Atworth Parish Council

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Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 21st September 2016 at 7pm in Atworth Village Hall

Present:

Cllrs. Effie Gale-Sides (Chair), Alan Lee, Arnold Snowball, Ros Cooper, Alan Bagnell, William Bird, Richard Clark, Maureen Weston and Phil McMullen (Clerk).

Ref. **Agenda items**

89/16 **1. Welcome**

Effie welcomed those present to the Council Meeting.

90/16 **2. Apologies for absence**

Phil reported that apologies had been received from Charles Boyle due to ill health. Maggie Ledbury our police representative has also submitted apologies.

91/16 **3. Minutes**

3.1 To approve and sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 20th July 2016

AB proposed and RiC seconded that these were adopted as a true record of the meeting.

3.2 To approve and sign the minutes of the Parish Council Planning meeting held on 15th August 2016

MW proposed and AB seconded that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held 15th August were considered to be a true record of the meeting.

The Chair duly annotated both sets of minutes.

92/16 **4. Declarations of Interest**

EGS, AS and RiC are trustees of the Atworth Village Hall Committee. MW represents the Parish Council on the same committee.

5. Closure of meeting for public participation

The meeting was closed in order that members of the public could raise issues of concern

6. Public question time

Terry Chivers, the Wiltshire Councillor, said that parish councils could possibly be rate capped in future. The meeting agreed that it might be sensible to set the level below the cap at £4.99 (i.e. immediately below the proposed cap of £5.00). WB remarked that we should be careful not to have too much in reserves. Effie noted that the auditor ignores funds which are ring-fenced. We could be spending money on grass cutting, a bench and a notice board in Chalfield. We should look at the precept for the end of the year with a view to spending appropriately.

7. Reconvene meeting

The meeting was reconvened

93/16 **8. Planning Applications**

To consider planning application reference 16/08217/FUL, proposed oak framed car port at The Hay Barn, Bradford Road (please enter the above reference number to view online here: http://planning.wiltshire.gov.uk/Northgate/PlanningExplorer/ApplicationSearch.aspx)

The meeting noted that the proposal was well away from the line of sight of the road.

Otherwise there were no comments to make, and the Clerk was instructed to respond to that effect.

PMN: Planning authority notified 220916

94/16 **9. Reports**

PC Maggie Ledbury provided a report as follows.

Since your last meeting there are a few incidents to report, in the early hours of the 24/07/2016 there were some loose horses on the A365. One of these collided with a vehicle and sadly had to be put down due to the injuries it sustained. On 18/08/2016 overnight a van parked and secure in the Atworth business park had its full exhaust system taken. There was no evidence, witnesses or CCTV for this so it went undetected. On 22/08/2016 there was a minor RTC at Stonar crossroads when a car pulled up and a motorbike went into the back of it. The rider sustained a hand injury. On the 26/08/2016 there was a report of a suspicious white van in the business park around midday, there were two males asking for old batteries. 29/08/2016 There was another report of 2 males in a white van in Nursery Close offering gardening services. On the 08/09/2016 a fallen tree on the A365 . Lastly on the 15/09/2016 a burglary in Bath Road where entry was made by smashing the glass in the front door and reaching into the lock to open it. The suspect/s then went upstairs and took jewellery. It is not known if they were disturbed as other items and cash were left. There were no witnesses, evidence or CCTV and thus far has gone undetected.

Please ask people to be vigilant whilst out and about around the village and if they see or hear anything that they feel is suspicious to phone it in on the 101 number. If anything is witnessed and ongoing then please ring 999.

95/16 10**. Finance**

10.1 Approval of Payment Schedule to date and authorisation of cheques.

There were no cheques presented for reimbursement at this meeting.

Direct Debits were submitted for approval as follows:

Date Approved	Payee Name	DD/Chq No	Net £	VAT £	Gross £	Payment Details	Approved By
	Philip McMullen	DD	267.32	-	267.32	Salary and office allowance Aug 16	
	HMRC	DD	66.83	-	66.83	HMRC income tax for wages	
	P. McMullen - Amazon refund	DD	18.80	4.70	23.50	Amazon refund for Toner Cartridge	
				-	-		

AB proposed and MW seconded that the Payment Schedule to August 2016 was a true record and that payments were made as per the schedule. This was agreed by all present. The schedule was accordingly initialled.

