

NOTES FROM THE BEENHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON 7TH SEPTEMBER 2020

Minutes of Meetings

The formal Minutes of PC Meetings are available on the PC website . They will no longer be posted on the noticeboards.

These Notes are an informal summary of the decisions taken at the meeting, and are not necessarily the final decision of the council. The Notes are posted on the noticeboard and circulated with the Parishes' Magazine.

Councillor Resignation

Andy Livens has resigned from the council. The Council thanked Andy for his work during his time on the council.

There is now a vacancy, and the formal notice will be posted shortly. If you would like to join us please contact the clerk or any councillor.

Planning

There were no planning applications this month.

Community Room & School Hall

The PC agreed to a limited reopening of the Community Room (CR) & School Hall. These rooms are used by children in the day time, so special consideration has been given to ensure that they can be cleaned after community use.

A Risk Assessment and Special Conditions have been prepared. The principal points are:

- The facilities will be available to organised groups on Friday evening, Saturdays and Sunday daytime. However, Beenham Badminton Club will be permitted on weekday evenings.
- The Hall and CR will not normally be in use at the same time (although they can both be used by the same organisation).
- The maximum capacity of the Hall is 32 and the CR capacity is 16. The actual capacity will depend on the activity that is taking place.
- The kitchen will not be available. The disabled toilet will be available on request at time of booking. The other toilets will be available (one person at a time).
- The organisation shall prepare a Risk Assessment showing how they comply with relevant government regulations (*which keep on changing*) and the Special Conditions.
- The conditions will be kept under review, and may be amended by PC when we see how things are going and government regulations evolve.

The Victory Hall is already open, and I understand it has a growing number of bookings. However, it will not be possible to run the Village Market at the present time.

Six Bells

As you probably know, Glynis and Chris have left the Six Bells. Thanks for all they have done for village life over many years. The new owners have moved in, and we understand the pub will be reopening shortly.

It has been suggested that the PC should apply to WBC to register the Six Bells as an Asset of Community Value. This would not affect the running of the pub, but would place some constraints if a change of use was proposed (eg to residential). The PC is in favour in principal, but will discuss further with the promoters of this idea and with the owners.

If you have any views please let us know.

Dog Waste Bin

It was agreed that an additional dog waste bin will be installed outside the school.

Parking

The problem of dangerous parking was discussed. The problem was referred (again) to WBC Road Safety, who felt that yellow lines in rural villages are often ineffective or just move the problem elsewhere. It was suggested that a visit by the Neighbourhood Policing Team might be useful.

What do you think? Would you be in favour of yellow lines at some junctions or more extensive lines?

Greener Beenham

Greener Beenham have asked the PC if they could plant some fruit trees in 4 locations in Beenham, and some wildflower seeds in 4 locations. Several of the sites are owned by WBC: the PC will contact WBC to see if they have any objection.

Greener Beenham say:

As part of the Greener Beenham campaign we are hoping to plant a variety of fruit trees and some naturalising trees to attract wild life round the village. The areas we have earmarked are outside school, on the recreation ground, down Church View, Stoneyfield and Back Lane. Finally, we would like to plant a mulberry tree at the junction of Stoneyfield and Back Lane, so our preschoolers can honestly sing “here we go round the mulberry bush”!

Do you have any comments or objections? Maybe you don't want a tree outside your house.

Mobile Library

The Mobile Library is back! It will call at Stoneyfield 3.15 to 4pm on selected Wednesdays (about every 3 weeks). The next dates are October 7th and 28th.

You can also reserve books online through the WBC website, and collect them from a library that you choose. This gives a much bigger choice of books, and a shorter wait. If you have problems choosing a book from a database (like me), you can ask tell the librarian what sort of books you like and they will choose for you. See <https://westberks.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/MSGTRN/WPAC/HOME>.

Reporting Problems to West Berkshire Council

Parish Councillors are often told about things that need fixing in the village, such as fallen trees or litter bins that need emptying. Whilst councillor will help where they can, these matters are the responsibility of West Berkshire Council. It is quick and easy to report any issues via the WBC website at westberks.gov.uk , and then choose Report a Problem. I have found that they forward the request to the right department, and you often (but not always) get a speedy response.

The PC will take up issues with WBC when the response has been too slow or inadequate.

The next Parish Council meeting will be online on Monday 5th October, starting at 7.00pm. All parishioners are welcome to attend, but please contact the Parish Clerk beforehand if you wish to speak.

Your Parish Councillors are:

Graham Bowsher - Field Barn Farm	Tel. 07557967575	Chairman
Graham Bragg - Puffins,	Tel: 0118 9713688	
Michael Bunce - 3, Bourne Cottages	Tel: 0118 3276309	
Tanya Bunce - 3, Bourne Cottages	Tel: 07962985592	
Peter McEwen -The Old Vicarage	Tel: 077177 18608	
Frank Wood -Fernwood	Tel: 07488268735	

Parish Clerk: Jennie Currie Tel: 01635 580190

CR Bookings: Paula Read Tel: 07793116937
Email: info@beenhampreschool.org

CR Payments: Peter McEwen Email: p-mcewen@beenham-pc.gov.uk

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

Email: clerk@beenham-pc.gov.uk .

New Parish Council website: www.beenham-pc.gov.uk

Beenham Community Website: www.beenhamonline.org