



GREAT OLDBURY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE GREAT OLDBURY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING, HELD ON THURSDAY 12TH DECEMBER 2024, AT 7.10 PM IN THE GREAT OLDBURY COMMUNITY HALL (Meeting Room).

In attendance: Cllrs Sonia Brinkworth, Andrew Deighton, and Phillip Ward (Chairman).

Also Present: 1 Member of the Public (left prior to the Confidential Agenda Item).

Clerk: Mrs Irena Litton.

County Councillor Stephen Davies introduced himself and shared his contact details. However, due to a prior commitment to attend another meeting, he was unable to remain.

Public Time:

Councillor Phillip Ward confirmed that he delivered a token of appreciation to Standish Village Hall, for their kindness in allowing GOPC to use their hall whilst the Community Hall was being constructed.

89/24 To receive apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Cllrs Chris Coombs, Martin Bowman and Edward Turnbull-Scott.

90/24 To receive Declarations of Interest on items in the agenda.

Councillor Sonia Brinkworth declared an interest in Agenda Item 95/24. However, the item was deferred as the Council would not have been quorate.

It was noted that Cllrs Phillip Ward, Sonia Brinkworth and Andrew Deighton all had items of reimbursement of expenditure for Agenda Item 96/24a.

91/24 To approve the minutes from the Parish Council meeting held on 7th November 2024.

The minutes of the meeting held on the 7th November 2024 were approved and were signed as a true record.

<https://www.greatoldbury-pc.gov.uk/uploads/minutes-7th-november-2024.pdf?v=1731412301>

92/24 To receive reports from the County and District Councillors.

District Cllr Brown sent in the following written report:

<https://www.greatoldbury-pc.gov.uk/uploads/written-report-district-cllr-robert-brown-december-2024.pdf?v=1733994085>

93/24 To receive the resignation of Dr Robert Brown and confirmation of the Casual Vacancy Notice.

The Clerk confirmed that the Casual Vacancy Notice has been published:

<https://www.greatoldbury-pc.gov.uk/news/2024/12/casual-vacancy-notice-great-oldbury-parish-council>

94/24 Community Hall (see also Agenda Item 96/24b)

a. Rural England Prosperity Fund, grant application:

i. To receive confirmation that an amount of £5,000 has been awarded.

Stroud District Council's grant awarding panel expressed strong support for the application and generously approved an award of £5,000 to contribute toward the costs of staging and blinds. While kitchen supplies were deemed ineligible, the panel opted to allocate a higher amount to the other elements of the application. The Clerk confirmed that she has signed the grant agreement and acknowledged the process for claiming the funds

ii. To approve the quotes for blinds and staging.

As part of the grant application, three quotes for each aspect of the funding were sought and evidenced.

The Council approved the quote from R&D Blinds Ltd, for a total cost of £4,036.55 plus VAT.

The Council approved the quote from UK Educational Furniture (staging), for a cost of £3,461.41 plus VAT.

The Council also approved for some additional expenditure to be incurred for both quotes, should the Clerk in conjunction with the Working Group feel it to be appropriate.

iii. To approve a budget for expenditure on kitting out of the kitchen.

The Council approved a budget of up to £1,500 for kitting out of the kitchen.

b. To receive an update on the successful Opening Event of the Community Hall.

Please see link to the Chairman's report on the success of the Opening Event of the Community Hall.

<https://www.greatoldbury-pc.gov.uk/uploads/report-by-chairman-cllr-phillip-ward-community-centre-open-day.pdf?v=1734103051>

c. To consider and approve the following quotes, as per the recommendations from the Working Group:

i. Waste Management Contract.

Two quotes were received and reviewed.

The Council approved the contract with Smiths, to be reviewed in December 2025. The Council agreed to the Working Groups recommendation on size and frequency of emptying.

ii. Hygiene Management Contract.

Two quotes were received and reviewed.

The Council approved the contract agreement with Initial/Rentokil, for nappy and hygiene bins.

Other aspects of the quotes were deferred and will be reviewed at a later date.

iii. Fire and Intruder Maintenance Contract.

The Fire and Alarm system were fitted by EIS Ltd and comes with a 1 year guarantee.

The Council agreed to an ongoing maintenance and servicing with EIS Ltd at a cost of £250 per unit per year, plus VAT.

It was agreed to defer the monitoring contract, to be reviewed at a later date.

v. Community Centre Cleaning Contract.

It was noted that several quotes were sought but only one contractor quoted.

The Council approved the contract with Cleaning From the Heart, to be reviewed in May 2025.

vi. Bus shelter Cleaning Contract.

The Council agreed to defer this item.

vii. Window Cleaning Contract.

The Council received and reviewed three quotes.

The Council approved the contract with Easy Window Cleaners (the Working Group to agree with the contractor the specifics).

viii. Booking system.

The Project Manager has reported the limitations of the website affiliated booking system and is making use of a 3 month free trial with Hall Master. The Working Group will review the effectiveness and costs of continuing with Hall Master prior to the free trial ending.

The Council approved the recommendations with regard to the Pricing Structure for Hiring the Community Hall. It was agreed to review the pricing structure at the end of March 2025.