10.2 Budget monitoring.

RiC proposed and MW seconded that the Budget Monitoring Statement to end August 16 was a true record. All were in favour.

96/16 11. **Matters arising**

11.1 Clock tower area improvements and need for notice boards in that area.

The Clerk explained that he had so far sent out 6 requests for quotations, and had only received one back to date: "to remove the Gravel put a new subbase and resin bonded gravel looking around £3500"

WB suggested trying Valetta Surfacing.

11.2 School traffic sign.

Effie said that people seemed contented now that the tree has been trimmed back.

11.3 ID Cards for Parish Councillors.

These were issued to councillors present.

11.4 Gate to Recreation Field.

Effie thanked WB for his work, but reported to the meeting that a person is disputing the boundary and the location of the gate. A neighbour is also disputing the boundary, and a resident has taken a step further and built themselves a gateway into the Playing Fields. WB said that the hedge (and possibly the ditch which was previously there) belonged to the Parish Council and had been filled in.

There is now a peg in the ground, courtesy of the helpful resident in Number 4, which marks the edge of the boundary.

WB stated he was originally going to put the gate across the field entrance with the pedestrian gate to the left. The alternative was to put the gate at right angles across. The original suggestion was agreed to by the Parish Council as it seemed the most reasonable and obvious approach, and didn't encroach on anyone else's property. The meeting voted on this and reached a unanimous agreement.

Regarding the new entrance which had been created, the residents had previously asked permission to cut back the copse, which hadn't been agreed to, and the gate had then appeared which definitely wasn't acceptable. The councillors agreed that we should mark our boundary clearly with concrete posts as soon as possible.

Action on the Clerk to write to the occupier at 2 Hayes Close pointing out that the Recreation Ground is privately owned by the Parish Council and that they cannot put a gate onto our land.

PMN: action completed 23/9/16

11.5 Village Highways matters: Mead Park, Bradford Road, pedestrian crossing and Chapel Rise.

Effie said we have now have zig-zags at the pedestrian crossing, and yellow lines at Mead Park and Bradford Road. WB observed that the yellow lines at the bottom of Coronation Road are breaking up because the road surface is breaking up, so technically they are no longer enforceable.

Action on the Clerk to notify Highways of the issue.

PMN : Issue reported 23/9/16

Chapel Rise dropped kerbs: these are still on the CATG waiting list.

Alan Bagnell asked where should buses be turning in Bradford Road? William Bird said that how the buses operate is nothing to do with the Parish Council or indeed the Police. If buses mount the pavement they should be reported.

The toll-gate has vegetation growing across the road – Effie remarked that we need a village handyman to take care of issues such as this.

Effie asked that everyone look at the parking issues by the Independent Church, at the back of the toll house, to ensure no damage is caused by vehicles parking there, particularly during wet weather. We should otherwise have to consider putting in bollards or stones.

11.6 Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator for Atworth

Effie reported that the Area Co-coordinator for Atworth Neighbourhood Watch is Mrs. Anne Diamond, 7 Clock Tower View, tel. 01225 704064, e-mail: diamondsarenhw@hotmail.com

11.7 Dementia awareness session. *This will be on 15th October 3.00pm*
11.8 Defibrillator training session. *This will be on 15th October 4.15pm*

Effie has arranged for the information to appear in the Village Magazine.

11.9 Cleaning of bus shelters

The Clerk reported that Andy Cadwallader had agreed that the Parish Steward would clean the bus shelters on this occasion, but in future we would need to make our own arrangements.

11.10 Ivy on bus shelter.

Effie has spoken to both neighbours involved, primarily the lady who lives on the left. She is to ask her gardener to cut it back. Effie will deliver a letter to her formally requesting the work is undertaken as soon as possible, and pointing out that the householder will be responsible for repairs should the ivy damage the building in any way.

