

BEENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON Monday 9th January 2017

Mr A. Cother Chair
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 3

Actions

107. **Public Forum.**

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

A query was made about a broken dog waste bin. Mrs Harman explained that the matter had already been addressed and the bin will soon be replaced. Mrs Harman will follow up shortly if necessary.

GH

There is a broken bollard at the A4 junction. It was advised that this should be [reported to West Berkshire Council online](#). Mrs Rumens to send the parishioner the link to the form.

LR

It was also asked, with regards to items on the agenda for parish plan youth facilities, will there also be a budget for footpath issues? It was confirmed that the Parish Council are working towards this.

The parishioner asked if the Council's updates on work due to be carried out in the village by Gigaclear could be included in the parish notes. It was explained that there is no further information at this time.

108. **Apologies for absence.** There were none

Minutes of the last meeting held on 5th December 2016

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

A request was made that Councillors are not named so often which was noted by the Clerk.

110. **Register of Interests from Parish Councillors:**

None were recorded

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

Parish Council Policies Update. Report from Mr Cother.

Mr Cother has drawn up a document combining the various documents previously considered.
i. He has asked Mrs Rumens to now check it and circulate it with a view to ratifying it at the next meeting.

LR

Parish Plan Refresh Updates

The Council's reserves of approximately £26,000 by the end of the current financial year were discussed. With regards to funding youth projects in line with the Parish Plan Refresh it was proposed that up to £5,000 be dedicated towards funding the installation of a zip wire on Rec. It was also proposed that up to a further £5,000 be dedicated towards installing a meeting shelter.
ii. Both projects are proposed on the understanding that at least £10,000 of grants will be obtained alongside this to fund the projects. The Parish Council has already been awarded a parish plan grant from West Berkshire Council of £5,000 towards this. Other youth projects, for example exercise equipment, could be funded if the total of grants received exceeds £10,000.

Other Parish Plan Refresh projects could be funded from Parish Council reserves and/or grants. It was outlined that in the region of £5,000 could be spent on footpath issues and £5,000 jointly for social isolation and transport schemes. Mrs Rumens suggested asking Berkshire Association of Local Councils (BALC) for their advice on additional funding sources.

Mr Cother asked if the Council was in agreement that some reserves should be used for developing youth facilities. All were in agreement.

It was explained that the zip wire and shelter projects had been chosen by taking into account the 2016 survey responses from local 11-16 year olds coupled together with the practical and maintenance issues of suggested projects

Concern was raised by one Councillor about the position of the zip wire in relation to nearby houses. The counterargument put forward was that the site proposed had been given due consideration and was deemed to not be unreasonable.

It is hoped that installation of the zip wire might commence in Summer 2017. General parish plan publicity and communication with residents close to the Rec will be required.

There was a general consensus that the budget needs regularly revisiting throughout the projects to ensure that the Parish Council reserves don't dip below £10k.

a) Motion proposed to dedicate up to £5,000 of Council reserves towards the installation of a zip wire on the Recreation Ground. ¹

This motion was approved by four councillors

b) Motion proposed to dedicate up to £5,000 (corrected from £10,000 on the agenda) of Council reserves towards the installation of a meeting shelter on the Recreation Ground. ²

This motion was approved by five councillors

c) Promoting the parish's bus services. Report from Mr Cother.

Mr Cother explained that an email from a representative of the Parish Plan Refresh transport group has been received requesting that the Parish Council support the publication of bus timetables to be distributed across the village. It was proposed, and agreed that the Parish Council earmark up to £100 for this purpose.

iii. **Adopt Amended Risk Assessment:** This was unanimously adopted

School Governor Vacancy

iv. There is a vacancy for School Governor. If any Parish Councillor is interested they should make themselves known to the School Governors Chair.

112. **Finance.**

i. **Receipts.** Noted
Payments.

			Relevant Power
HMRC	Taxes	£58.80	
Carolyn Main	Booking clerk services	£80.00	Local Government Act 1972, s.133
Society of Local Council Clerks	Clerk's membership fee	£67.00	Local Government Act 1972 s111
Mrs Lucy Rumens	Salary standing order	£216.00	Local Government Act 1972 s112
Mrs Jacqueline Homick	Salary standing order	£235.20	Local Government Act 1972, s.133

¹ In accordance with the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, s.19

² In accordance with the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, s.19

Statement of Receipts & Payments.

- iii. It was underlined that the Council don't yet know what the charges from the school, for use of the Community Room, will be this year.

Other matters

a) **West Berkshire Council - Library Review. Parish Council to consider a request for £1155 contribution.**

Beenham Parish Council has been asked by West Berkshire Council to contribute £1155 towards the cost of running the district's libraries. Mr Cother summarised that the advice West Berkshire had received from the Berkshire Association of Local Councils (BALC) was that without guarantees about the service level, for example, it may not be lawful for the Parish Council to contribute these funds. The following discussion concluded that the Parish Council could make a contribution with some caveats attached, including service levels and a timeframe, the suggestion being that the contribution is initially only for a year before a review. Beenham Parish Council would also require for most parishes in West Berkshire to participate. Mr Cother to draft a response and to give the Library Service an indication of the Parish Council's response by their requested date of 26th January. West Berkshire Council will meet specifically to discuss libraries on 7th February.

