

**NOTES FROM THE BEENHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**HELD ON 4<sup>th</sup> MAY 2021**

**Annual Parish Council Meeting**

The meeting started with the Annual Parish Council Meeting, which has to be held to agree certain issues, including:

- Graham Bowsher was re-elected as Chairman.
- Nobody volunteered to be Vice-Chairman. The council does not have to have a Vice-Chairman.
- The Council's Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, Policies and Procedures were reviewed and accepted.
- The Councillors areas of responsibility and appointment to outside bodies were reviewed and accepted.

<b>Area of responsibility</b>	<b>Councillor</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Councillor (if required)</b>
Aldermaston Wharf	Tanya Bunce	
BVE liaison*	Peter McEwen	
Community Room bookings	Peter McEwen	
Finance	Tanya Bunce	
Footpaths	Peter McEwen	
Noticeboards	Peter McEwen (village)	Tanya Bunce (Mallard Way)
Parish Notes	Peter McEwen	
Parish Plan	John Steele	
Planning & Housing	Graham Bowsher	
Police liaison*	John Steele	Tanya Bunce
Public Transport	Graham Bragg	
Recreation Ground & outdoor spaces	Peter McEwen	
Roads & Traffic	Michael Bunce	
School Liaison (incl. leases)	Graham Bragg	
Victory Hall liaison*	John Steele	
4 Parishes shared SID (new 2020)	John Steele	

**Appointment of Representatives to Outside Bodies**

The Councillors listed below are appointed as representatives only, they can also be a trustee in their own right.

<b>Outside Body</b>	<b>Councilor</b>
Beenham Village Events Committee	Peter McEwen
Grundon Liaison Committee	Graham Bowsher
Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG)	John Steele & Tanya Bunce
Victory Hall Management Committee	
Beenham Primary Relaunch Group	Graham Bragg, Tanya Bunce, John Steele

## Planning

Five planning applications for house extension were reviewed. The PC had no objection to these applications. Anyone can look at the details on the WBC website and submit comments.

<b>21/00677/HOUSE</b>	<b>37 Stoneyfields</b>
<b>21/00712/HOUSE</b>	<b>4 Bourne Cottages, Bourne Lane (Scheme 1)</b>
<b>21/00713/HOUSE</b>	<b>4 Bourne Cottages, Bourne Lane (Scheme 2)</b>
<b>21/00803/HOUSE</b>	<b>3 Bourne Cottages, Bourne Lane</b>
<b>21/00893/HOUSE</b>	<b>9 Stoneyfields</b>

## Community Facilities

The PC agreed that the School Hall can be reopened for organised groups from May 17<sup>th</sup> (subject to government approval). The Community Room will also be available for organised groups on Friday evenings and Saturdays (to ensure that it is sanitised in time for Preschool). The facilities will be available for private bookings (subject to the government restrictions) during half term and the summer holidays.

To make a booking, or an enquiry, contact Paula Read (contact details on last page).

## WI Bench

The location of the bench has been agreed with WBC. It will be installed shortly.

## Christmas Tree

We asked for your views on a permanent Christmas Tree. Some people were in favour, and some against. WBC did not approve our proposal for a permanent tree. PC decided that they would not proceed with a permanent tree at the moment.

## Community Transport

The PC wrote to WBC about the withdrawing of funding for Readibus. We received the following reply.

*The Council is grateful to Readibus for the service provided, and whilst this is very regrettable for passengers who use Readibus services in Newbury and Thatcham, we are keen to ensure that effected customers are aware that there are other community transport groups providing services for local residents who are unable to use public transport and need to attend medical appointments or make shopping trips.*

*Community transport groups operating in the Beenham and the surrounding area, include:*

- *Carebus Volunteer Group operate a car and handybus (minibus) scheme:
  - *Contact them on 0118 930 4837. They operate a 24/7 messaging service, calls requiring answering will be returned on same day or the next day.**
- *Chapel Row Community Group offer transport for those unable to use public transport to go to medical appointments and to make shopping trips.
  - *Contact 0118 971 3334 on Mon, Wed and Fri between hours of 0930 – 1130.**

*Eligible residents using the Community Car Scheme or Handybus (minibus) will be asked to make*

*a contribution towards the cost of the service. The fee would be discussed when making a booking. Where it is possible, customers are asked to give at least three days' notice prior to any journey required.*

*Information on all community transport schemes operating in West Berkshire, along with details on other local groups, can be found on the Council's website <https://info.westberks.gov.uk/communitytransport>*

## **Finance**

- The Year End Accounts for 2020-21 were presented, together with the Internal Auditor's Report. The accounts were agreed by the PC, together with the Annual Government & Accountability Return. These documents will be available on the PC website.
- The PC considered a request from the Victory Hall Management Committee for a contribution to the cost of resurfacing part of the area outside the Hall. The PC agreed that £1,000 would be available if it was match-funded through Good Exchange, and if the funding for the full cost was confirmed.

## **Next Meeting**

The law says that PC meetings must be held in a public place, with room for the public to attend. Emergency legislation approved online meetings during the pandemic, but this has now expired. It is likely that the June meeting will be held online, and this will be an "informal" meeting (with no strict legal standing). The PC has delegated powers to the Clerk so that essential payments can continue.

We hope that the July PC meeting will be face-to-face again.

***The next Parish Council meeting will be online on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June, 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/](https://www.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](mailto:clerk@beenham-pc.gov.uk)

**CR Bookings:** Paula Read

Tel: 07793116937

Email: [info@beenhampreschool.org](mailto:info@beenhampreschool.org)

New Parish Council website:

[www.beenham-pc.gov.uk](https://www.beenham-pc.gov.uk)

Beenham Community Website:

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

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

The summer calendar is starting to fill up.

### ***Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> July Padworth and Aldermaston Wharf Show***

Craft and Produce Show, Dog Show, Band, Hog Roast and lots of Stalls.

For details of how to enter the show classes see

<https://padworthshow.simdif.com/index.html>

### ***Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> July Community Thanksgiving Service & Fun Day – Douai Pavilion***

Thanksgiving Service at 11am, followed by BBQ, Children's Games and Cricket Match

### ***Friday 9<sup>th</sup> July Band on the Rec***

Beenham Wind Orchestra will host their annual event for all the family. BBQ and drinks will be available, or bring a picnic.

### ***Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> August – Lord's Taverners charity cricket match at Douai Park***

### ***Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> August – Woolhampton Annual Show***

### ***Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> September Beenham Fun Day***

Games, races, Pimms, beer tent, cakes teas etc.

### ***Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> September Aldermaston and Wasing Show***

More to follow!