights of Way (RoW) have notified the Parish Council that the clearance work on the large fallen oak blocking footpath 8 will begin on 3rd April. RoW have also stated that they plan to replace the broken stile on footpath 12 after the work on footpath 8 has been completed. There was concern raised that there was barbed wire at head height on footpath 8. As the path has been closed for over a year County Cllr Carl Jackson was asked if he could get RoW to completely check and clear the footpath before it is reopened to the public. Overgrown foliage from the rear of properties in Manor Crescent and

five loose posts on footpath 16 were making the path difficult to navigate. The owner of the posts will be asked if they could secure them. The Manor Crescent residents will also be asked if they can cut back the foliage at the rear of their properties. **(Action – Clerk)**

III. MONTHLY RISK INSPECTIONS:

- i. **Health and Safety Issues identified and recommended actions:** Cllr Tryon completed the March inspection on 21st March 2025. Concern was raised about fencing in the SE corner of Green Meadow which had been pulled down and is being used as an exit. The area will be inspected and photographed for further discussion. **(Action – Cllr Hungin, Cllr Holder)** The April inspection will be carried out by Cllr Anderson. **(Action – Cllr Anderson)** The Allotment Association reported that they are adding supports to some of the boundary fence posts and they are planting extra saplings to create a boundary hedge. A recent leak has been repaired. All plots are allocated.
- ii. **Maintenance issues identified and recommended actions:** Cllr O’Flanagan has inspected the allotments with the Chairman of the Allotment Association. The roots of the large cherry tree in Jubilee Walk continues to cause concern about damage to the path. An arboriculturist will be contacted for advice about cutting the root that is causing the damage. **(Action – Cllr Hughes)**
- iii. **Other Health and Safety Issues (not covered above):** Foliage overgrowing from the fence in the Cemetery will be cut back. **(Action – Clerk)**

IV. **DECLARATION OF INTEREST:** Cllr Anderson declared an interest in the Recreation Ground as he runs the Adult Football Team. Cllr Hungin declared an interest in the Recreation Ground due to her involvement with Jordans Taverners Cricket Club.

V. CORRESPONDENCE:

The Bucks Council Devolution Team offered Highways Devolution contract for the next 4 years starting at £3,778.38 for 2025-26. This will be subject to potential inflation rates applied by Buckinghamshire Council, which will be confirmed in the February of that year. The agreement was accepted and signed.

Beaconsfield Cricket Club have asked to discuss the possibility of using the Seer Green Recreation Ground. Members from Beaconsfield Cricket Club will be invited to attend the informal Councillor meeting to discuss the matter further. **(Action – Cllr Hungin)**

Seer Green United will be asked to confirm their use for training and playing at the Recreation Ground over the coming year. **(Action – Clerk)**

Jordans Taverners Cricket Club have succeeded in getting their funding from the Bucks Council Denham, Gerrards Cross & the Chalfonts Community Board to renovate the Cricket square at the Recreation Ground in 2025 so that they could return to play in 2026.

The Parish Council have been successful in obtaining funding of £7,414.03 from the Bucks Council Denham, Gerrards Cross & the Chalfonts Community Board towards improvements to Safety Surfacing in the Green Meadow play area. The funding offer has been accepted.

VI. FINANCE:

From 3rd March to 31st March 2025:-

Payments amounting to:-	£14,020.81
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Income received:-	£2,981.40
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The closing bank balances on 31st March 2025 totalled:-	£92,877.36
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The finances presented were approved.

- i. **Appointment of Internal Auditor:-** It was agreed to appoint Mr Ernest Newhouse as the internal auditor for the Parish Council’s 2024/2025 accounts. A formal letter of engagement will be sent to Mr Newhouse. **(Action – Clerk)**
- ii. **Additional online signatories for the current account:-** Cllr Maddox and Cllr Brewis both volunteered to be added as additional signatories for the Parish Council current account with Lloyds Bank. **(Action – Clerk, Cllr Maddox, Cllr Brewis)**
- iii. **Clerk Salary:-** The Clerks salary for 2025/2026 was agreed and approved. This was recorded under a closed minute.

