

## Beenham Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2019 at 7pm in the Community Room, Beenham.

Present: Councillor Graham Bowsher, Chairman (GRB)  
Councillors Jackie Johnson (JJ) and Peter McEwen (PM).

In attendance: The Clerk, Jennie Currie (JC)  
6 members of the public

### 19/090 Public Forum

**Request:** Representatives from the organisations behind the Beenham 2020 celebrations presented an update on their plans and their request for a grant.

**Concern:** There are a limited supply of suitable sized trees to be cut from Greyfield Wood for use as the village Christmas tree.

**Action:** The Clerk to investigate planting a tree. JC

**Concern:** The litter bin (emptied by Veolia) outside the school has not been emptied.

**Action:** WDBC would be contacted. PM

### 19/091 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Frank Wood (FW), *Graham Bragg (GB)*.

### 19/092 Declaration of interests from Councillors

No declarations of interests were received.

### 19/093 Minutes of the last meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> November

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

### 19/094 Matters arising from the minutes and not referred to elsewhere

Councillor Johnson was thanked for planting the daffodil bulbs.

### 19/095 Co-option

Members noted that nobody had expressed an interest in becoming a Councillor.

### 19/096 Planning

#### i. Applications for consideration

**RESOLVED** That the following observations be presented:

19/02718/HOUSE Glenmore, Bath Road, Padworth NO OBJECTIONS

#### ii. Additional Planning correspondence

Members noted that 4 appeals had been held for land at Wessex Downs Golf Club.

Members noted that the following applications had been decided:

19/02303/HOUSE 16 Church View, Beenham GRANTED

19/02572/AGRIC Field Barn Farm, Beenham FULL APPLICATION IS REQUIRED

### 19/097 Beenham WI centenary bench and tree

Beenham WI are planning to install a bench and tree on the grass near the school. Members noted the land is owned by West Berkshire District Council (WBDC). Members supported the project in principal and the Clerk was asked to investigate planting a Christmas tree at the location to be paid for by the Council and to obtain permission from WBDC. JC

**19/098 Request from Padworth Parish Council to share cost of Beenham Turn bus shelter**

Padworth Parish Council had been approached by WBDC to take on the responsibility of the Beenham Turn bus shelter following this Council's decision not to. (Item 19/077ii.) Padworth Parish Council were seeking support from Beenham Parish Council to share the costs. Members asked the Clerk to investigate the proposed costs before entering into a Service Level Agreement with Padworth Parish Council.

JC

**19/099 Beenham Hill and Bath Road junction**

Councillor McEwen had drafted a document detailing possible improvements to the Beenham Hill and Bath Road junction. There had been a number of road traffic incidents at the junction this year and Members were concerned with the number of potential residential developments being considered on the Padworth side of the Bath Road.

Councillor McEwen was thanked for the work he had undertaken, Members felt that the Council should not propose a solution but should bring the issue to the attention of the Highways team at WBDC.

**RESOLVED** that Councillor McEwen would amend the document and forward it to the Clerk to be sent to WBDC.

PM

**19/100 Community Room and School Hall**

**i. Grant for School Hall lights**

A grant of £1,645 after costs had been received from The Good Exchange. The Parish Council had already agreed to contribute £500.

**RESOLVED** that an updated quote would be sourced and that permission from the school to proceed would be confirmed. **PM**

**RESOLVED** that £1,000 of CIL money would be added to the project.

**ii. Proposed works in Community Room**

Councillor McEwen updated Members that the outside tap and external door would be completed during the Christmas break. The room would be repainted in the February half-term break. Potentially there would be a request to spend £1,500 to £2,000 on new curtains.

**RESOLVED** that the walls would be painted with the colour 'buttermilk' and the woodwork would be white.

**19/101 Parish Council Assets / Projects**

**i. Play area fence repairs**

The contractor has confirmed that the fence will be completed this financial year.

**ii. Devolution of the grass areas**

There were no further updates.

**iii. Community Noticeboard repair**

The noticeboard had been repaired.

