

BEENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON September 12th 2016

Mr A. Cother Chair
Mrs J. Liming
Mrs J. Johnson
Mr P. Leijten
Mr G. Bowsher
Mrs G. Harman
Mrs L. Rumens Clerk

Mr K Chopping District Councillor
Members of the public 4

1. Public Forum.

A fifteen minute period for members of the public to raise matters of concern.

Bus Services A parishioner spoke about the new bus service for Beenham which he described as poor in relation to neighbouring parishes, Beenham has only 3 good services while Chapel Row has over 20. Mr Chopping explained that the West Berkshire Council officer responsible, Mathew Metcalf, has offered to attend Beenham PC meeting or speak in person to the gentleman. The parishioner said he would prefer to receive an explanation for the discrepancy from Mr Chopping. Mr Cother suggested inviting Mr Metcalf along to Parish Council meeting answer some pre agreed questions. He would like to publicise this so that as many residents as possible could make their views known.

Mrs Johnson noted that previously 5 services a week had been promised to Beenham and since then West Berkshire Council has been given extra funds from the government to keep services going whilst communities discussed their long term future, so she questioned why Beenham was receiving less than the promised 5 services.

Other parishioners present complained about the inadequate length of time one has using services to Newbury or Calcot before the return service leaves

Beenham Festival A parishioner observed that the Parish Council didn't contribute financially to the festival this year so the burden fell to other organisation. He asked the Parish Council to consider contributing in 2017. Mr Cother said that an application would certainly be considered. AC

2. Apologies for absence: None

3. Minutes of the last meeting held on Monday 1st August

These were approved by the Chair with the agreement of the Council

4. Register of Interests from Parish Councillors: No declarations made

5. Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting not referred to elsewhere.

Parish Council Policies Update.

a) Standing Orders update from Mr Cother. Mr Cother explained that a more suitable model Standing Orders Document had been found which he intends to amend for Beenham and propose for adoption at the next meeting.

i.

b) Financial Regulations review led by Mrs Johnson. Mrs Johnson noted that the document she has been working on is 10 pages long but remarked that the current 2 page document appears fit for purpose. It was agreed to amend the 2 page document by inserting some useful JJ

additions, including spending limits, from the 10 page document.

ii. Consider forming committees/working groups/Councillor specialisms. Update from Mrs Johnson

The following specialisms were agreed:

Finance – Mrs Johnson	Parish Website – Mrs Johnson
Footpaths – Mrs Harman	Police and the Community – Mr Cother
Digital – Mr Cother	Parish Plan – Mrs Liming
Traffic - Mrs Harman	Flooding - Mr Cother
Planning – Mr Bowsher	Wharf – Mr Cother
Recreation Ground – Mr Leijten	
Community Room – Mr Cother (bookings currently Mrs Johnson)	

These responsibilities will be listed on the website

JJ

As part of the discussion Mrs Harman said that someone had asked her about speeding in the village and suggested getting “20 is plenty” signs. Mr Chopping explained that you have to apply to a West Berkshire Council committee that meets twice a year.

iii. Review Risk Assessments. Information from Mr Cother.

Mr Cother explained that he would like to review the document to make it more comprehensive and resubmit it to the Council for approval.

AC

iv. Parish Plan Refresh. Progress reports.

The survey regarding provision for young people has been completed. The social isolation and footpath surveys are ongoing until the end of the month. Planning for the Parish Plan Meeting on 13th October is ongoing. Mrs Rumens will not need to be present.

6. Comments from the West Berkshire Councillor

Ward boundaries are currently being reviewed. This was triggered by changes to the numbers of voters in each ward, some balancing out is required. This was last reviewed in 2003. Mr Chopping feels it is likely there will be less Councillors going forward.

Mr Bowsher asked if West Berkshire were being allowed to keep their own business rates now. Mr Chopping reported that there hasn't been any progress with this yet.

7. Planning.

Applications for consideration:

- v. **16/01951/HOUSE:** no objection
16/02190/HOUSE: no objection

- vi. **Additional planning correspondence:**
- | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 16/01569/HOUSE: noted | 16/01627/HOUSE: noted |
| 16/00672/HOUSE: noted | 16/01431/AGRIC2: noted |
| | 16/01351/HOUSE: noted |

8. Highways.

Beenham Grange, public rights of way

- i. Mrs Johnson updated the Council, The latest information from West Berkshire Council is that there is not going to be sufficient resources to designate a right of way to the track in this financial year.

ii. The new bus service for Beenham, report from Mrs Johnson

No further comments from Mrs Johnson following the earlier discussion.

