

## BEENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> March

Mr A. Cother	Chair
Mr P. Leijten	
Mr G. Bowsher	
Mrs G. Harman	
Mrs L. Rumens	Clerk
Mr K Chopping	District Councillor
Members of the public	9

#### 133. **Public Forum.**

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

A parishioner reported that Gigaclear working near Awberry Farm have, in places, been digging up the verges instead of the road and asked who is responsible for 'making good' the mess? Another parishioner also reported damage. The consensus was that West Berkshire Council is responsible for the verges. Mr Cother, having similar problems at the Wharf, offered to speak to Gigaclear about the parishioners' concerns.

Another resident asked the Chair to confirm the lease on the Community Room. The response confirmed the Parish Council has a licence to use the room and School Hall. The current arrangement runs at a loss and so the Parish Council are currently in talks with West Berkshire Council. The resident asked what would happen to the Community Room if the school decided to become an academy. Mr Cother explained that this is why the PC are having this discussion now to safeguard the rights of the parishioners.

A Parishioner living near the Rec sought further information about the zip wire and in particular where it would be sited. Councillors explained that a public meeting on the Rec on 25<sup>th</sup> March will discuss the proposal further. Another resident spoke up to express her opposition to a zip wire. Concern was also expressed about the cost of maintenance of the equipment.

Parking on the Stroud is a problem stated a resident. Cars are being parked across driveways. The chairman said that the Parish Council can pass on information to the PCSO and request again that people park more considerately. The resident suggested possibility of producing a sign be explored.

A parishioner involved in the Parish Plan Refresh youth projects spoke up to confirm her support for the zip wire.

#### 134. **Apologies for absence.** Received from Mrs Johnson

#### 135. **Minutes of the last meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2017**

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

#### 136. **Register of Interests from Parish Councillors:** None were declared

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

##### **i. Parish Council Policies Update. Motion to adopt the latest draft of Standing Orders and Financial Regulations.**

These were adopted without amendment or objection. Mrs Rumens will now complete a draft of the Council's Publication Scheme.

##### **ii. Parish Plan Refresh Updates**

Mrs Liming updated the Council on the latest Parish Plan Refresh survey, modified from a survey

used in Enbourne. Additionally it will include a chance to give feedback about the existing children's play area and parking needs. The chairman confirmed that there is money in the budget to arrange printing.

Defibrillator training is being attended later in the month where there will also be information on grants for those facilities.

The second 'tea-room' went well. Environmental health standards still have to be met as kitchens are used. It will take place again at Beenham Club, Picklepythe Lane on 28<sup>th</sup> March from 2pm to 4pm. All welcome for a chat, cup of tea and a piece of cake.

Footpaths on the Rec were discussed. The Parish Council now has a previous quote, one new quote and still waiting for a third quote. Mrs Harman to forward the second quote to Mrs Rumens.

The meeting on the Rec on 25<sup>th</sup> March may include a mock up zip wire to show people the scale. It would need to be cordoned off. It was agreed that gazebos for the provision of poor weather could be borrowed from Beenham Events and permission was also given to spend £5 on flyers.

iii. **Electoral Review of West Berkshire: Warding Arrangements. Report from Mr Cother.**

There is interest in Aldermaston parish to take Beenham into the Aldermaston ward as part of the electoral review currently being undertaken by the Boundary Commission. Mr Chopping confirmed that a suggestion has been made that Sulhampstead ward be disbanded and part of the arrangements following this might be Beenham joining the Aldermaston ward. The next election, where this would take effect will be in 2019. Feedback is welcomed, by 3<sup>rd</sup> April online at <https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/>. Or via email: [reviews@lgbce.org.uk](mailto:reviews@lgbce.org.uk).

Another review is under way about parliamentary constituencies which may involve Aldermaston ward joining Wokingham constituency. More information and a chance to comment can be found at <http://boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk/2018-review/>

iv. **Beenham Events Committee Update from Mrs Harman.**

The Village Fete this year will take place on 16th July. It is being held on the school field and organised by the PTFa. A 'Beenham in Bloom' competition is planned to run alongside it. A number of village properties will participate in Open Gardens scheme on 18th June and it's proposed that the Scarecrow competition take place at the same time with scarecrows based on gardens. There were lots of people at the meeting and lots of other people wanting to be involved. Discussions already underway about expanding on the Christmas lights switch on to include additional events.

