

NOTES FROM THE BEENHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON 2nd NOVEMBER 2020

NEW COUNCILLOR- JOHN STEELE

John Steele volunteered to take the vacant place on the Parish Council, and his co-option was agreed unanimously by the council. John was on the PC in the early 2000s, and has come back for more! He has served as Chair of the School Governors and also the Victory Hall.

Planning

There were no planning applications for consideration this month.

A4 Junction

There have been two serious accidents at this junction in recent months. Our district councillor will be discussing the problem with WBC Highways (once again). We will also discuss whether the poor condition of the road markings contributes to confusion at the junction.

Speeding

We will be combining with Aldermaston, Padworth and Brimpton to buy a Speed Indication Device (SID). This is like the flashing signs telling drivers their speed, but it will also record all the vehicle speeds and can be easily relocated to different locations in the 4 villages. It will be used to build up a picture of the actual speeds in the village, which can be the basis for more action to reduce excessive speeds.

We also plan to include the cost of another SID in next year's budget.

Community Facilities

The Community Room and School Hall are closed for the duration of the current lockdown (except for Pre-school), but they will reopen for organised groups as soon as allowed.

The playground and gym equipment on the Rec will stay open: please remember to limit numbers and wash hands after use.

A new dog bin has been installed outside the school.

SPRING BULBS

The council has available some daffodil bulbs from Grundon and a large quantity of narcissus bulbs from a generous parishioner. If you would like to plant them in a public area of the parish (including The Wharf) then please get in touch.

Finance

Income for this year is less than predicted in the budget, due to the pandemic, and it is now estimated that there will be a deficit of around £2,000 at the end of the year.

We are currently drafting the budget for next year: it seems likely that income will stay depressed and a similar deficit is predicted for next year.

It was agreed that, due to the extraordinary circumstances, the deficits would be funded from reserves rather than from a change to the Precept (which is collected with the WBC Council Tax).

GRANTS TO LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

The Parish Council has a fund for small grants to local organisations. If you would like to be considered for a grant (particularly if your normal methods of fundraising are not possible at the moment), then please get in touch by 31st December,

The next Parish Council meeting will be online on Monday 7th December, starting at 7.00pm. All parishioners are welcome to attend, but please contact the Parish Clerk beforehand if you wish to speak.

Full details of the Councillors are on the website at beenham-pc.gov.uk/councillors/ .

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

Parish Clerk: Jennie Currie

Tel: 01635 580190

Email: clerk@beenham-pc.gov.uk

CR Bookings: Paula Read

Tel: 07793116937

Email: info@beenhampreschool.org

New Parish Council website:

www.beenham-pc.gov.uk

Beenham Community Website:

<https://www.beenhamonline.org/>