

Long Bredy & Kingston Russell Parish Council

The minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on

Monday 29 January 2024 at 7pm

Village Hall, Long Bredy

Present: Councillors Charlotte Kinghorn (Chairman), Giles Maltby, Rick Cook, Steven Evans, Kate Harris

2023/076 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence from Councillor Peretz and Cullingford were accepted.

2023/077 Declarations of Interest

There were no pecuniary declarations of interest, however Councillor Evans made it known that he resided in the group of houses referenced in the Planning Application on the Agenda.

2023/078 Public Participation time

Councillor Mark Roberts was the only member of the public.

2023/079 Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting of the Parish Council, held on 27 November 2023, were presented by the Chairman.

Resolved that the minutes be accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

2023/080 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising that were not already covered by the agenda.

2023/081 Dorset Ward Councillor's Update

Councillor Roberts updated those present on the Dorset Council budget and stated that there would be no cut to services although a 5% rise in council tax was to be expected with much of the expenditure going on Adult services.

It was noted that Dorset has the highest percentage of population over 85 years old.

It was confirmed that the Council would be able to claim double council tax on second homes in 2025.

The wait list for planning applications had gone down from 26 weeks to 16 weeks, but costs had risen by 75%.

2023/082 Rowden Farm

Councillor Harris noted 'Councillor Harris noted that Savills invited all farm tenants to County Hall for stakeholder engagement about the future of the County Farm estate.

There was no further update from Councillor Roberts.

2023/083 A35 Road Improvements

The Parish Council wished to pass their condolences to the families of those involved in the accident on the A35 on New Year's Day, in particular to the family of the young person that had lost their life.

Councillors felt strongly that their voices should be heard with regards to the growing concern around road safety and requested that the Clerk write to National Highways and Chris Loder MP to ask what was being done to make this stretch of road safer.

Whilst writing, the question of road repairs would also be raised.

Resolved that the Clerk would write to National Highways and Chris Loder MP expressing the Council's concern.

2023/084 Parish Council Filing Cabinet

The Village Hall Committee had requested that the Parish Council remove their filing cabinet from the hall but had agreed to store a smaller, two drawer version on their behalf.

It was agreed to establish whether there might be a local organisation or member of the community that had a lockable filing cabinet that they no longer required. If not, it would be brought back to Council for further discussion.

2023/085 Highways

Councillor Kinghorn had been due to meet with a representative from Highways but unfortunately this did not go ahead. It was hoped that the meeting could be rearranged.

Resolved that the Clerk would contact Highways to try to rearrange the meeting.

2023/086 The Rookery

There had been no further progress in this regard but the item would be on the next Agenda.

2023/087 Playground update

The Chairman had met Ken Hussey at the playground to discuss outstanding items from the playground inspection report. During the meeting it was noted that the Contractor did much work in the local area and was understood to be qualified in play inspections and was also able to carry out repairs.

Resolved that the Council were content to engage of the services of Ken Hussey for the forthcoming year, subject to no more than a charge of £30 per quarter and satisfactory proof of qualifications. The Clerk would request proof of qualifications and insurance.

2023/088 Replacement Mower

The Clerk confirmed that replacement mower had been insured, without any increase to the premium and the warranty had been registered in the name of the Parish Council.

2023/089 Planning Applications

To note the comments of the Council in respect of

Planning Application **P/LBC/2023/07124**

Proposal: Demolition of existing rear extensions, erection of ground and first floor rear extensions. Erection and relocation of ancillary buildings. Other internal and external works and addition of modern low energy services.

Location: 4 & 5 Bedford Terrace, Long Bredy, DT2 9HW

Resolved that the Council had no objection to the application..

2023/090 Local Government Pay Review

Resolved that the Council approve the local government pay review for the Parish Clerk and associated back pay.

2023/091 Payments

The Clerk presented the following payments for approval.

Printing October = £2.99

Printing November = £2.99

Printing December = £2.99

Printing January	= £2.99
ICO	= £40.00
HMRC	= £334 (Oct 2023 – Jan 2024 inc)
Clerks Salary	= £1670 (Oct 2023 – Jan 2024 inc)
Home working allowance	= £106 (Oct 2023 – Jan 2024 inc)
Microsoft Renewal	= £79.99

Resolved that the payments be approved.

2023/092 Elections 2024

The process for the upcoming elections was discussed in minor detail as much was still unclear.

Resolved that the Clerk would find out more about the timeline of events and the cut off date for nominations.

2023/093 Spring Litter Pick and Volunteer Morning

Councillors considered dates that would be appropriate for the upcoming events.

Resolved that the Spring Litter Pick and Coffee Morning would be held on Saturday 9 March and the Volunteer Morning would be held on 6 July. Councillors were expected to attend.

2023/094 Annual Meeting of the Parish Council

Councillors considered the annual meeting of the Parish Council which needed to be held between Monday 13 May and Thursday 23 May, due to it being an election year.

Resolved that the meeting be held at 6.30pm on Wednesday 15th May 2024. Councillors were expected to arrive no later than 6.00pm to set up the hall for the evening.

2023/095 Annual Meeting of the Parish

Councillors considered the annual meeting of the parish which needed to be held before 1 June but not before the election on 2 May.

Resolved that the meeting be held at 7pm on Wednesday 15 May following on from the meeting of the Parish Council.

2023/096 Budget 2024/25

Councillors considered the budget at length and made attempts to reduce the precept as much as possible without affecting the needs of the council to function. The Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer raised concerns at taking expenditure from reserves as there was less than 12 months operational costs currently held.

Resolved that in order to reduce the precept, the cost of the replacement laptop for the Clerk would be taken from reserves as well as election costs if they were necessary. It was further resolved that in the current financial climate, the precept could not be used to fund donations and this budget line was therefore removed.

The precept was unanimously set at £8,864.

2023/097 Items for the next Agenda

- The Rookery
- Highways
- Filing Cabinet
- Elections

2023/098 Date of the next meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council would be on Monday 18 March 2023 at 7pm.

Signed

Chairman