<https://www.greatoldbury-pc.gov.uk/community-and-sports-facilities>

ix. To consider and approve the following expenditure, as per recommendations from the Working Group:

The Working Group have sought approval from the Parish Council for the following expenditure:

WiFi hardware (approx. £2,500)

Baby changing uplift (approx. £500)
Chairs, tables (approx. £2,000)
Signage, notice boards etc (approx. £1,000)
Security – (approx. £1,000)
CCTV – (approx. £2,500)
TV, for meeting room – (approx. £1,500)

The Council approved the expenditure and delegated the purchases of the equipment to the new Clerk, in conjunction with the Working Group.

e. Utility Contracts:

i. To agree for Utility Aid to act on behalf of the Council to find applicable utility providers for gas and electricity.

The Council agreed for Utility Aid to act on behalf of the Council.

ii. To agree to delegate the final decision and approval of utility contracts, to the Clerk in conjunction with the Working Group.

The Council agreed for the final decision and approval of utility contracts, to be delegated to the Clerk in conjunction with the Working Group.

95/24 To review and consider the recommendations for a hire agreement allowing Great Oldbury Youth Football Club to use the Playing Fields.

This item has been deferred, as the Council became inquorate.

96/24 Financial Issues

a. To approve payments in accordance with the RFO Report.

The Council agreed to approve the payments.

<https://www.greatoldbury-pc.gov.uk/uploads/rfo-report-december-2024-20.pdf?v=1733948805>

b. To note that the spending for the Community Centre, as per Agenda Item 94/24 will be from Ear Marked Reserves.

The Council approved the spending for the Community Centre to be debited from Ear Marked Reserves. (See Agenda Item 94/24).

97/24 Planning

a. To consider any plans received.

S.23/1451/OUT | Mixed use development comprising the following individual, severable and self-contained elements: i) Up to 635 residential dwellings, ii) A primary school, Sport & recreation facilities. Associated works including: infrastructure, ancillary facilities, open space (including allotments), landscaping & access. | Land Northwest Of Stonehouse

Great Oldbury Parish Council agreed to make comment on the proposals as follows:

1. Provision of Community Allotments:

The Council strongly recommends that a condition be included to ensure that adequate

allotment space is provided to serve the Great Oldbury community. This is essential to support the wellbeing and sustainability of the growing population.

2. Timely Delivery of Infrastructure and Services:

The Council is deeply concerned about the need to prioritise the delivery of critical infrastructure and services before residential properties are occupied. Lessons must be learned from the current Great Oldbury development, where delays in infrastructure implementation have placed immense strain on neighboring parishes, particularly in healthcare services. To prevent a repeat of these issues, the Council urges the inclusion of robust conditions to ensure phased and timely provision of essential infrastructure.

3. Health and Education Facilities:

The Council emphasises the importance of delivering a Secondary School and healthcare facilities early in the development process. These services are vital to meet the needs of the expanding population and mitigate the ongoing challenges experienced within the Great Oldbury and Stonehouse area.

4. Affordable Housing Options:

The Council also notes that the current Great Oldbury development has failed to provide sufficient affordable starter homes. While there are shared ownership and social housing options, these do not adequately address the need for affordable entry-level housing for those wishing to join the housing ladder. The Council recommends that this development prioritises a balanced and accessible housing mix, including genuinely affordable starter homes.

In conclusion, the Council underscores the necessity of learning from past developments to ensure that this proposal meets the needs of the community from the outset. Proper planning and prioritisation of infrastructure and services are imperative to the success of this development.

b. To receive a progress report from the Clerk on applications already responded to.

<https://www.greatoldbury-pc.gov.uk/uploads/planning-report-december-2024-18.pdf?v=1733670683>

98/24 Councillor Submissions (for notice of forthcoming events or reminders, not for discussion.

- St Cyr's Church are holding their annual Traditional Service and Carols at 6pm on Sunday 22nd December 2024.
- Great Oldbury Primary School Christmas Xtravaganza 19th December 5.30 – 7.30pm.
- Stonehouse Rotary Carol Float – 5.40pm - 7pm on the 19th December 2024.

CONFIDENTIAL AGENDA

That in accordance with the provisions of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded during consideration of Agenda Item 99/24.

99/24 To approve the recommendations on Employment Matters.

a. To appoint the Clerk, including the terms and conditions.

The Council approved the appointment of Ms Jenni Bingham, as the Clerk, RFO and Proper Officer, to commence on the 13th January 2025.

Details of the terms and conditions were provided and approved by the Council.

b. To ratify the additional hours worked for the Community Hall Project Manager and agree the conditions for the ongoing temporary contract.

The Community Hall Project Manager has undertaken a number of additional hours to ensure the booking system is up and running in readiness for the hall to be in use by the beginning of January 2025.

The Council approved the additional hours and the future hours were agreed.

c. To receive an update and consider ongoing requirements.

The Clerk provided the Council with an update on the ongoing requirements.

100/24 Date of the next meeting – To agree that the December meeting will be held on Thursday 23rd January 2025, 7pm at The Great Oldbury Community Centre.

The date of the next meeting is set at the 23rd January 2025, commencing at 7pm

There being no further business to transact, the meeting was closed at 8.50 pm.