VII. **PLANNING:** The new planning applications were reviewed and discussed. Four applications were permitted and application PL/25/0484/DM for the Old Vicarage, had their prior notification of proposed demolition refused. Due to legal constraints Bucks Council will be removing the detailed

comments provided by the public from the planning portal. They will only publish the number of comments and objections. Ward Councillors will still be able to view the public comments.

VIII. PRINCIPAL AGENDA ITEMS.

- i. **CEMETERY:** A local carpenter has replaced the bird mouth fencing surrounding the War Memorial. It was agreed to ask our Cemetery grounds maintenance contractor to clear the foliage where the trees recently fell into the cemetery. **(Action – Clerk)** Tree surgeons will be asked for advice on clearing the remaining tree stumps and root balls further away from the fence. **(Action – Cllr Hughes)** An estimate had been received for repairing the fence. The contractor will be asked for a detailed quotation including the use of silver fencing to match the existing cemetery fence. **(Action – Cllr Hungin)**
- ii. **PICNIC TABLES FOR THE RECREATION GROUND:** A site meeting was held to agree a possible location for two new picnic tables. It was agreed to use the area where there are three benches near the new tree. The benches from Earth Anchors will be in black recycled plastic like the existing benches on the Recreation Ground. They would be either octagonal or circular and would include a space for a wheelchair or buggy. Little Ducklings will be asked if this will affect the use of this area for Forest School. **(Action – Cllr Hungin)** The cricket club will be asked if this will affect fielding in the outfield. **(Action – Cllr Hungin)** Cllr Anderson asked to be shown the area that has been agreed. **(Action – Cllr Hungin)**
- iii. **NEWSLETTER:** The Newsletter will be circulated for review. **(Action – Cllr Holder)**
- iv. **ANNUAL SAFETY INSPECTION:** It was agreed to engage RoSPA Play Safety to carry out the annual safety inspection of the Green Meadow playground and the Outdoor Gym at the Recreation Ground. **(Action – Clerk)**

IX. UPDATES ON OTHER MATTERS (Reports by Exception)

- i. **JUBILEE HALL:** The school continues to raise funds for their new kitchen but this may not be located in Jubilee Hall, so the reference to the hall will be requested to be removed from their Just Giving page. **(Action – Cllr Tryon)** A different cleaner is on a two week trial at Jubilee Hall. Their standard of cleaning will be reviewed. **(Action – Clerk)**
 - ii. **PAVILION:** Two quotations had been received from the electrician to install electrical sockets in the Changing Rooms. These have been circulated to the Pavilion Sub Committee who agreed to go with option two which includes an upgrade to the switch on the consumer unit. **(Action – Cllr Hungin)**
 - iii. **BIODIVERSITY:** There were no items raised.
 - iv. **PARISH COUNCIL PROPERTIES, OPEN SPACES AND SERVICES:** Thursday 8 May 2025 marks the 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe (VE) Day. It was agreed that this would be commemorated by a community act of remembrance at 7pm at the War Memorial. It was agreed to complete the Buckinghamshire Council Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy which Cllr Anderson will do with regard to the football facilities. **(Action – Cllr Anderson)**
 - i. **Best Kept Village Competition 2025:** It was agreed to enter the Best Kept Village Competition for 2025. The application form and map will be prepared. **(Action – Clerk)**
- X. INFORMATION ITEMS:** Cllr Brewis will hold the informal surgery with the Clerk on Tuesday 11th April at 10.30am at the Baptist Church.

The meeting closed at 8.58pm

NEXT MEETING – The next Parish Council Annual Meeting will be held on Tuesday 13th May 2025 at 7.15pm followed by the meeting at 7.30pm at Seer Green Baptist Church, Wood Pond Close, Seer Green, HP9 2XG.