

Notes from the Parish Council AGM and Ordinary meeting on 8 May 2017

Annual General Meeting

There were no nominations made for the post of Chairman or Vice-Chairman, instead it was decided that the role of chair will rotate with different councillors taking turns. There are a number of groups that liaise with the Parish Council and it was agreed that Mrs Harman will liaise with the Victory Hall committee, Mr Bowsher will liaise with Grundons and Mr Cother will liaise with Beenham Primary School.

Standing Orders and Financial Regulations are ratified and are on the parish website, along with minutes of meetings and the Parish Council finance details.

Recreation Ground Youth Facilities

The Parish Council will apply for a Certificate of Lawfulness for the proposed youth facilities on the Rec, mainly to demonstrate that the due process has been followed. The purchase and installation of the equipment will proceed once the certificate has been obtained.

The play facilities currently on The Rec were inspected by ROSPA Play Safety; their report noted that there were no major concerns. A request to replace the missing goal post has again been voiced. Funding is available in this year's budget and the Parish Council will seek opinion on the most appropriate size and style of posts.

Gigaclear

Work to install fibre optic cables continues around Beenham village. There is still discussion on-going about the Wharf area, particularly in respect of the repair needed for any pavements that are dug up. No response has yet been received about repairing damage to verges caused by laying the cables.

Community Room

The Community Room will be registered as an Emergency Shelter, for use in the event of a severe flooding or other major incident. Further investigation will ensure that as many parishioners as possible would benefit.

It was agreed that there should be a process to record any accidents or incidents that take place in the community room so that appropriate action can be taken. To protect confidentiality people will be asked to report accidents to the Clerk.

New fees have been agreed for both the Community Room and School Hall. These will come into effect from 1 August 2017; regular hirers will be contacted to advise the new prices. The rooms are available for private hire at very reasonable rates – please see the web site for prices and booking information.

Planning Matters

17/00533 St Mary's Cottage, The Green replace house with two semi-detached houses; no objection

17/00839 Oak House, Webbs Lane, garage and secure garden machine; no objection

17/00693 21 Swan Drive Aldermaston, further living accommodation; no objection

Around the parish

The Parish Council agreed to support an application for the track adjacent to Beenham Grange to become a public right of way. A number of parishioners have already submitted 'User Evidence' forms relating to this track.

Beenham Village Events is working with a number of clubs and organisations towards a summer fete in the school. If anyone would like to join the enthusiastic group who are involved in this then please contact Mrs McEwen or Mrs Harman.

There continue to be complaints about dog waste when it is not put into the dog bins – if you are a dog walker then please clear up after your dog. Speeding was also raised again as a problem in the parish. Please take care and obey the speed signs.

Neighbourhood Watch scheme

There have been several thefts from vehicles in the village recently and it was decided to see whether there is interest in expanding the current Neighbourhood Watch scheme around the whole parish. There are already several 'coordinators' in the parish and there are active Neighbourhood Watch groups in this part of West Berkshire.

Your Parish Council

The Parish Council welcomed two new Councillors who were co-opted at the meeting. Two Councillors expressed their desire to step down so two more vacancies have been advertised immediately with a view to co-opting new Councillors at the June meeting. If you are interested in doing something for the community, if you have new ideas and if you have time to allocate to 'making it happen' then please contact the Clerk.

The next Parish Council meeting is on Monday 5 June 2017 starting at 7.00pm in the Community Room. All parishioners are welcome to attend.

Your Parish Councillors are:

Alex Cother, 1 Mallard Way

Tel: 9714697

Philip Leitjen, 1 Awberry Fields

Tel: 9714020

Jackie Johnson, Southdowns

Tel. 07922068646

Graham Bowsher, Field Barn Farm

Tel. 07788584807

Glynis Harman, The Six Bells

Tel: 9713368

Sadie Jones, 5 Shire Cottages

Tel: 9713598

Tanya Bunce, 3 Bourne Cottages

Tel: 07962985592

Parish Clerk: Lucy Rumens, 46 Maple Crescent, Newbury

Tel. 01635 45487