

# BEENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2018

Mr G. Bowsher (GRB)	Chair
Mrs J. Johnson	
Mrs G. Harman	
Mrs S Jones	
Mr G. Bragg (GEB)	
Mr P. McEwen	Taking the minutes
Mr K Chopping	District Councillor

Members of the public 3

### **108 Public Forum.**

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

The AGM of the Beenham Allotments will be held on 6 February 2018. Members of the PC are invited to attend.

It was pointed out that the Precept for 2017-18 was based on the assumption that a contribution would be given to WBC for library services.

### **109 Apologies for absence.** None

### **110 Minutes of the last meeting held on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2017**

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

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

No interests were recorded.

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

i) Parish Council Policies Update – Nothing to report this month

ii) Parish Plan Update

- Playground equipment is now installed. An opening ceremony is planned for 13 January (a budget of £25 for refreshments was agreed). The safety inspection has been carried out, and some issues have been referred to the supplier. It was agreed that the final invoice would be paid.
- A volunteer is required to complete the refresh of the Parish Plan. Jane Liming will be invited to the next PC meeting to discuss the way forward.

iii) Rural Exemption Sites – No action at present.

iv) Possible devolution of WBC assets. It was agreed that the possibility of the PC taking over the freehold of the Community Room from WBC would be discussed with WBC.

v) Appointment of new Parish Clerk. Three applications were received, but one withdrew. The remaining two applicants were interviewed by a working group. The recommendation of the working group was that Seif Morbi should be appointed as Parish Clerk. The council agreed unanimously with this recommendation. Mr Morbi was present at the meeting, and he was welcomed by the councillors.

### 113 Finance

Mr McEwen is handling the finances until a new Clerk is appointed. The Finance Report dated 31 December 2017 was tabled.

#### i) Receipts.

A grant for the playground equipment was received from Englefield Trust.

A grant of £650 was received from BALC for a computer system (including printer and software) for the use of the PC. It was agreed that the budget for the system would be increased to £1000 with PC funds.

#### ii) Payments

HMRC	PAYE	£64.60	Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, s.19
Stuart Brown	Cleaning Gutters	£100.00	Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, s.19
Newbury Weekly News	Advert for Clerk	£346.61	Local Government Act 1972, s.142
West Berkshire Council	Contribution for libraries	£1,155.00	Local Government Act 1972, s.142
Beenham PCC	Magazine Distribution	£600.00	Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, s.19
Caloo	Final Invoice for zip-wire	£8,324.82	Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, s.19
Mrs Jacqueline Homick	Salary	£248.63 SO	Local Government Act 1972 s112
Playsafety Ltd	Inspection of new playground equipment	£474.00	Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, s.19
AD Clark	Grass Cutting	£330.00	Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, s.19

\* A discussion ensued about the Grass Cutting Contract and the recent invoice relating to this. It was concluded that the total payment should not exceed the lump sum stated in the contract. Mrs Harman would send the cheque for £330.00 to AD Clark, and tell them that no more would be paid under this contract.

#### iii) Statement of Receipts & Payments.

The current bank balance is £45,100, but outstanding debtors will decrease this significantly in the next month. However, it is projected that the balance at Year End will be in accordance with the budget.

**iv) Other matters**

**a) Community Room Issues:**

**i) Responsibilities**

Graham Bragg has volunteered his extensive knowledge and will be assisting the community room team with aspects of the lease. Responsibilities will be clarified at the next meeting.

**ii) Current maintenance issues**

The heating in the hall is still causing problems. This is the responsibility of WBC, and there are ongoing discussions with them.

**iii) Replacing the tables.** Six new tables have been supplied.

**b) Draft Budget for 2018/19**

The Draft Budget was tabled and discussed. Comments should be submitted so that the final budget can be agreed at the next PC meeting.

It was agreed that the Precept for 2018/19 will remain unchanged at £18,800.

**101 Comments from the West Berkshire Councillor**

Mr Chopping reported on the current problems with commissioning a new primary school at Theale.

**102 Planning.**

**i) Applications for consideration:**

17/03456/HOUSE	Skylarks, Clay Lane Two-storey extension	No objection
17/03400/FULD	Hillfoot Court Convert barn to bungalow	Objection. The existing structure is too small to convert into a bungalow

**ii) Additional planning correspondence:**

None

**103 Highways.**

**Parish Grit Bins**

The Grit Bins have been inspected, and are all usable.

**104 Environment**

**i) Damage to Rec Boundary.**

Two wooden posts on roadside at the rec have been uprooted. A quote of £100 has been received for repair. This was approved.

**ii) Recreation Ground Footpaths, bid for funding.**

Mr Bowsher and Mr Bragg to follow this up with Mr Chopping.

**iii) Trees maintenance required on the Rec.**

The trees in question are under a tree protection order. Mrs Harman has the form, and will submit an application.

**iv) Grass Cutting**

It was agreed that 3 quotes should be obtained for this year's grass cutting. The scope of work should be more specific, and make it clear that the grass should be kept no longer than 40mm for a single Lump Sum.

**105 Councillors' comments.**

Mr Bragg commented that WBC no longer collects waste from the Victory Hall.

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

Beenham WI have asked for clarification of the scope of their litter picking.

**107 Date of the next meeting: Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2018**