

## BEENHAM Parish Council

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

Mr G. Bowsher (GRB)	Chair
Mrs J. Johnson	
Mrs G. Harman	
Mrs T. Bunce	
Mr G. Bragg (GRB)	
Mr P. McEwen	
Mrs L. Rumens	Clerk
Mr K Chopping	District Councillor
Members of the public	9

Actions

#### 82. **Public Forum.**

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

A parishioner raised an objection to the planning application relating to 7 Church View purely on grounds of invasion of privacy and that the size of the proposed extension is disproportionate to its surrounds.

The Council heard an objection to the Six Bells PH planning application amendment on grounds that it will adversely affect parking in the surrounding area.

A Parishioner reported that the toilet unit at Aldermaston Wharf was locked when they tried to use them recently. Mrs Rumens to refer to the Canals and Rivers Trust.

LR

The Boundaries Commission consultation on parliamentary boundaries is open for comment. A Parishioner thinks Beenham should be in the Newbury constituency and spoke to encourage others to comment if they agree. You can find out more at [www.bce2018.org.uk](http://www.bce2018.org.uk).

Marley Eternit Ltd have constructed a fence very close to the road on Grange Lane reported a parishioner. As a pedestrian he struggled to get out of the way of a vehicle. Other parishioners agreed. A councillor commented that it is a private road/ bridleway. Mr Chopping advised parishioner to put the matter to him in writing and he will follow it up with the head of highways at West Berkshire Council.

KC

A representative from GHE Homes Ltd spoke about the potential for rural exception sites to build affordable homes for local people and asked if there was any interest in carrying out a housing needs survey as they could with this. A councillor pointed out that the current survey is fairly recent. It was agreed to put the matter on the agenda for the next meeting.

LR

#### 83. **Apologies for absence.** Received from Mrs Jones

#### 84. **Minutes of the last meeting held on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2017**

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

##### **Register of Interests from Parish Councillors**

#### 85. Mrs Harman registered an interest in planning application no. 17/02886/NONMAT and will absent herself from discussions.

Mr McEwen commented that application no. 17/02706/HOUSE relates to his neighbours property.

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

##### **Parish Council Policies Update**

##### **i. Proposal: Formally adopt the National Association of Local Councils Code of Conduct**

The code was adopted.

##### **Parish Plan Updates**

##### **ii.** The Youth Shelter and Exercise Equipment have been installed on the Rec. More funding has come through unexpectedly from the Englefield Common Trust and West Berkshire Council have informed the Parish Council that the balance of their original Members Bid funding can be spent on more youth facilities. A councillor suggested that these funds could be spent towards purchasing two more items of

exercise equipment. This would still be within in the Council’s £10K budget for the project.

The issues around earth works to accommodate the zip wire have been resolved in favour of Caloo installing the zip wire. This will mean minimal earth moving.

Insurance of the new items was discussed. It will probably be dealt with once everything is installed. Mrs Rumens to request an adjusted quote to include the extra exercise equipment and to ask if they need to see the ROSPA (safety) report for the new equipment.

LR

**Electoral Review Of West Berkshire: Review and agree draft response.**

Mr Chopping explained that West Berkshire Council met last week and have sent the commission their feedback. In response to the proposed changes they have suggested splitting the new large Aldermaston ward into 3 – Bucklebury, Bradfield and Aldermaston, Beenham being in Aldermaston. A councillor expressed opposition to this idea on the grounds that it’s not logical in terms of addressing local needs and services but it is better to have only one member she conceded.

- iii. Dismay was expressed that West Berkshire Council did not take account of opinions when giving their feedback. Mr Chopping was happy to support the officers’ decisions.

LR

It was concluded that the Clerk will respond that Beenham wants a single member ward and that some members are happy with an alignment with Aldermaston.

It was agreed to add parliamentary boundaries for discussion next meeting.

**Beenham Village Events Committee Accounts: A discussion about future funding from the Parish Council.**

A councillor summarised the accounts. He reported that the committee is still looking for a new Chair. The summer fete made money and it was shared amongst the community organisations involved. Christmas events are planned. A councillor expressed the opinion that Beenham Village Events was set up in principal to fund itself and that the Parish Council would help out where necessary. There is currently money in their bank account. The Parish Council should not be ‘dolling out’ money to other community organisations through Beenham Events Committee.

