

NOTES FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING ON 1ST OCTOBER 2018

There is still a vacancy for a Parish Councillor – come and join us!

Litter Picking

Beenham WI have offered to continue with litter picking in the core of the village. After carrying out a risk assessment they will no longer be able to do the litter picking near to the main road. The PC thanked the WI for their work.

Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP)

Robin Edwards has prepared a comprehensive explanation of what a Neighbourhood Plan is, the effort needed to produce a NDP (considerable), and an assessment of the applicability of a NDP to Beenham. The conclusion of the report was that a NDP was not justified for Beenham, and it is unlikely that enough people would be prepared to commit the time required. It would be preferable to actively engage with the consultation process for the emerging Local Plan for West Berkshire and lobby for Beenham's best interests.

It was decided to consider this matter in more detail at the next PC meeting, and at that meeting to set up a Development Working Party (members need not be councillors) which would formulate development policy for the PC (after full public consultation).

Highways

PC has been speaking to WBC about some ongoing issues.

- Some of the white lines have now been repainted
- The central reservation at the A4 was cut back
- Parking on footpaths is being considered by WBC
- Although a new footpath has been constructed across the A4, it is likely that the A4 junction will be even more confused when the new houses are occupied
- The major danger within the village is drivers going too fast around the tight bends.

Finance

The External Audit of the accounts has been completed. The audited accounts will be on the website shortly.

Planning

- The Barn, Hillfoot Cottage, Beenham Hill. Objection. The revised proposal is much bigger than the original application, and is no longer a replacement of an existing barn.
- 7, Mallard Way, Aldermaston Wharf. No comment.

- Wayround, The Stocks. PC noted that the application was for a self-contained annex, but they had no objection.

Community Room

Beenham Pre-school have requested permission to leave their equipment in the Community Room on nights when the Room is not booked by others (for payment of a small additional fee). PC have proposed a trial period of 3 months, for 2 nights each week.

The school have installed a new Wi-Fi system, including a router in the Community Room. However, following a review of the license for the wi-fi it seems likely that wi-fi will only be available to the Pre-school and the PC (i.e. not public access).

School Hall Lighting

Many of the fluorescent tubes in the School Hall need replacement, and lighting levels are currently low. The school does not have a budget for this work. The PC will discuss this matter with WBC, and will also consider the option of replacement with LED lights.

Centenary of the End of WW1

PC agreed to purchase a “Silent Silhouette”, which is available from the British Legion, as a symbol to say Thank You to the generation that lived through the Great War. It will be erected somewhere in the village.

Some other events are being organised by BVE and the Church: watch out for details.

The next Parish Council meeting is on Monday 5 November 2018 starting at 7.00pm in the Community Room. All parishioners are welcome to attend.

Your Parish Councillors are:

Graham Bowsher, Field Barn Farm

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Jackie Johnson, Southdowns

Tel. 07922068646

Glynis Harman, The Six Bells

Tel: 971 3368

Peter McEwen, The Old Vicarage

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Graham Bragg, Puffins,

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Gabriel Stirling, 21 Heron Way, Aldermaston Wharf

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Parish Clerk: Seif Morbi, 19 Stoneyfield,

Tel: 07926858697

All correspondence to the council should be addressed to the Parish Clerk.

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