

BEENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD on Monday 4th February 2019

Mr G. Bowsher (GRB) Mr G. Bragg (GB) Mr Peter McEwen (PM) Mrs J Johnson (JJ)	Chair Taking Minutes	
Members of the public	At least 100	
113 Public Forum.		
A fifteen-minute period for members of the public to raise matters of concern.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An additional bin for dog waste was requested for the open ground near the school. • It was reported that vehicles parked on Stoneyfields near to the turning with Wickens Corner are causing an obstruction • It was reported that the grit bins in Church View and Stoneyfield are empty. 	Note GRB	
Presentation by Spitfire Homes		
Spitfire Homes requested an opportunity to present their updated proposals for development of a site on the south side of Picklepythe Lane. They had delivered a brochure describing their plans (which are still preliminary) to all the houses in the village (almost). The development would comprise 48 houses/flats, of which 19 would be affordable houses administered by a housing association.		
Spitfire Homes then answered questions from the large audience. It was generally accepted that there is a need for affordable homes in Beenham, particularly for people with links to the village. However, several people felt that the development was too big for Beenham, and the existing infrastructure (e.g. roads, public transport) could not support such a large development.		
114 Apologies for absence.		
District Councillor Keith Chopping		
115 Minutes of the last ordinary parish meeting held on Monday 07th Jan 2019		
One correction in the minutes was requested. The minutes will be amended before signature by the Chairman.		PM
116 Register of Interests from Parish Councillors		
No interests were recorded.		
117 Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting not referred to elsewhere.		
i)	Frank Wood has offered to join the council. It was agreed that he should be co-opted. It was suggested that somebody interested in pursuing a Rural Exception Site for affordable housing should be co-opted onto the council.	JJ/PM
ii)	No applications have been received for Parish Clerk. It was agreed that the post would be re-advertised on social media. In the meantime the work normally carried out by the Clerk will be divided amongst the councillors.	JJ
iii)	The proposal to publish the draft minutes (before formal approval) will be deferred to the next meeting.	
iv)	Painting of the phone will be deferred to the next meeting	



v)	After discussion, it was agreed that the Precept for 2019-2020 will be £18,300. A draft budget for 2019-2020 was presented. This budget was accepted, subject to changing the Precept to £18,300.	
vi)	Beenham Allotments – No changes were proposed to the contract between the Parish Council and Beenham Allotments at the recent AGM.	PM
vii)	Grass cutting. Three tenders had been received for a 3 year contract to cut the grass. It was agreed that the tender from A D Clark would be accepted.	JJ
viii)	The dates for council meetings in 2019 were agreed. The list is attached to the minutes.	

118 Highways

Councillor Bragg met with WBC Highways to discuss the ongoing traffic related issues in Beenham. We were advised:	GB
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is little that can be done to stop parking on the roads, unless it is actually dangerous. • Speeding on corners in Beenham was discussed. WBC felt that the problem was drivers going too fast for the road layout, and speed limit was not an issue (i.e. they were driving within the speed limit, but too fast for that particular bend). In many locations the land on either side of the road is not public property, so it would not be possible to erect signs. • There are no funds available for any modifications to the A4 junction. 	
It is planned to present a petition at the next WBC meeting, asking for action to improve the A4 junction.	

119 Finance

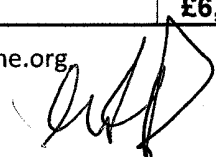
JJ gave an update on current finances as follows:

i) Receipts (received in December).

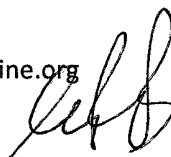
Beenham Pre-School	Lettings	£784.00
Community Room	Lettings	£18.00
Community Room	Lettings	£156.00
Total Incoming		£958.00

ii) Payments authorised for February

Mrs Jacqueline Homick	Salary (255.70) S/O	£248.63
HRMC	PAYE Tax	£84.00
Bradfield Printing	Parish Notes	£55.20
Business Waste	Collection of Community Hall Waste	£31.20
Mrs J Homick	Cleaning supplies	£17.06
Marion James	Surgery Run	£65.00
Seif Morbi	Office Allowance (Jan)	£18.00
Seif Morbi	Clerk's Pay	£189.38
Beenham Church PCC	Grant for distribution of Notes	£600
WBC	Grant for Library	£1150
AES	Footpath along The Rec	£3,720
Total Outgoing		£6,178.47



BALANCE AT BANK.			
Current Account Balance at 27 Dec 2018			£15,755.43
Deposit Account Balance at 10 Dec 2018			£21,399.50
Total Balance			£37,154.93
<p>A grant of £1,150 was agreed to the WBC Libraries Fund, to assist in the running of the mobile library and are local libraries.</p> <p>A grant of £600 was agreed to Beenham Church. The Church distributes the Parish Notes.</p>			
<p>120 Comments from the West Berkshire Councillor Mr Chopping was unable to attend this meeting</p>			
<p>121 Planning. The application from GHE Homes for 14 housing units on Church Lane has been withdrawn.</p>			
<p>i) Applications for consideration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ararat, Beenham Hill. Demolition of existing house and erection of new house. No objection. Stocks Farm Cottage, Webbs Lane. Extension and alterations. No objection. Anchor Vans Ltd, Bath Road. Parking Area on landfill behind existing site. This was approved in 2017, but with many conditions. This application concerns some of these conditions. PC commented that the site is visible from Beenham Hill, and particular attention should be paid to screening by trees and external lighting. Beenham Grange. Change of use from existing offices to 11 apartments. The previous application was rejected by WBC as a Flood Assessment was required. This application includes the Flood Assessment. No further comments by PC. 			GRB
<p>122 PC Projects</p>			
<p>i) Community Hall / School Hall – JJ asked for the appointment of Paula Read as the Booking Clerk to be reconsidered, due to a possible conflict of interest with the role of manager of Beenham Preschool. It was agreed to defer this issue to the next meeting.</p>			
<p>ii) Footpaths PM reported that the improvements to the footpath across the Rec have been completed.</p>			
<p>123 Councillors' comments</p> <p>GRB – The chairman thanked all present for attending and closed the meeting at 21:45</p>			
<p>124 Date of the next meeting: 07:00pm Monday 4th March 2019</p>			



Appendix - Dates for Parish Council meetings in 2019:

4 March

1 April

17 April Annual Parish Assembly

13 May Annual Meeting followed by Ordinary Parish Council meeting

3 June

1 July

5 August

2 September

7 October

4 November

2 December