- iv. Questions were asked about the organisation of Beenham Village Events. It was explained that there is a constitution published on the website and that the Parish Council needs to approve members of the committee. Beenham Village Events events are not covered by the Council’s public liability. They have separate assets. The arrangement does give the committee a degree of freedom.

A councillor proposed that the Parish Council should contribute £200 to Beenham Village Events now. 2 councillors were in favour, 4 were against. Funding will be reconsidered at a later date.

**Proposal regarding Parish Council use of Facebook, from Mrs Jones, and Twitter, from Mrs Bunce**

- v. Mrs Jones was absent. Mrs Bunce reported that she hopes to speak to Mrs Jones and put together a proposal for the next meeting. Can the existence of the Facebook group be mentioned in the Notes as some people were not aware of it?

TB  
SJ

**Consider proposed 2018 Parish Council Meeting dates**

- vi. These were approved with amendments to the suggested August and September dates.

**87. Finance.**

- i. **Receipts.** Noted
- Payments**

	Jackie Johnson	First aid box/plasters £40.06 Bolt/keys comm room £19.49		Local Government Act 1972, s.133
		Grass seed for youth shelter £8.99	£68.54	Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, s.19
ii.	Stuart Brown	Maintenance repairs to the fence and miscellaneous community room items	£500.00	Local Government Act 1972, s.133
	AD Clark Grounds Maintenance	Grass Cutting	£330.00*	Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, s.19
	Triangle Management Services	To put up one goalpost and net on the Recreation Ground as instructed.	£318.00	Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, s.19
	Caloo	Youth Shelter, Single Concrete	£11,640.00	Local Government

	Workout Skier, Air Walker & Arm Bike *		(Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, s.19
Bradfield Printing Ltd	Parish Notes	£98.40	Local Government Act 1972, s.142
Marion James	Surgery Run	£55.00	Section 137
Beenham W.I.	Litter Picking Jul – Sep 2017	£200.00	Section 137
HMRC	Taxes	£54.80	
Lucy Rumens	Overtime	£78.56	Local Government Act 1972 s112

\* A discussion ensued about the Grass Cutting Contract and the recent invoice relating to this. It was concluded that Mrs Harman would speak to AD Clark before the invoice is paid.

GH

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

--- *Mr Bragg left the meeting*

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iv. **Other matters**

a) **Community Room Issues:**

i) **Registration of Community Room as an Emergency Shelter** Mrs Rumens reported that she had not progressed this. Mrs Bunce to take this on.

TB

ii) **Current maintenance issues**

The fence has been repaired and now needs painting. Mrs Johnson and Mrs Harman to do so. The Parish Council to cover costs. The gutters and the drains need cleaning, a Councillor reported.

JJ/  
GH

iii) **First aid kit** and plasters have been purchased

--- *Mrs Bunce left the room and later left the meeting*

---

iv) **Ongoing Maintenance Plan** It was suggested that Stuart Brown take on ongoing maintenance.

v) **Replacing the tables.** Mrs Rumens to order 6 x 5' tables.

LR

b) **Finalise Cleaner's Pay Award and Back Pay**

- It was agreed that the pay rise is 3% on gross pay. Mrs Rumens to draft a letter to the bank to amend this.

- It was agreed to pay a discrepancy between the gross pay and the tax due this year.

LR

- It was confirmed that back pay to April needs to be paid.

Also Mrs Rumens to draft a letter to stop her standing order. A councillor raised the point that someone needs to take on the PAYE responsibilities. It was agreed that Mr McEwen would take this on in consultation with Mrs Rumens during her notice period.

LR  
PM

c) **Draft 2018/19 Budget, Progress Update from Mrs Rumens**

Mrs Rumens presented the work she had done on this so far. Mr McEwen will take this forward with Mrs Johnson's assistance.

