Randwick and Westrip Parish Council
Minutes of the meeting of the council held at Randwick Village Hall at 7.15 pm on Thursday January 16th 2025

Present:

Councillors	*Roy Badham*
Alun Davies	*Jo Boldero*
Rob Davies	*Nick Lythgoe*
Elisabeth Newman	*Barry Chapman*

Mr B Parsons - clerk

1/1/25 ***Apologies:*** *Cllr Woods. County Cllr Williams had sent her apologies.*

2/1/25 ***Public Forum:*** *There were two parishioners present, also County Cllr Bloxsom and District Cllr Edmunds and two representatives from Randwick Scout Group who spoke about plans for a new building on the site of the Scout Hut and asked again whether it would be possible to acquire any part of Finn's Way.*
Cllrs discussed the proposal again and confirmed their appreciation of the Scout Group's contribution to the community and the council's support for the group but did not agree to the proposal.

Petronella Tyson had applied to be co-opted on to the council and spoke briefly about being a parish councillor in another county and what experience she would bring to the council.

3/1/25 ***Declarations of interest in items on this agenda:*** *None.*

4/1/25 ***Minutes:*** *The minutes of the meeting held on December 16th were approved and signed by the chairman of the meeting.*

5/1/25 ***Report from the officer of the council:*** *Cllrs noted the contents of the clerk's report.*

6/1/25 ***Correspondence:*** *Cllrs noted the correspondence in the clerk's report.*

7/1/25 ***Co-option:*** *The vacancy had been re-advertised. There was one applicant. Petronella Tyson, who had written to the council and spoken during the public forum.*
Resolved: *To co-opt Petronella Tyson to serve until the next elections.*

8/1/25 ***Questions from councillors:***
Cllr Boldero asked whether the clerk could ask GCC to include repainting of the 20mph roundels on Blenheim Pitch in the work scheduled for Church Road in financial year 2025/26.
Action: *The clerk to contact GCC Highways.*

Cllr Badham asked whether the portrait of William Knee loaned to the Cowle Museum was insured by the council as it should have been removed from the schedule following the July meeting.
Action: *The clerk to check.*

Cllr Lythgoe asked, on behalf of Randwick Football Club, about the number of cuts to Randwick Playing Fields made by the mowing contractors. The clerk explained that the contractor quoted for 15 cuts per season but adjusted the number according to the season's weather so that, for example, in a dry year fewer cuts would be made. The council paid for the number of cuts made. The fields had been mown 17 times between March and November 2024.
Cllr Lythgoe asked about the trees planted in front of the shipping container on the playing field used by the Wap and whether they would grow out and encroach on the football pitch. Cllr Badham explained that they were pear trees and would be trimmed to grow across the side of the container.
Cllr Lythgoe asked if the council had received a letter from RVH&PFC asking for no more trees to be planted on the playing fields. The clerk had not received a letter or email.
***Action:** The clerk to contact RVH&PFC and enquire about the letter.*
Cllr Lythgoe asked about having a grit bin on Ocker Hill refilled.
***Action:** The clerk to ask GCC whether grit bins could be topped up.*

Cllr Badham asked whether a dead damson tree on Randwick Playing Fields had been cut down.
***Action:** The clerk would check.*
Cllr Badham asked about progress on SDC's adoption of the Conservation Area Review Statement. The clerk had asked the SDC planning officer who was redrafting the review for an update in time for the January meeting but hadn't received one.
***Action:** The clerk to contact SDC again.*
Cllr Badham asked whether the cost of disposal of the Christmas tree at St John's Church had been budgeted for. The clerk explained that the budget allowed for this. It was suggested that the council should take over the ordering and disposal of the tree.
Cllrs agreed to consider this at the October meeting.

Cllr Boldero asked whether the council should provide a 'bleed kit' at Randwick Playing Fields. Cllr Lythgoe explained that Randwick Football Club had one at Randwick Village Hall and was also going to acquire a stretcher in case it was needed for a casualty.

9/1/25 ***District and County Cllrs reports:*** *County Councillor Williams had sent her January report before the meeting.*

County Cllr Bloxsom spoke about some items in his written report which would be sent to the council, including highways issues ;-
resurfacing of Westward Road in February, the footway along The Bridle and in Ruscombe Road in March.

