

Beenham Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Monday 5th August 2019 at 7pm in the Community Room, Beenham.

Present: Councillor Graham Bowsher, Chairman (GRB)
Councillors Graham Bragg (GB), Jackie Johnson (JJ), Peter McEwen (PM) and Andy Livens (AL).

In attendance: Jennie Currie, Parish Clerk (JC)
3 members of the public

19/043 Public Forum

Item: Beenham WI are considering presenting a bench and tree to the village, possibly near the site of the Christmas tree. How do they request permission for this?

Response: The proposed site is owned by West Berkshire District Council (WBDC) and they would need to give permission.

19/044 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Frank Wood (FW).

19/045 Declarations of interests from Councillors

There were no declarations of interest.

19/046 Minutes of the last meeting held on 3rd June 2019 (following amendments) and 1st July 2019

RESOLVED That the minutes be signed as a true and accurate record.

19/047 Matters arising from the minutes

There were no other matters arising.

19/048 Co-option of Councillors due to 1 vacancy

i. Procedure for filling casual vacancies

Councillor Bragg had presented a Procedure for filling casual vacancies to the meeting held on 1st July (item 19/036ii). The Clerk had circulated an amended procedure and this was discussed.

The Clerk advised that the Council did not have to co-opt a new Councillor if there was a vacancy and therefore a section of the proposed procedure could be removed. Councillor Bragg requested that the Clerk seek clarification of this as he believed that the Council had to co-opt if there was a vacancy and a person expressed an interest in the role. JC

The matter would be deferred to the next meeting.

19/049 Planning

i. Applications for consideration

A representative from Copas Brothers (Farms) Ltd. spoke regarding application 19/01758/FULD.

RESOLVED that the following observations be presented:

19/01691/FUL Church of St Mary, Beenham SUPPORT

19/01758/FULD Beenham Grange, Grange Lane NO OBJECTIONS

- Concerns were noted that the access road is not a highway and that Copas Brothers (Farms) Ltd would install a footpath to the site and increase the amenity area.

19/049 Planning continued

ii. Additional planning correspondence

Members noted the consultation from WBDC regarding the new Statement of Community Involvement. No comments would be submitted.

Members noted that the following application had been decided:

19/00933/HOUSE 2 Rose Cottages, Clay Lane, Beenham GRANTED
19/01113/HOUSE 4 Mallard Way, Aldermaston REFUSED

19/050 Community Room & School Hall

i. Request for an outside tap

The Preschool had submitted a request for an outside tap to be positioned near the kitchen, as the they were like to be the main users of the tap that they were willing to pay for the installation. It was noted that permission would be required from WBDC.

RESOLVED That in principal the Parish Council were in support of installing an outside tap. **PM**

ii. Maintenance of the Community Room

Councillor McEwen reported that the new heater was being specially commissioned. He would be organising a meeting of users to generate a wish list of items to be installed and/or improved. **PM**

19/051 Parish Council Assets/Projects

i. Play area repairs – swing and fence

Councillor Johnson confirmed the new swing seats had been installed.

The fence painting and/or repairs needed further consideration and would be investigated. **JJ/PM**

ii. Telephone box

Councillor Johnson reported that the painting work had started and only the front needed to be finished.

iii. Devolution of grass areas

In the absence of Councillor Wood the matter would be deferred to the next meeting. **FW**

iv. Request for additional car parking for the school

Following the complaints of inconsiderate parking around the school raised at the previous meeting (item 19/040ii) the parishioner had spoken to Councillor McEwen and clarified that they would like to see additional car parking included in any future development of the land adjacent to the school. Members supported the suggestion and noted it for future reference.

The Clerk suggested obtaining copies of the 'Considerate Car Use' leaflet from WBDC which Members were willing to pursue. **JC**

v. WI Litter pick report

The WI had completed a litter pick of the village in July. A number of bags of dog waste were found on the path from Clay Lane to the Recreation Ground, as there is already a bin in the area there were no suggestions on how to improve this.