9. Environment

i. Recreation Ground Goal posts. Consider sourcing new ones. Update Mr Leijten

Lucy Rumens, Beenham Parish Clerk, 46 Maple Crescent, Newbury, RG14 1LR. Tel: 01635 45487
Email: theclerk@beenhamonline.org

The feedback Mr Leijten has is that the people using the Recreation Ground would prefer to have a second normal sized goal. It was agreed that Mr Leijten would explore the possibility of replacing the broken goal with a large, mobile goal post as an alternative. Mrs Rumens to look for price information.

PL
LR

Review quotes for work required on the village playground

- ii. A discussion ensued about the two quotes received from local companies and about the funds available for maintenance in this year's budget. It was decided to go ahead with the cheapest quote to repair the playground fence and one of the swings for the time being. It was remarked that the playground gate is also broken, it does not stay closed so Mrs Rumens will endeavour to arrange for this to be mended at the same time for the total price of £155.

LR

Councillor's comments.

A couple of issues were raised that need to be reported to Streetcare.

Mrs Johnson noted that the bench in the graveyard, which the Parish Council owns, needs repainting. She offered to do if the Parish Council paid for the cost of the paint and materials. Mr Cother thanked her and accepted her offer.

10. Following the preschool's request to cut the trees back Mrs Johnson has looked at the trees and thinks they may need taking down completely in the future.

Mrs Johnson has also been doing some work on the Parish Council meeting the Transparency Code requirements. She has discovered that the Parish Council needs to publish a list of the land it owns. The Recreation Ground and some of the land around the Victory Hall are not officially registered. This would be an involved process with associated costs. Mrs Johnson recommended considering putting in an application when the budget is planned for next year.

11. Correspondence received since the last meeting not referred to elsewhere.

- i. **Invitation to the Canal & River Trust APM:** Noted

Resident's email regarding Dog fouling

- ii. It was agreed to put up signs on the Recreation Ground appealing for compliance with the no dogs off the lead rule.

JL

West Berkshire Collective Energy Switch

The West Berkshire Council run scheme negotiates competitive prices with energy companies. Residents should register before midnight on Monday 10 October to later receive a personalised, no obligation offer detailing savings. To register or find out more, visit www.westberks.gov.uk/communityswitch or call the Project Officer on 01635 503267 (Tuesdays 10am-12pm, Wednesdays 2pm-4pm with your energy bill or annual statement to hand).

- iii.

Mrs Liming to add the scheme poster to the community noticeboard.

JL

- iv. **Invitation - West Berkshire Council Heritage Member Development Sessions - 19th September:** Noted

- v. **Sue Ryder Letter – request for a donation to support local hospices:** The Council is not able to make a donation at this time.

- vi. **Community Council for Berkshire Annual General Meeting 2016 Invitation:** noted

12. Finance.

- i. **Receipts.** Information about recent receipts was not available at the time of the meeting.

Payments

	HMRC	Taxes	£58.80
	Triangle Management Services	Roof repair	£183.60
ii.	Triangle Management Services	Grass cutting	£298.62
	Bradfield Printing Limited	Parish notes printing	£23.00
	British Gas	Final electricity bill	£38.35
	Mrs Lucy Rumens	Salary	£216.00 (SO)
	Mrs Jacqueline Homick	Salary	£235.20 (SO)

- iii. **Statement of Receipts & Payments.** This was not available at the time of the meeting.

iv. **Other matters**

i. **Updates on outstanding Community Room issues:**

a) **Booking Officer role,** Mrs Johnson expressed a desire to carry on doing the role for the time to gain a better understanding of the current business.

b) **roof leak,** this has been mended and no further action is required.

c) **hand dryers,** are still in place

- ii. **Lloyds Bank Administration Set Up, progress report Mrs Rumens.** Mrs Cother read a letter of apology from the bank which included confirmation of £87 compensation being paid into the Parish Council bank account. It is hoped that Mrs Rumens will now receive the bank statements at her address.

- iii. **Annual Return Update from Mrs Rumens** Mrs Rumens confirmed that all the external auditor's questions have been answered and that the original form was returned to her to make initialled amends. The form was returned promptly to Mazars.

13. Date of the next meeting: Monday 3rd October

Mrs Johnson and Mrs Liming tendered their apologies in advance.