

NOTES FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS ON
3rd FEBRUARY AND 4TH MARCH 2020

HELP!!

We now have two vacancies for Parish Councillors, and it is becoming very difficult to cover even the basic functions of the council.

We also need somebody to manage the community content of the Beenham Online website. This person does not have to be on the council.

Comments from Parishioners

- A representative from the Beenham 2020 celebrations updated the council. The joint evening with The Club and The Victory Hall had been a success, and planning is continuing for the VE Day picnic on 8 May.
- A request was made for a dog bin outside the school, as the litter bin is currently being used for dog mess.
- Concerns were raised about the condition of the road leading down to The Bourne. Flood water has flowed down the road, leading to damage to the side of the road and to the road surfacing. This has been taken up with WBC, who have agreed that action is required (but have not given a date for the work).
- A parishioner said that a friend had accidentally turned right on to the eastbound carriageway of the A4, and said that the signage was unclear. This has been taken up with WBC, who consider that the signs are adequate.
- A parishioner said that the monthly village market now had a Green Market which includes several environmental charities. She requested that the charge for use of the school playground should be waived. It was agreed that use of the playground for parking at the Village Market would be free-of-charge.
- The future of the website was discussed. The conclusions are covered below.

Planning

The following planning applications were considered at the February meeting. There were no objections. There were no applications for consideration at the March meeting.

19/02540/FUL Tree World Nursery, Ufton Lane
19/03097/FUL Northway Porsche, Grange Place
20/00081/HOUSE Brynteg, Clay Lane
20/00118/HOUSE 8 Mallard Way, Aldermaston Wharf

Local Plan Update

WBC is updating the Local Plan, which sets out the aims for development of West Berkshire until 2036. WBC have recently issued the following for consultation:

- Settlement Boundaries. Beenham Village and Aldermaston Wharf have defined Settlement Boundaries, but these can be amended as part of the update.
- Settlement Hierarchies. Beenham Village and Aldermaston Wharf are both defined as Smaller Villages. This has implications for further development, as Smaller Villages are not considered suitable for development other than limited infill.
- Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (HELAA). Land owners and developers have submitted details of sites for consideration for future development (up to 2036). These sites are assessed for suitability under many different criteria. Beenham Village has 4 sites, which have all been identified as Unsuitable. Aldermaston Wharf (and the adjacent landfill sites north of the A4) have several sites with differing assessments.

WBC have asked for comments by end March, but we have asked for an extension. The PC agreed to take the following actions.

- Consider the need for changes to the Settlement Boundary for Beenham Village
- Meet with Padworth and Aldermaston Parish Councils to agree a response to the HELAA proposals for Aldermaston Wharf.
- Finalise the PC position at the next meeting.

Further details are given at the end of these Notes. Many of the documents are on the Beenham Online Website. If you would like to comment on the proposals you can contact the Parish Council. There will be further periods of consultation before the Local Plan is finalised next year.

Community Room & School Hall

- The Community Room has been redecorated, and new curtains hung. Approval was given for some replacement ceiling tiles, a projector screen, and some notice boards to complete the make-over.
- Three quotes have been received for replacement lights in the School Hall. It was decided to accept a quote for 8 low-bay LED lights in the same location as the existing lights. We now have to get a permit from WBC, which may take some time.

Website

Beenham Online is a website run by the Parish Council. It has community news and information, as well as the official documents for Beenham PC (minutes, budgets etc.). As with most things, there are new regulations concerning the requirements for Parish Council to publish information, and website must be WRAG Compliant (whatever that means).

The council has decided to set up a new website which will just deal with official council matters. The original website (Beenham Online) will no longer be run by the Parish

