

NOTES FROM THE BEENHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON 7th DECEMBER 2020

Please note that these are unofficial notes of the main decisions taken at the PC meeting. They have not been approved by the council, and may be (inadvertently) incorrect. These notes do not cover some ongoing issues (if a decision has not yet been reached), and procedural issues related to the running of the PC are also omitted.

The formal minutes of the meeting can be found on the PC website at <https://beenham-pc.gov.uk/meetings/> . They are also posted on the Notice Boards when they have been approved.

There is no Parishes' Magazine in December, so these notes will be distributed with the January magazine.

Planning

There was one planning application for consideration:

20/02708/HOUSE Beenham Lodge, Cods Hill. Outdoor swimming pool. No objection.

WBC Help for those affected by the Pandemic

District Councillor advised that WBC has a COVID Hardship Fund that is available to residents. There is also a fund available for businesses/organisations that have had loss of income due to the pandemic.

Details are available on the WBC website.

A4 Junction

The Clerk and Councillors have again raised the A4 Junction with WBC. They have responded:

- The police records (which are the records used by WBC) only have one recent accident at this junction, in January 2019. The police only record accidents that they attend and a personal injury has occurred.
- WBC were asked if the white lines and signage could be improved. WBC said that there was no budget for this work at present.
- WBC said that it was not possible to ban a right turn for vehicles going east, as the alternative route involves driving to the Theale roundabout and returning.
- Other solutions could be a roundabout or traffic lights, but no budget was available.

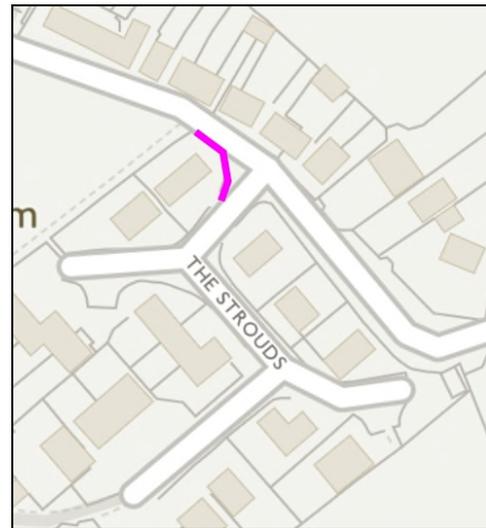
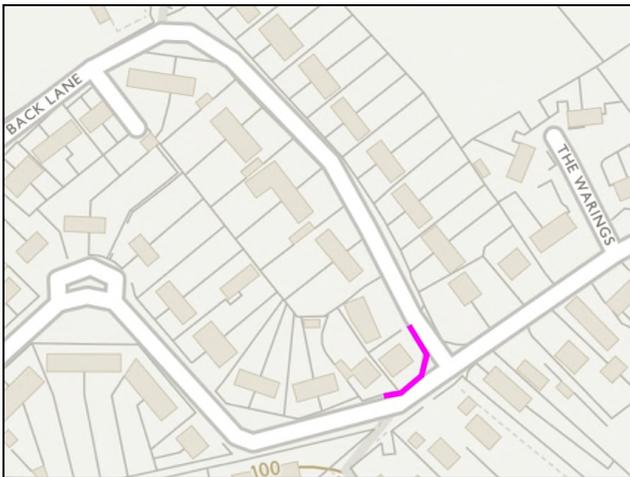
The PC asked the Clerk to write to WBC to highlight how dangerous the junction is, and more accidents will occur.

Speeding

We will be combining with Aldermaston, Padworth and Brimpton to buy a Speed Indication Device (SID). At this meeting the PC approved the funding for the SID.

Parking

A proposal was submitted at the meeting for short lengths of yellow lines at the junctions of Stoneyfields and The Strouds with the main road, as shown below. The proposal was for one side of the road, as cars only parked on one side, but the lines could be installed on both sides. Please can we have your views.



Community Facilities

The Community Room and School Hall are closed whilst we are in Tier 2 (except for Pre-school), but they will reopen for organised groups as soon as allowed.

Victory Hall – Land Registration

The PC is the nominal owner of the Victory Hall, but it has never been registered. The original conveyances for the land are not available. The PC agreed to appoint a solicitor to register the land.

License to Manage Land from WBC

The open spaces between Stonyfield and Church View, and also outside the School, are owned by WBC. The PC held discussions with WBC to decide if we should lease the land from WBC, so that we have more control. This proposal would make the PC fully liable for the land (including unauthorised encampments), so the PC decided not to proceed with this proposal.

Mobile Network

Problems with the mobile networks are frequently raised with PC. They seem to vary significantly throughout the village. We would like to do a survey to see what the current

status is like. If would like to take part please email p.mcewen@beenham-pc.gov.uk , with Mobile Survey as the subject. Please just include:

- Location. Choose North (around Six Bells), Central (around the School), South (around The Stocks), or Other.
- Network Provider (O2, EE etc.). If you use a small company please tell me which network they use.
- Quality of Service. 5- No real problems. 4 – Only rare problems (as long as I stand still!). 3 – Have to be in the right place. 2- Sometimes I don't get incoming or outgoing calls. 1 – Totally useless unless I use Internet connection.
- Brief comment (if you like).

Wildflower area on Rec

Greener Beenham have proposed a wildflower area on the Rec. PC asked them to make a presentation to a future meeting with more details.

Finance

- PC had invited request for small grants to local organisations that have been affected by COVID. The following grants were considered:
 - Beenham Primary PTFA Book Fund. £250 approved.
 - Beenham Tea Party Christmas Cake Project. £100 approved
 - Beenham WI, for litter picking through the village. £400 approved.
 - Victory Hall, compensation for lost revenue. PC said that WBC should first be approached to see if grants would be available. PC agreed to reconsider the request when the result of discussions with WBC was known.
 - Future grants to BVE will be increased by £150 to cover registration of the Beenham Online website (which is being taken over by BVE).
- PC approved a contract with A D Clark Ground Maintenance for emptying 12 litter and dog waste bins on a fortnightly basis. This is currently done under contract with WBC, but is not satisfactory.
- It was agreed that PC should register with The Good Exchange. This will facilitate some payments where match funding is available from Good Exchange (Greenham Trust).
- The draft budget was discussed. It will be finalised at the next meeting. At that meeting the proposed Precept of £18,300 for next year will be tabled for consideration and approval. This is unchanged from this year.

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 11th January, starting at 7.00pm (note that this is not the first monday). 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

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New Parish Council website:

www.beenham-pc.gov.uk

Beenham Community Website:

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