**iv. Proposal to change contractors for litter and dog waste bins**

Following a number of complaints from residents the Clerk had investigated sourcing a new contractor to empty the bins in the Parish. One quote was £2,080, another was £3,120, both were significantly higher than the current charge from WBDC. The Clerk was asked to monitor the situation and to get an up to date quote from WBDC.

**19/102 Correspondence since the last meeting not referred to elsewhere**

No correspondence had been received.

### 19/103 Reports

#### i. From the West Berkshire District Councillor

Councillor Boeck was not present at the meeting but had sent his report to the Chairman which covered a number of non Beenham specific items. The report would be added to the Parish Council's website.

#### ii. From Parish Councillors

Councillor Bowsher thanked everyone involved in the Christmas celebrations.

#### iii. From the Clerk

The Clerk reported that the minutes were with Shaw & Sons to be bound and that the grit bins were due to be refilled.

### 19/104 Finance

#### i. Grant request from Beenham WI

**RESOLVED** that Beenham WI be given a grant of £430.

#### ii. Grant request from BVE for 2020-21

The Clerk had misunderstood the request and the item was deferred to a future meeting.

#### iii. Grant request to support Beenham 2020 events

A detailed breakdown of the costs involved in the proposed Beenham 2020 events had been circulated, this included £450 for a ticketed party, £296.09 for an exhibition and £400 for publicity. An additional email had been received stating that the Victory Hall would manage the finances. Members discussed the details of the proposed events, raising concerns that the grant would fund a ticketed event that would be restricted in numbers. The Clerk clarified that under section 137 grants could be awarded which were of benefit to a significant proportion of the parish.

Councillor Bowsher proposed that subject to the request being submitted by the Victory Hall that £1,000 should be granted. Councillor McEwen seconded the proposal. Councillor Johnson voted against the proposal due to her concerns that the grant would be partially funding an event which would be of a disproportionate benefit to the expense incurred by the Council.

**RESOLVED** that subject to the grant request being submitted by the Victory Hall that £1,000 would be granted.

#### iv. Beenham Primary School invoice for shared use

The Clerk had received explanations to all the queries raised.

**RESOLVED** that the invoice would be paid.

#### v. Draft budget for 2020-21

Members discussed the draft budget for 2020-21 which included a precept figure of £18,000. The Clerk would make some amendments and recirculate the draft. The final decision would need to be made at the January meeting.

JC

#### vi. Receipts and Payments

A summary of receipts and payments follows:

##### Receipts for October 2019

Deposit Account interest	Interest	£0.88
Community Facilities	Lettings	£30.00
WBDC	CIL	£2,083.43
Community Facilities	Lettings	£52.50
Community Facilities	Lettings	£6.50
Community Facilities	Lettings	£48.75
Community Facilities	Lettings	£45.00
<b>Total Incoming</b>		<b>£2,267.06</b>

**Payments to be authorised at December 2019 meeting**

Marion James - Surgery Run	2450	64	£55.00
Thatcham Glass Centre - bus shelter	2451	65	£348.00
A D Clark - October 2019	2452	66	£117.00
HMRC	2453	67	£56.20
Mrs T Palmer - Allotment annual rent	2454	68	£225.00
Bradfield Printing	2455	69	£30.00
Opus Energy	Direct Debit	70	£11.47
Petty cash	2456	71	£86.32
<b>Total cheques</b>			<b>£928.99</b>

**Payments preauthorised for the previous month**

Cleaner's salary November	Standing order	72	£253.10
Clerk's salary November	Standing order	73	£246.84
Clerk's home office allowance November	Standing order	mins	£18.00
<b>Total Outgoing</b>			<b>£517.94</b>

<b>Total cheques and preauthorised payments</b>			<b>£1,446.93</b>
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<b>BALANCE AT BANK</b>		
Treasurers Account Balance at	31-Oct-19	24,271.14
Deposit Account Balance at	31-Oct-19	21,408.39
<b>Total Balance</b>		<b>£45,679.53</b>

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

**vii. Accounts Budget and Analysis reports**

**RESOLVED** That the reports be approved.

It was noted that the next ordinary meeting of the Council would be held at 7pm, on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020. There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.18pm.

Signed  Date 6/1/20