138. **Finance.**

i. **Receipts.** Noted

ii. **Payments**

Alex Cother	Reimbursement for purchase of toilet seat	£9.00	Local Government Act 1972, s.133
Philip Leijten	Reimbursement of purchase of anti bird fouling strips	£57.34	Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, s.19
West Berkshire District Council	Stoneyfields Rent	£5.00	Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, s.19
HMRC	Taxes	£58.80	
Lucy Rumens	Reimbursement for key cutting	£9.00	Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, s.19
Lucy Rumens	Petty Cash*	£50.00	S111 of LGA 1972
Lucy Rumens	Overtime	£19.86	Local Government Act 1972 s112
Reading Borough Council	Contribution to outstanding Records Management Charge	£50.00	S111 of LGA 1972
St Mary's PCC	Distribution of Parish Notes	£600.00	Local Government Act 1972, s.142
Bradfield Printing Limited	Printing of Parish Notes	£65.00	Local Government Act 1972, s.142

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It was noted that the Parish Council had been waiting for the bill from the School for our contributions which has affected the figures to date.

iii. **Statement of Receipts & Payments.** Noted

iv. **Other matters**

a) **Parish Council Insurance 2017/18. Report from Mr Cother**

Mr Cother is undertaking a risk assessment to ensure adequate cover. The current policy expires on 31<sup>st</sup> May and three quotes are needed.

b) **West Berkshire Council Library Funding. Update from Mrs Rumens.**

Representatives from West Berkshire Council will be attending the Parish Council's next meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> April to discuss this further. Mrs Rumens to confirm.

LR

c) **Proposed prices for the hire of the Community Room and School Hall. Report Mr Cother.**

Mr Cother explained reasoning behind increased prices. Small increases have been made to parishioners' charges. Bigger increases have been made to non-parishioners charges in an attempt to increase income.

d) **Updates on outstanding Community Room issues:-**

i) **removal of Fir Trees**

The specific details of this work still need to be finalised. Method statements and risk assessments will need to be provided to stakeholders in advance. The Parish Council agreed to make a provision of £295 for AES to carry out the work in the school Easter holidays.

ii) **kitchen electrical socket** The school are currently dealing with this replacement.

There is a water leak at the school which has been attributed to the gents toilets. Thames water are involved in the investigations.

e) **Procurement of cloud storage for Beenham Parish Council files**

A report on options for the above has been sent by Mrs Rumens to all Councillors. It was agreed to try Google Drive in the first instance, as a free solution. All Councillors will need a Google profile. Mrs Rumens to send information to all.

LR

f) **Local Council Clerks Forum. Next meeting on 23rd March.**

No objections were raised to Mrs Rumens attending the next meeting.

139. **Comments from the West Berkshire Councillor**

A West Berkshire Council budget meeting was held last week. It was decided to increase tax by 4.99% as expected. 1.99% for revenue in the district. 3% for adult social care as recommended by central government. Bills will come out shortly.

Mr Chopping was also pleased to report that Beenham's "Members Bid" for funding towards a 'Youth Shelter' on the Rec has been successful.

140. **Planning.**

i. **Applications for consideration:**

**17/00249/FUL & 17/00250/LBC2:** Noted

**16/03168/FULD:** Noted

**17/00172/FULD:** No objections

**16/01925/FUL:** No objections

**17/00117/HOUSE:** No objections

**16/03615/RESMAJ:** Objection: Concern over traffic arrangement which are of increasing concern due to a number of developments.

**17/00169/FUL:** No objections

**17/00351/FULD:** No objections

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- ii. **Additional planning correspondence:**  
16/03054/FUL: Noted, 16/03180/FUL: Noted, 16/03056/HOUSE: Noted, 16/03633/HOUSE: Noted
141. **Highways.**
- i. **M4 Junctions 12-13 Bridge Maintenance Scheme – Update**  
Dark Lane (beneath the M4) will be closed from Monday 6<sup>th</sup> March through to Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2017. Ashampstead Road (beneath the M4) will be closed from Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March through to Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2017. Signed diversions will be in place.  
  
The programme of weekend closures of the M4 has been revised to avoid bank holidays and school holidays. The closures are now currently scheduled to take place from 9pm Friday through to 6am on Monday on certain weekends from 31<sup>st</sup> March up until 22<sup>nd</sup> May. During these closures a clearly signed diversion will be in place via the A4. On selected weekends in July, there will also be restricted lanes open, from 9pm Friday to 6am Monday.  
  
More information and updates can be found at [www.beenhamonline.org](http://www.beenhamonline.org) and [www.highways.gov.uk](http://www.highways.gov.uk)
142. **Environment**
- i. **2017/18 Grass Cutting Contract. Update from Mrs Rumens**  
Preliminary documentation has been received from AD Clark and needs to be approved so the contract can begin. AC
  - ii. **Bin signage, update from Mrs Rumens.**  
A quote has been received for A4 rigid PVC white signs at £8.50 each for 10. The Council agreed to make a provision for this. Mrs Rumens to draft the wording. LR
143. **Councillors' comments.**
- Trees are still overhanging the road opposite the school. It has been reported.
- Mr Cother expressed an interest in recruiting more Councillors. Mrs Rumens confirmed that a formal process needs to be followed. She will verify the process and get it started. LR
144. **Correspondence received since the last meeting not referred to elsewhere.**
- i. **Email from ROSPA: Notification of play area inspection:** Noted.  
Mr Leijten also confirmed that the anti-bird equipment has been installed on the swings.
  - ii. **Superfast Berkshire Project - Gigaclear re-starting work in Beenham community area:** Noted
  - iii. **Email from West Berkshire Council: Berkshire Local Nature Partnership:** Noted
145. **Date of the next meeting: Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2017**
- The Parish Council briefly discussed the **Annual Parish Assembly** which is due to take place on **Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> April**. Mrs Rumens to extend an invitation to the school. LR