AC

b) **Consider an incremental increase to the Clerks salary. If necessary sign corresponding bank letter instruction.**

Mr Cother asked for consensus about an incremental increase to the Clerk's salary. The Council agreed. It was noted that the cleaner's contract and salary needs to be revisited.

c) **Request from Mrs Rumens to renew the Society of Local Council Clerks membership.**

A discussion ensued about the difference between and benefits of SLCC and BALC. It was agreed to renew.

iv.

LR

d) **Updates on outstanding Community Room issues: fence repairs, report from Mrs Johnson.**

The fence has been repaired. But there is an outstanding issue in the gents toilet. A toilet seat needs replacing.

AC

e) **Draft Budget for 2017/18 presented by Mrs Johnson.**

The budget was presented and discussed line by line and the Council moved on to talk about the 2017/18 precept.

f) **Set 2017/18 Precept.**

As part of the budget presentation it was suggested that to fund the new budget and to prevent further spending of the Council's reserves (as in previous years) an increase to the precept is required. An increase from £14,000 to £18,800 was suggested. This represents an increase of about £9.50 a year to a typical band D property. The point was again raised that opportunities to develop the Parish Council's income streams require development. This means that the Council's turnover will exceed £25,000 and there are likely to be administrative impacts from this. Mrs Rumens will find out what these are.

LR

Mr Cother ask for agreement to follow the proposed 2017/18 budget. The Council agreed

Mr Cother asked for agreement to request a precept of £18,800 to support the budget. The Council agreed.

Mrs Rumens to complete and return the relevant paperwork to West Berkshire Council

LR

Comments from the West Berkshire Councillor

113. There is likely to be an increase in Council Tax. 5% is proposed, which includes 3% that the government dictates must be spent on adult social care. A question was asked about redundancies at West Berkshire Council, Mr Chopping said yes he thought there would be more.

114. **Planning.**

v. **Applications for consideration:**

Lucy Rumens, Beenham Parish Clerk, 46 Maple Crescent, Newbury, RG14 1LR. Tel: 01635 45487

Email: theclerk@beenhamonline.org

16/03054/FUL, no objection

16/03168/FULD: object on grounds of traffic management concern regarding road safety.

Additional planning correspondence:

- vi. 16/02737/HOUSE, permission granted. Noted.
- 16/02720/HOUSE, permission granted. Noted.

115. **Highways.**

- i. **Gigacelere planned works for 2017. Update from Mr Cother.**
No update has been received from Gigaclear as yet.

116. **Environment**

- ii. **Dog waste bin replacement. Update from Mrs Harman.**
As previously discussed West Berks will replace the bin with a used bin free of charge.

- iii. **Playground bird fouling, report on purchasing preventative equipment from Mr Leijten and Mrs Harman**
Mr Leijten confirmed the costs as £57.00. To be purchased and reimbursed.

2017/18 Grass cutting contract

- iv. Three quotes are required. Mrs Rumens to progress

LR

2017/18 Parish Council Insurance

- v. Mr Cother explained that the Council's cover requirements should be revisited before the 2017/18 renewal is required. He asked if Mr Bowsher could take this on and he agreed. Mrs Rumens remarked that she now has the contact details of companies who specialise in Parish Councils and it was commented that these details could be used to obtain three quotes. Mrs Rumens to forward the necessary information to Mr Bowsher.

GB

LR

Councillors' comments.

- 117. Pot holes on A4 need reporting on West Berkshire Council. The trees outside the school have still not been pruned.

All

118. **Correspondence received since the last meeting not referred to elsewhere.**

- i. **Email from West Berkshire Council: Housing Site Allocations Development Plan Document - Consultation on Proposed Main Modifications:** Please look at individually

- ii. **Email from West Berkshire Council: Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (HELAA) - Call for Sites:** Noted

BT Proposed Red Telephone box Removal consultation

- iii. BT are currently undergoing a consultation process regarding public payphone removal. Boxes near Beenham Parish may be affected. The consultation period ends on 23rd January 2017. The relevant email is btp.authorisation.team@bt.com Further information available from the Clerk.

- iv. **Email from Community Council for Berkshire: Affordable Housing Training:** Noted

- v. **Home-Start Volunteering Opportunities:** Forward to Parish Plan Refresh social isolation group

LR

Email from an Aldermaston Councillor: Speeding at Aldermaston Wharf.

- vi. Aldermaston Parish Council made a request for Beenham Parish Council to contribute towards the purchasing of a speed indicator device. The Council agreed that this is currently beyond the scope of the Parish Council budget.

- vii. **Englefield Echo 2016: Annual Review of the Englefield Estate:** To be circulated

- viii. **Dementia research information event, Reading - 28th Jan**
Mr Cother to circulate the poster for publication.

AC

119. **Date of the next meeting: Monday 6th February 2017.**