

NOTES FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING ON 3rd DECEMBER 2018

**** VACANCIES ****

Parish Clerk – This has been advertised in NWN and elsewhere. The formal date for applications is 14 December, but late applications would be considered if the post has not been filled. Please get in touch if you are interested.

Booking Clerk – Would you be interested in helping to run the Community Room/School Hall? We are looking for somebody to handle the bookings and liaise with users of the CR. There is a small payment for this role.

There are now **three** vacancies on the PC, and anybody who feels they could help us then please get in touch for an initial discussion. You can spend as much time as you like on PC work (i.e. a little or a lot).

Planning

The room was full with people interested in the application from GHE Homes Ltd for 14 dwellings in Church Lane. Many people gave their views, and several letters have been received by PC. Many people were in favour of allowing affordable housing somewhere in Beenham Village, but the overwhelming opinion was that this was not the right location. The principal grounds for objection were: access down a single track lane, spoiling a quiet country track, flooding, disposal of soil, errors in the planning application concerning permitted development in AONB and incorrect reference to the “Eastern Area”. PC reminded everyone to submit their views to WBC.

The PC agreed with the comments made at the meeting. They unanimously agreed to object to the application. The District Councillor said that he would endeavour to ensure that the application is decided by the Planning Committee (rather than by planning officers).

Comments from Parishioners

- Police are using land off Webbs Lane for dog training. A comment was raised about poor parking and other issues.
- The problem of parking on pavements was raised, particularly close to junctions. This can force people with buggies into the road.
- The exit from Church Lane can be dangerous, as cars on the main road are sometimes on the wrong side of the road. The road markings are poor.
- The footpath from the Church to Wickens Corner has deteriorated.

Highways

PC is continuing to speak to WBC about ongoing issues, including parking near junctions and options for speed control.

Planning Working Group

We intend to start a Planning Working Group, to identify the broad development priorities for Beenham, and to engage with WBC on the Local Plan. If you are interested in joining this group then please contact Peter McEwen or the Parish Clerk.

Finance

- The budget for next year will be presented at the January PC meeting, leading to setting the precept (which is added to the WBC Council Tax).
- The cost of running the Community Room/School Hall is a significant part of the overall budget. The options for reducing the cost will be discussed at the next meeting.
- Carebus operate a bus service on demand to Beenham. They have asked for a contribution to enable this service to continue. PC agreed to contribute £200.
- PC agreed to accept a quotation from AES Ltd for upgrading the footpath across the Rec (next to the road).
- PC will apply to WBC for a "Member's Bid" to upgrade the lighting in the School Hall. This will be a joint bid with the School and users of the hall.

Other Matters

- WBC has published proposals for next year's budget on their website. Consultation on these proposals is open until 23 December.
- WBC is starting a lottery for local good causes. Any local organisation can apply.
- The lights on the village Christmas Tree were cut in two places, leading to the lights shorting out. It is a shame that the normal lights will not be seen on the tree this year.

The next Parish Council meetings will be on 7 January and 4 February 2019, starting at 7.00pm in the Community Room. All parishioners are welcome to attend.

Your Parish Councillors are:

Graham Bowsher, Field Barn Farm

Tel. 07557967575

Jackie Johnson, Southdowns

Tel. 07922068646

Peter McEwen, The Old Vicarage

Tel: 077177 18608

Graham Bragg, Puffins,

Tel: 971 3688

Parish Clerk: Seif Morbi, 19 Stoneyfield,

Tel: 07926858697

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

Email: theclerk@beenhamonline.org