WB confirmed that the roof is asbestos.
11.11 Village Flagman. Steve Jordan has informed Effie that he will accept this role. The poppy flag goes up at the end of September.

97/16 **12. Agenda items**

12.1 Play equipment. Consideration of donation towards safety and urgent repair to Net Climber.

Effie explained that one of the original areas needs new surfacing. RiC has costed the repairs.

£201 to replace the bars on the net climber, £684.14 for the grass tiles, £512.50 to level the ground and repair – a total of £1398.04 (all costs ex-VAT). Noted that the Parish Council is able to recover the VAT element.

MW proposed and RoC seconded that we spend the money and all were in favour that this was progressed. RiC to send the Clerk the invoice.

12.2 Parking at Bradford Road

AB mentioned a problem with vehicles parking on the green belt in Bradford Road. WB agreed that this happens occasionally. It's illegal because although it's on the grass, the yellow lines on the road are still effective. Otherwise, parking on the verge is acceptable so long as it's not causing an obstruction.

Action on the clerk – a reminder from the Parish Council and the Police not to park near a junction. To go into the Parish Magazine and on Facebook.

12.3 Metrocount Update

Effie said that Leanne Homewood, the Speedwatch coordinator, had stressed the importance of taking care in where the Metrocounts are placed.

The Clerk explained that he had received the following update from Wiltshire Council:

To request Metrocounts each location must be raised as a speeding concern via the Issues reporting system to the Area Board. If supported by the CATG a form will then be issued to the Parish to complete, to establish where the count(s) should take place.

If there is any recent data available, (in the last 12 months) then no further count will be undertaken unless there has been a significant change in circumstances, such as a new housing development etc.

We know there is speeding by the Bear Garage as we already have Speedwatch operating there. Therefore we can justifiably raise that as an issue.

An action was placed on AL to confirm with the Clerk where the most beneficial place is for a Metrocount.

12.4 Village "handyperson/caretaker." To consider jobs required.

Effie said it's primarily weed-killing and gutter clearing plus any litter issues. We need someone self-employed to do these odd jobs on our behalf. We should include in that the section at the top of the Rec. Possibly ask on Facebook.

12.5 To consider jointly applying for a grant for a shared mower.

The Clerk explained that The Melksham Area Board has recently received a grant application from Keevil parish for a ride-on mower. They have set up an initiative where a community volunteer group has been established to work with the Parish Council, to in their words 'help keep the public parts of our village looking nice and properly maintained'. The idea is that the Area Board will contribute towards the capital cost of the equipment and the Parish will take on the operating and ongoing revenue costs.

Area Board Councillors wanted to invite other parishes to register their interest and/ or submit similar applications. This will enable Councillors to make an informed decision and potentially look at areas where parishes could work together.

The Parish Council decided that this was not appropriate for them.

A further consideration was that Atworth Parish Council could approach a joint agreement with Melksham Without Parish Council when they re-tender their grass cutting.

98/16 13. **Correspondence**

A member of the public had written a letter expressing concern over a gate into the Recreation Ground, an issue which the Parish Council are already dealing with.

99/16 14. **Any Other Business**

WB mentioned the lay-by down past Gambrook (past Cottles crossroads) which is half full of chippings – it's also half full of waste sweepings and he would like it removed as it encourages people to fly tip.

PMN: Clerk raised an Issue via the Area Board 23/09/16

RiC asked whether we should look again at the cutting of the hedges near the Rec now that the nesting season had ended. This was to be raised as a specific agenda item next meeting.

RoC mentioned Youth Parliament week. The committee has suggested that the older youth club could meet at the skittle alley on 17th November. Ros would attend from the Youth Club side and would appreciate some support. Effie promised to ask Cllrs. Hayley Spencer and Terry Chivers.

100/16 15. **Date of Next Meeting**

19th October 2016 at Atworth Village Hall. Meeting to note that the Clerk is away on annual leave at that time. Gary Gale-Sides will be taking notes at the meeting.

Meeting closed at 21:30

Signed……. **Date …….**