

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 1st JULY 2025 IN THE VILLAGE SHOP.

Present: Councillor: M Percy, P Wait, J Hobson, S Percy and Lynn Thornton (Clerk)

Apologies: none.

REF

148/25 Open Forum

Mr Peter Verso from Immersa a locally based company was welcomed to the meeting by Councillor Percy, Mr Verso attended the meeting to highlight the opportunity of the Community funded solar scheme.

The aim of the fund is to help kickstart projects including small-scale solar partnerships, all proposed, designed and owned by local people, the community fund needs the local community to raise 20% and then 80% is funded, the council would be paid for the energy that goes into the grid although local usage would take priority.

The council owns a piece of land which may be suitable for the project, which is 0.6 acres and could potentially create about 200kw possibly higher, solar charges the battery and then the battery feeds into the grid. The site would be low maintenance, you need to clean the panels once a year.

To progress, an outline design would be drawn up and a satellite image of the field produced, then funding can be explored.

The panels have a life span of approximately 25 years, then there is usually a 15 -20 % decline in performance, a community scheme can be hard to manage for a small parish council.

There is a lot for the council to consider.

149/25 Apologies for absence

County Cllr Dean.

150/25 Declarations of Interest by Councillors

None.

151/25 Reports from County and District Councillors.

Cllr Percy provided a report before the meeting.

152/25 CRAG update

The clerk is meeting with the CRAG treasurer to agree the amount to be moved to the new bank account. Cllr Percy is meeting with the chairman of CRAG in the upcoming week.

153/25 Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 3rd June were approved and signed as a true and correct record by those present at the meetings.

154/25 Planning

The council has received notification of the following planning applications:

- a) S.25/1038/FUL – Lapley Farm – alterations to external envelope of barn.

The council has received notification regarding the following planning applications:

None.

155/25 Accounts – PC

Incomes received and payments for authorisation

None.

Payments for Authorisation

L Thornton	530.40	Wages – May
Hathaway Landscapes	447.90	Grass cutting contract
L Thornton	72.19	Stationary

CRAE Expenses

Incomes received and payments for authorisation

None

Payments for Authorisation

None

156/25 Clerks Report

- The clerk has received an application from Transition Stroud for a grant to purchase litter pickers. Council approved.
- GCC are potentially looking to introduce a 20mph speed limit, they are consulting on doing it per ward. The council agreed the area around the school should be considered.
- The clerk has been given permission to install another bin on the recreation field, this can be a multi-functional one. CRAE to be consulted.

157/25 Tennis Court

Nothing to report.

158/25 Village Shop

Cllr Wait has nothing to report.

159/25	<u>Village Hall Update</u> Cllr Hobson confirmed the extension has now been completed. Lift training has taken place, there is a phone in the lift which will call the nominated committee members. The cupboard at the back of the room has had a leak, this is being resolved. There is one outstanding payment owed to the contractors, this will be paid once all of the committee are happy, then the grand opening will be announced.	
160/25	<u>Neighbourhood Watch Update</u> Cllr Percy confirmed there is a meeting scheduled for Tuesday 8 th July in the village hall.	Cllr Percy
161/25	<u>Footpaths, ditches and Stiles</u> Cllr Wait passed on the reports from the shop, clerk to log for GCC.	Clerk
162/25	<u>Allotment Update</u> Nothing to report.	
163/25	<u>Village Maintenance</u> Cllr Percy reported the hedge at 1a Betworthy, clerk to contact SDC.	Clerk
164/25	<u>Highways Repair & Maintenance</u> Levers Hill has received some repairs but the top is still very bad, clerk to report again.	
165/25	<u>Playarea Update</u> Cllr Percy is due to complete the next playarea inspection.	Cllr Percy
166/25	<u>Solar Farm, Peters Street</u> Cllrs discussed the presentation from the beginning of the meeting. Councillors voted to proceed with initial investigations.	
167/25	<u>Matters for forward consideration</u> Biodiversity policy Risk Assessment Emergency Plan	
168/25	<u>Items for press release and publication</u> Minutes	

Meeting closed at 8.50pm.