A number of items of drug related paraphernalia were found in the church car. Councillor Livens would report this to Thames Valley Police. **AL**

vi. Binding of Parish Council minutes from April 1996

The Clerk and Councillor Johnson reported that the minutes from April 1996 to the present day had been collated. Minutes from meetings held from May 2006 to April 2008 and May 2014 to September 2015 were missing, although unsigned copies were available.

The Clerk would source a quote for binding the minutes and present it to a future meeting. **JC**

19/052 Consultation on Highway Winter Service Plan 2019/20

Members discussed the consultation on WBDC's Highway Winter Service Plan 2019/20. Councillor McEwen raised the concern that no individual names were included in the contacts section. The Council had no formal comments to be submitted.

**19/053 Correspondence received since the last meeting not referred to elsewhere
Allotment Lease**

Following the discussion at the July meeting regarding the request to extend the lease (item 19/039) there had been further correspondence between the Association's Committee and the Clerk. The Committee were concerned by the termination notice of only 1 year.

It was noted that the lease with the Association is a reflection of the lease between the Landowner and the Council. To amend the two leases would incur significant legal costs and therefore Members were reluctant to take any further action at present.

19/054 Comments/Reports

i. From the West Berkshire District Councillor

Councillor Boeck had submitted his apologies for the meeting and a report. The report would be circulated after the meeting.

ii. From Parish Councillors

Councillor McEwen reported that an environmental event 'GreenFest' would be taking place in Hamstead Norreys and asked if the Council had been approached to be involved and whether the Council should support the event.

Members discussed the matter and felt that as it was outside of the parish that it would not be appropriate for the Council to support the event.

iii. From the Clerk

The Clerk had no matters to report.

19/055 Finance

i. Appointment of internal auditor for 2019-20

RESOLVED That Mr David Weller be appointed as internal auditor for 2019-20.

Councillor Bragg left the meeting at 8.55pm.

ii. Grant request from Douai Park Recreation Ground

RESOLVED That a grant of £250 would be given to assist with the purchase of new goal posts.

iii. Receipts & Payments

A summary of receipts and payments follows:

Receipts for June 2019

Community Facilities	Lettings	£26.25
Community Facilities	Lettings	£39.00
Community Facilities	Lettings	£13.00
Community Facilities	Lettings	£27.00
Preschool - May usage	Lettings	£583.00
Community Facilities	Lettings	£97.50
Community Facilities	Lettings	£16.50
Community Facilities	Lettings	£12.00
Interest		£0.94
Total Incoming		£815.19

Payments to be authorised at August 2019 meeting

J Johnson reimbursement (issued 1st July 2019)	2430	£99.52
WBDC Library contribution	2431	£1,155.00
A D Clark - June grass cutting	2432	£234.00
HMRC	2433	£56.20
M James - Surgery run April to June 2019	2434	£50.00
Sutcliffe Play - replacement swing seats	2435	£388.66
Opus energy	Direct Debit	£11.10
Total cheques		£1,994.48

Payments preauthorised for the previous month

Cleaner's salary July	Standing order	£253.10
Clerk's salary July	Standing order	£246.84
Clerk's home office allowance July	Standing order	£18.00
Total Outgoing		£517.94

Total cheques and preauthorised payments	£2,512.42
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BALANCE AT BANK		
Treasurers Account Balance at	1st July 2019	15,870.87
Deposit Account Balance at	28th June 2019	21,404.84
Total Balance		£37,275.71

RESOLVED That the payments listed above would be authorised and cheques issued.

iv. Accounts budget and analysis reports

Councillor Johnson highlighted that there were potential savings in budgets that could be spent on improvements for the Community Rooms.

Councillor McEwen requested that the reports be dated.

JC

Members noted the reports.

It was noted that the next ordinary meeting of the Council would be held at 7pm, on Monday 2nd September 2019. There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.05pm.

Signed  Date 2/9/19

