

Beenham Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Monday 3rd February 2020 at 7pm in the Community Room, Beenham.

Present: Councillor Graham Bowsher, Chairman (GRB)
Councillors Graham Bragg (GB), Andy Livens (AL) and Frank Wood (FW).

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

20/015 Public Forum

Request: For a new dog bin to be placed near the telephone box at the Victory Hall.

Action: For the Clerk to investigate and add to a future agenda.

JC

Concern: 1. Bourne Lane road condition and numerous pot holes especially where The Bourne stream runs through. On 13th January the resident noted the pot holes were in excess of 7 inches in the area of The Bourne.

2. Drainage problems from the road into the stream. There has been significant natural movement of the current infrastructure and maintenance is required to prevent the area flooding.

3. Vehicles travelling at speed for the road considering the blind bends. It is a 'National Speed Limit' area, could the area be reduced to be a 40 or 30 mph zone?

Response: The Chairman requested that the resident submits his concerns to the District Council via Councillor Dominic Boeck, Mr Michael Butler (Highways) and Customer Services.

Concern: In December the resident had a visitor who left Beenham and joined the A4 to go westbound towards Newbury. The visitor accidentally turned on to the eastbound carriageway as they did not appreciate that it was a dual carriageway due to the lack of signage. The visitor then had a near miss with a vehicle travelling towards Reading.

Response: The Chairman explained that the Parish Council had recently been unsuccessful in requesting that the District Council review the junction. He asked the resident to forward her concerns to the District Council.

20/016 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillor Peter McEwen (PM) and District Councillor Dominic Boeck.

20/017 Declaration of interests from Councillors

No declarations of interests were received.

20/018 Minutes of the last meeting held on 6th January

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

20/019 Matters arising from the minutes and not referred to elsewhere

There were no matters arising.

20/020 Vacancies

Members noted that electors had had until 29th January to call a by-election and that under the previous vacancy nobody had expressed an interest in becoming a Councillor.

20/021 Planning

i. Applications for consideration

RESOLVED That the following observations be presented:

19/02540/FUL	Tree World Nursery, Ufton Lane, Ufton Nervet	NO OBJECTIONS
19/03097/FUL	Northway Porsche, Grange Place, Grange Lane	NO OBJECTIONS
20/00081/HOUSE	Brynteg, Clay Lane, Beenham	NO OBJECTIONS
20/00118/HOUSE	8 Mallard Way, Aldermaston	NO OBJECTIONS

ii. Additional Planning correspondence

Members noted additional correspondence received for applications:

19/02718/HOUSE	Glenmore, Bath Road, Padworth
20/00089/PASSHE	50 Mallard Way, Aldermaston

Members noted that the following applications had been decided:

19/03002/AGRIC	Field Barn Farm, Beenham Hill	
	Full planning application is NOT REQUIRED	
19/02833/COND1	16 Church View, Beenham	APPROVED
19/02887/HOUSE	8 Heron Way, Aldermaston	GRANTED
19/02959/HOUSE	Hillside Cottage, Bourne Lane, Beenham	GRANTED

20/022 Community Room and School Hall

i. School Hall lights

The item would be deferred to the next meeting.

ii. Proposed works in Community Room

A final quote for the new curtains had been received.

RESOLVED that the quote be accepted and the new curtains would be ordered.

PM

20/023 Parish Council Assets / Projects

i. Recreation ground footpath (BEEN/2/1)

The footpath crosses the Recreation Ground and continues into Clay Lane. The section of greatest concern is beyond the Recreation Ground. The ownership of the section is unclear. Members requested that the Clerk contacts the Rights of Way Officer at the District Council.

JC

ii. Website

The Parish Council's current website www.beenhamonline.org is not compliant to new government accessibility regulations. All Councils have until September 2020 to be fully WCAG compliant.

The Clerk contacted the current volunteer webmaster, Michael Fitzmaurice and the current domain and hosting administrators Axxell Ltd. The Clerk established that a new website is required and gathered three quotes and submitted a report to the Council.

Members requested the Clerk liaises with Councillor Andy Livens to discuss the matter. The item would then be discussed at the next meeting.

JC

20/024 Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG) representative

The NAG would be meeting on 10th March, 9th June, 8th September and 8th December 2020.

RESOLVED that Mr Nick Mylum be appointed as the Parish Council's representative.

20/025 Correspondence since the last meeting not referred to elsewhere

No correspondence had been received.

20/026 Reports

i. From the West Berkshire District Councillor

Councillor Boeck had sent his apologies for the meeting and would submit a written report.

ii. From Parish Councillors

Councillor Bragg raised the issues outlined by the resident from Bourne Lane. He had previously discussed the concerns and asked that the Council would agree to support the resident's concerns. Members were in principal in support of the requests to the District Council to improve the road surface and drainage in Bourne Lane, and to consider reducing the speed limit along Bourne Lane to a 40 or 30 mph zone.

iii. From the Clerk

The Clerk informed Members that the bound minutes from 1996 to 2019 had been received and were stored in the hallway cupboard beyond the kitchen; that the Council would be offered a licence to manage the areas of grass rather than an a lease; and that the Council had received a reply from the District Council to say they would not conduct a review of the Beenham A4 junction.

The Clerk requested that a Councillor volunteers to put up Council notices on the board at Mallard Way. Councillor McEwen would continue to do the two boards in the village. Councillor Livens agreed to do the notices at Mallard Way, the Clerk would provide him with a set of keys for the board after the meeting.

20/027 Finance

i. Grant request from Aldermaston Primary School

Aldermaston Primary School had requested grants towards the cost of new fencing for the playing field (£1,843.80) and new GrassLok matting for the play area (£1,585.50). Members noted that 20% of the current students were from Beenham parish.

RESOLVED that Aldermaston Primary School be granted £342.

ii. 3rd quarter bank reconciliation

RESOLVED that the 3rd quarter bank reconciliation was accurate and the bank statements would be signed by the Chairman.

20/027 Finance continued

iii. Receipts and Payments

A summary of receipts and payments follows:

Receipts for December 2019

Deposit Account interest	bank interest	£0.82
Community lettings	3461	£39.00
Preschool	3452	£862.00
Community lettings	3462	£58.50
Community lettings	3468	£19.50
Total Incoming		£979.82

Payments to be authorised at February 2020 meeting

Marion James - Surgery Run	2460	80	£57.50
Victory Hall - Beenham 2020	2461	81	£1,000.00
Stuart Brown - 447	2462	82	£400.00
Shaw & Sons Ltd	2463	83	£537.60
HMRC	2464	84	£56.20
Bradfield Printing	2465	85	£46.00
Miss J Currie - mileage	2466	86	£9.90
Total cheques			£2,107.20

Payments preauthorised for the previous month

Opus Energy	Direct debit	87	£11.47
Cleaner's salary January	Standing order	88	£253.10
Clerk's salary January	Standing order	89	£246.84
Clerk's home office allowance January	Standing order	mins	£18.00
Total Outgoing			£529.41
Total cheques and preauthorised payments			£2,636.61
BALANCE AT BANK			
Treasurers Account Balance at	31-Dec-19		25,905.47
Deposit Account Balance at	31-Dec-19		21,410.18
Total Balance			£47,315.65

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

iv. 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 2nd March 2020. There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.00pm.

Signed _____ Date _____