PM  
JJ

d) **Discuss and vote on a request for £925 to 50% fund the purchase of a defibrillator for Beenham Village.**

Mrs Liming explained that she is actually hoping to have two defibrillators installed the parish. A councillor asked about maintenance. A Midgham councillor who currently maintains his parish's equipment stated that she is happy to take this on. It was confirmed that there would be an ongoing costs. The Parish Council agreed to pledge £925 towards the project in the first instance and discuss further funding a later date.

e) **Discuss and vote on a request for donation to Newbury Weekly News Over 80's Christmas Parcel Fund**

Information requested about how this benefits Beenham parishioners has not been forthcoming so it was agreed to defer the discussion until next month.

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

There were no further comments from Mr Chopping at this time.

89. **Planning.**

i. **Applications for consideration:**

17/02949/FUL / 1702516/FUL	Winning Hand Bath Road Beenham Reading Berkshire RG7 5JB	no objection
--- Mrs Harman left the room ---		

17/02886/NONMAT	Land Opposite Six Bells The Green Beenham Reading Berkshire	Mr Bowsher to submit some comments	GRB
--- Mrs Harman returned ---			
17/02706/HOUSE	Holly Tree House Beenham Reading Berkshire RG7 5NN	no objection	
17/02659/HOUSE	Oak House Webbs Lane Beenham Reading Berkshire RG7 5LL	no objection	
17/02554/HOUSE	7 Church View Beenham Reading Berkshire RG7 5NL	Object: The size is out of character with the existing houses and it is hoped the over view of the neighbours can be resolved.	
17/02669/HOUSE	Four Birches Broomhill Bath Road Beenham Reading Berkshire RG7 5QB	no objection	

- ii. **Additional planning correspondence:**  
**17/02059/HOUSE:** Noted **17/02174/HOUSE:** Noted

### Clerk Resignation

The Chairman reported that the Clerk has tendered her resignation to the Council and suggested they discuss this. He thanked Mrs Rumens for her efforts in the post.

90. A Woolhampton Councillor reported that Brimpton is also looking for Clerk, maybe a job share would suit everyone?

Mrs Rumens to send her contract of employment to Mrs Johnson. Mrs Johnson to lead on recruitment of replacement with assistance from others. Dates were discussed for a handover meeting and will be confirmed. Mrs Rumens to work with Mrs Johnson to deliver files to her in advance of that meeting. Mrs Rumens will prep the next meeting.

JJ  
LR

### 91. Highways.

- i. **Project Notification PRJ17/063 Machine Patching - Highway Maintenance:** This has been completed.
- ii. **Highway Winter Service Plan 2017/18 – Consultation:** Noted.  
Defer a discussion about Grit Bins to December.
- M4 Junctions 12 to 13 (West Berkshire): Bridge Refurbishment – Weekend Closures in December and January.** Noted.

LR

### 92. Environment

- i. **Replacement of the goal posts, update from Mr Bowsher.**  
The goal post is now in situ. Mr Bowsher to get a quote for a new net for the other post.
- ii. **Recreation Ground Footpaths, bid for funding. Update from Mr Bragg/Mrs Rumens**  
Mr Bowsher to ask Mr Chopping about future Member's Bids.
- Trees maintenance required on the Rec. Report from Mrs Harman/Mrs Rumens**
- iii. The trees in question are under a tree protection order. Mrs Rumens to send the details to Mrs Harman so she can apply for permission.

GRB

GRB

LR  
GH

### Councillors' comments.

Work on Beenham Hill is ongoing.

93. Mrs Johnson and Mrs Harman found that the boxes in storage had already been sorted out. It was agreed that they will be put back in the loft.

It was suggested that the Parish Council hold an official opening of Rec equipment in the early new year for publicity.

### 94. Correspondence received since the last meeting not referred to elsewhere.

- i. **Summary leaflet - Police and Crime Plan 2017 – 2021** Noted
- ii. **West Berkshire Council: Finances – Know your rights. A special event for Carers**  
Publicise on Facebook and on the community noticeboard / website
- iii. **Request to display Berkshire Badger poster**  
Publicise on the community noticeboard

SJ

SJ

### 95. Date of the next meeting: Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December

