

BEENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD on Monday 5th February 2018

Mr G. Bowsher (GRB) Chair
Mrs J. Johnson (JJ)
Mrs G. Harman (GH)
Mrs S Jones (SJ)
Mr P. McEwen (PE)
Mr. S. Morbi 9SM) Clerk to Beenham Parish Council

Mr K Chopping (KC) District Councillor

Members of the public 60+
Representatives of GHE Homes 2

109 Public Forum.

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

Various parishioners raised concerns regarding parking situation in the village, especially near junctions and tight bends around The Strouds, Stoneyfield, Back Lane and Picklepyth Lane.

Traffic concerns were also raised at and around the junction of A4 (Bath Road) due current housing development across the road.

A parishioner was also concerned that she only heard about the escape of the Wolf from the Wolf Conservation Trust on the national news around 1pm. She was concerned for her young children could have come into contact with the Wolf and not realise the dangers.

A parishioner also expressed concerns about a number of potholes on the roads in and around the village. The chairman said if they called streetwise and advised them of the location, they will deal with the problems. The chairman stated that his experience with streetwise was positive.

110 Apologies for absence.

1 apology note of councillor Graham Bragg (GB)

111 Minutes of the last meeting held on Monday 5th January 2018

These were approved and signed by the Chairman with the agreement of the Council.

112 Register of Interests from Parish Councillors

No interests were recorded.

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

- i) Welcome to new Parish Clerk – Seif Morbi (SM) was formally introduced and welcomed as the new Parish Clerk.
- ii) Rural Exemption Sites
 - Chairman stated that no planning application has been made and that GHE are here to tell us their thoughts and to listen to what we have to say.

- 2 representatives from GHE Homes were present at the meeting. They gave a brief overview of their plans with current focus on site 5 at Church Lane.
 - Various questions were asked regarding their plans.
 - While the overall view was that there is a requirement for housing in Beenham, general consensus was that the site 5 was not appropriate.
 - GHE assured the Parish Council and the audience that the proposals for the approximate 12 proposed social houses, would not be a prelude to further commercial residential development. When a parishioner questioned about how this assurance would be enforced GHE confirmed that any selected site would be a site where the landowner selling or gifting the site would have a covenant placed on adjoining land in their ownership preventing further development.
 - A parishioner stated that there is also a need for social houses for rent.
 - Questions were asked to GHE regarding the amount of vehicle movements in removing 100,000 tonnes of soil as well as deliveries. Concerns were raised as there are only 2 routes in and out of Beenham and the damage to the roads.
 - Concerns were raised if current infrastructure in Beenham were robust enough considering the amount of water supply repairs being carried out on Beenham Hill on regular basis.
 - District councillor stated that, there probably would be no infrastructure tax levy (section 106) applied and as such the local community would not have any additional funding.
- iii) Compliance with Data Protection – It was decided by the council that the new clerk (SM) and councillor Jackie Johnson would attend a course that is being held on 22nd February in Calcot. The cost of this course is approximately £40.00.
- iv) Possible devolution of WBC assets – Councillor JJ has submitted an online application and is awaiting response from WBC. There has been a further discussion of other assets that the PC are considering to make further enquires. However, it was suggested that we would wait for the response for the community hall.
- v) Clarification of Councillors’ responsibilities – To be discussed at the next meeting.
- vi) Vacancy for Parish Councillor – Chairman advised parishioners present at the meeting that there was a vacancy and if anyone was interested to contact him.

114 Finance

Councillor Mr McEwen (PM) has been handling the finances for the last few months and has now handed over the information and documentation to the new Clerk. Spending has been low as the footpath project had not been carried out. Overall reconciliation currently showing a deficit of £9.00

i) Receipts.

Councillor PM confirmed that we had received monies from BLAC as contribution for PC to purchase computer equipment.

ii) Payments

HMRC	PAYE	£54.80	Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, s.19
Beenham W.I.	Litter picking	£200.00	Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, s.19
Marion James	Surgery Run	£52.50	Local Government Act 1972, s.142
Niamh Chippendale	Refreshments at opening ceremony	£25.00	Local Government Act 1972, s.142
Bradfield Printing	Parish Magazine Notes	£57.60	Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, s.19
Stuart Brown	Post repair – parts and labour	£100.00	Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, s.19
Mrs Jacqueline Homick	Salary	£248.63 SO	Local Government Act 1972 s112

iii) Statement of Receipts & Payments.

The current bank balance is £44,300, 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) Draft 2018/19 Budget

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.

b) Purchase of computer for the clerk:

This has now been done as the clerk collected the computer (laptop and the printer from the provider itQED

115 Comments from the West Berkshire Councillor

There were no comments.

116 Planning.

i) Applications for consideration:

There were none to be discussed.

ii) Additional planning correspondence:

None

117 Community Room

a) Maintenance Issues

Councillor JJ thinks the heating controller may have been fixed.

b) Other Issues

Cutlery disappearing – Councillor requested permission to buy some more as events have been booked and only 2 sets of knives and forks were available. The request was approved and suggestion was made that we should buy cheap replacement cutlery.

There was a discussion on florescent lights in the school hall. It was noted that wind orchestra were complaining that the lights in the school hall were not sufficiently bright. Although no accurate figures were available it was thought replacement to LED could cost around £500.00 It was noted that the Badminton club did not have an issue with lights in the school hall. The school hall is not within the Parish Councils remit and the school was not able to contribute. It was agreed that it was not good use of public money. The chairman suggested that the wind orchestra negotiate directly with the school.

118 PC Projects.

i) Parish Plan Update.

Jane Liming said that the update of the Parish Plan needs another person to finish it off. She would be able to advise on the work required, and to liaise with WBC.

ii) Playground Equipment.

New equipment has now been installed and a successful launch took place on 13th January. However, it has been noted that some equipment is loose. Councillor GH to check and advise.

iii) Defibrillators.

The cost of each defibrillator is approximately £1400.00. It being suggested that we need a total of 2 defibrillators. The aim is to try to agree funding for one of them between 3 Parish Councils

iv) Improvements to footpaths.

Quotes need to be found to address the footpaths. GH will pass previous quotes to GB.

v) Transport – Revised bus timetable

A revised time table has been issued for 2 bus services Connect 41 & 44.

vi) Other Projects.

Not discussed.

119 Environment.

GH has sent in Tree Preservation Order (TPO) to West Berkshire Council with regards to trimming of the trees on the recreation ground. Awaiting reply.

120 Councillors' comments.

PM commented raised the issue about the escaped wolf. Lessons learnt on what communications can be put out and how quickly can this be done for the future.

SJ also commented on wolf situation and wondered if Facebook or other social media could be viable option.

GH to ask contractors to provide quotes for grass cutting for 2018

GH confirmed the Village Summer Fayre is to be held on 9th June and that the scarecrow competition would be run again this year and Mrs McEwen.

GH also inquired about the electricity supply and cost at the recreation ground. It was thought that it would be better to leave this at present as the cost is minimal. Currently 32pence a day.

JJ stated that there will probably be a requirement to increase the data storage space we currently have for web and email use.

GRB discussed ways we could drive speed awareness in the village by using speed limit stickers for wheelie bins.

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

GRB confirmed he had received 7 written objections to GHE homes plans.

122 Date of the next meeting: Monday 5th March 2018