He also spoke about proposals for creating two unitary councils in Gloucestershire. The new council(s) would be part of a combined strategic authority covering a larger footprint and which could have an elected mayor. There were discussions taking place with the Gloucestershire Association of Parish and Town Councils on community governance arrangements that could enhance the role of town and parish councils and create them where none existed as in most of Cheltenham and Gloucester.

District Cllr Edmunds had sent a written report summarising recent SDC committees' decisions. SDC was going to start kerbside recycling of batteries and small electrical items. He also commented on the government's proposals for devolution which could mean unitary councils for the county. It appeared that district councils would be abolished, which could alter the role of parish councils as local knowledge and concerns would need to be brought to the county level councils.

10/1/25 ***Planning:***
a) Planning Applications: *None received in this month.*

b) ***Finn's Way:*** *Cllrs had considered the request from Randwick Scout Group to acquire part of Finn's Way as a site for a new building, as discussed during the public forum and at the December meeting. The council wanted the area to remain a public open space.*
Resolved: *To decline the request.*

11/1/25 ***Finance:***
a) Bank reconciliation: *Cllrs considered the bank reconciliation for December.*

b) Defibrillators: *Following a fatality Cllr Lythgoe suggested that there should be a defibrillator at The Vine Tree so that it could be reached more easily by people living at the higher end of the parish. He suggested ways that funds could be raised. Cllrs discussed what would be needed for installation, maintenance, registration and training.*
Resolved: *To contribute towards the full costs of providing a defibrillator and maintaining it.*
Action: *Cllr Lythgoe to report back to the council about a fund-raising group.*

Cllrs discussed a request from the treasurer of RVH&PFC for the council to pay for a battery and new pads for the defibrillator at Randwick Village Hall.
Action: *The clerk to establish which organisation had installed the defibrillator and had maintained it previously and whether it was being checked regularly.*
Resolved: *Subject to confirming the maintenance arrangements for the defibrillator to pay for a battery and pads.*

c) Insurance: *The council had reviewed the insurance cover and confirmed it was fit for purpose.*

d) Budget for 25/26: *Cllrs considered a draft budget.*
Resolved: *To set the budget at £21702.*

e) Reserves: *Cllrs reviewed the policy for financial reserves.*
Resolved: *To use reserves to support the budget.*
Action: *The clerk to amend the policy.*

f) Precept: *Cllrs considered the budget requirement and decided to use £3852 from its reserves to set the precept at the same amount as in 24/25, £17850, giving a band D charge of £31.81 which was seven pence more than in 24/25 due to a slight decrease in the tax base.*

12/1/25 ***Environment:***

a) ***Heritage trail:*** *Cllr Newman outlined the plan she had proposed in December for creating a heritage trail in the parish, to promote the culture of the Cotswolds and tourism. The project would include a video of heritage sites, a 'footsteps trail' with leaflets and 'blue plaques' on buildings. Costs were uncertain currently. Potentially there were grants that could be applied for.*
Cllrs discussed the merits of using a professional company for filming and the possibility of asking Gloucestershire College students to take on the project.
Action: *Cllr Newman to take the project forward and keep the council updated.*

b) ***Biodiversity spending proposals:*** *Cllr Badham proposed that the council's duty to promote biodiversity should be shared with Whiteshill and Ruscombe Parish Council. Cllr Boldero told the council that she was standing down from the working party, which was now Cllr Badham and District Cllr Edmunds, and Cllr Badham explained that there were some parishioners who would join a working party but he suggested that the group would not be a parish council working party.*
These proposals would be considered at the February meeting.

13/1/25 ***Items delegated to the clerk and items for the next agenda:*** *As above.*

14/1/25 ***Orders for payment:***

HSBC	*Bank charges to December 29th*
C Curtis	*January monthly contract payment*
B Parsons	*January salary*
Zurich Municipal Insurance	
RVH&PFC	*Hire November*
Rapide	*Ink cartridges*
Glasdon	*Litter bins*
X-Net (Services) Ltd	*Website domain name renewal*
O2	*Mobile phone 12 Jan – 11 Feb*

15/1/25 ***Next meeting:*** *Thursday February 20th at Cashes Green School.*

The meeting closed at 9.05