

NOTES FROM THE BEENHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING **HELD ON 6th DECEMBER 2021**

There is no Parishes' Magazine this month, so this is an online edition only. These notes will be incorporated into the January edition.

VACANCIES FOR COUNCILLORS

John Steel has reluctantly decided to resign from the council, due to ill health. There are now two vacancies on the Parish Council, leaving just 5 councillors.

We really need some more help on the council. At the moment we are just keeping things going, but are unable to get involved in any plans for development of the facilities in Beenham. If you would like to join us, please get in touch.

PUBLIC FORUM

A parishioner gave his views on a planning application that will be considered at next month's meeting.

PLANNING

There was one planning application this month:

- **21/02705/HOUSE. 27 Stoneyfield.** Proposed outbuilding. Objection due to size of proposed outbuilding.

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. The Clerk was asked to write to WBC to request a response.

RECREATION GROUND

- The PC accepted a quote of £7,300 for replacement of the fence around the playground with a steel powder-coated fence. It was decided that this fence was the best value, as it has a long life.
- Work on the other planned refurbishment will start when the fundraising has reached a sufficient level. The Good Exchange campaign to raise funds for refurbishment of the playground equipment has so far raised £310 (thank you to the donors). This will be matched by a further £310 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 3 yearly Tree Inspection has been carried out recently. Various work has been suggested in the report, and a quotation will be obtained from a Tree Surgeon.

SPEED MONITORING DEVICE

Beenham has bought a Speed Identification Device (SID), jointly with Aldermaston and Padworth. The SID is currently in use at Aldermaston, and we need to get sites approved by WBC before we can use it in Beenham.

The SID is primarily used to get information on the current speeds, for use in planning of speed reduction measures (such as signs or humps). However, the regulations have now changed so that trained volunteers can identify speeding vehicles by video, leading to warning letters being sent of the vehicle owner.

This project was being led by John Steel, but is now being led by Michael Bunce.

GREENING CAMPAIGN

A group has been formed in Beenham to promote the nationwide Greening 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).

The PC supports this initiative, and has agreed to fund the printing of an information pamphlet.

FINANCE

- The PC agreed the Draft Budget for next year. The budget is similar to this year, and the Precept (which is added to the WBC Council Tax) will stay at £18,300. The Budget and Precept will be formally approved at the January PC Meeting. If you would like to see the Draft Budget please contact the Parish Clerk.
- The following expenditure was agreed:
 - Playground Fence £7,300
 - Greening Campaign – printing costs £135
 - Upgrade to PC laptop £250

The next Parish Council meeting will be held in the Community Room on Monday 10th January, 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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CR Bookings: Paula Read

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New Parish Council website:

www.beenham-pc.gov.uk

Beenham Community Website:

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