

NOTES FROM THE BEENHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON 1st NOVEMBER 2021

FRANK WOOD

The Chairman led a time of silence in memory of Frank Wood, who died recently. Frank was a councillor for several years, and made a significant contribution to the work of the council.

PUBLIC FORUM

- A parishioner suggested that funds should be sought from Greenham Trust (or raised in the village) for restoration of the footpath from Wickens Corner to the Church.
- A representative of Greener Beenham said that they would like to provide a bench on the open space between Stoneyfields and Church View. The PC supported this proposal, but said that permission will be required from WBC.
- The black spots for mobile reception in Beenham were discussed (yet again!). The District Councillor has been in touch with Vodafone, who said they have no plans to install a new mast in this area in the near future. Many neighbouring villages have similar problems with intermittent coverage.
- It was noted that new signs have been installed on Church Lane just beyond the Church and at the Grange Lane end to say that the route is a Bridleway.
- It was noted that sheep will soon be grazing adjacent to the footpath past Awberry Farm (with an electric fence alongside the path). Dog walkers were requested to keep their dogs on a lead.
- The PC has some leaflets describing the footpaths around Beenham, which may be very useful for those new to the area. The leaflets are available at the Six Bells and in the Church, or can be downloaded from the Beenham Online Website www.beenhamonline.org (right side of Home Page).

PLANNING

The PC had no objection to the follow planning applications:

- 21/02629/HOUSE Hillcrest, Back Lane. Garage conversion.
- 21/02621/HOUSE Awberry Farm (Grade 2 listed building). Two storey rear extension.
- 21/02491/HOUSE The Old Coach House, Webbs Lane. Single storey rear extension.

It was noted that the planning application for a major development at Flexistay Hotel (which is just in Padworth Parish) has been refused by WBC.

WBC have still not responded to the Planning Enforcement enquiry 21/00263/13HOME regarding a new fence at the front of the property at Wentworth, The Green, Beenham.

RECREATION GROUND

The Good Exchange campaign to raise funds for refurbishment of the playground equipment has so far raised £120 (thank you to the donors). This will be matched by a further £120 from Greenham Trust.

You can give online at

<https://app.thegoodexchange.com/project/19224/beenham-parish-council/beenham-play-area-refurbishment-2021>, or go to The Good Exchange and search for Beenham Play Area Refurbishment.

The present scope of the refurbishment does not include the fence, which is in poor condition. The options for the fence are:

- Replace with galvanised steel fence and gate £9,000
- Replace with timber fence £7,200
- Repair the damaged section £700

The options were discussed by the PC. The steel option is the most expensive, but will have the longest life. The repair option would only be temporary, as the whole fence will require replacement in a few years. A decision will be taken at the next PC meeting. If you have any comments please email to the Clerk.

COMMUNITY ROOM TOILETS

The lights in the Community Room toilets have been replaced. This will be followed by replacement of the basins and decoration.

If you are a local plumber or decorator who would like to quote then let us know.

GREENING CAMPAIGN

WBC is supporting a nationwide campaign to make our communities greener, and responding to the challenges of climate change (see <http://www.greening-campaign.org/>). A group has been formed in Beenham to promote this campaign, which is focused on the small things that each of us can do to make our village sustainable (with the possibility of some larger joint projects as well). Watch this space for more details!

The PC supports this initiative, and will consider funding for printing of leaflets to describe the first phase of the project.

FINANCE

The PC has started to consider the draft budget for next year. If you have any projects that you would like the PC to consider for inclusion in the budget then please let us know.

There is still some money left in this year's budget for allocation to local organisations. If you would like to apply for a small grant then please contact the Clerk.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held in the Community Room or School Hall on Monday 6th December, starting at 7.00pm. All parishioners are welcome to attend.

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

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