

NOTES FROM THE BEENHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON 7th AUGUST 2023

PUBLIC FORUM

The problems with road drainage in Church Lane (and on Picklepythe Lane near to Church Lane) were discussed. The drains are blocked, leading to water and debris being washed down Church Lane and sometimes a flood at the low point. A parishioner requested help from the PC for a road sweeper to clean the debris and help to clear out the gulleys. The PC said they would push WBC to come up with proposals for improvements in this area.

NEW PARISH COUNCILLORS

Peter Hamblin and David Hancock expressed interest in being co-opted onto the Parish Council. There were two vacancies for Councillors, and the Council duly co-opted Peter and David to fill the vacancies.

Welcome to Peter and David – it is good to have 7 councillors again!

PLANNING

- *Awberry Farm Wedding Venue.* The Change of Use (CUU) application and the Listed Building Consent application were approved at a meeting of the Eastern Area Planning Committee on 5th July. Dieter Henke was the PC representative at the meeting. He prepared a report with some reservations on the process which did not give enough importance, nor time, to the objections raised by the Council and residents. His full report will be sent to WBC and also appear in the minutes of this Council meeting.
- *23/01425/FUL Mayfair, Bath Road, Beenham RG7 5QE.* Demolition of existing stables and provision of additional 4 Gypsy/Traveller pitches at existing 1 pitch site, accommodating a net increase of 4 static caravans and 4 touring caravans. The PC accept the need for Gipsy/Traveller sites, and the existing 1 pitch site has been on this site for several years. However, the PC considers that the proposed additional 4 static caravans and 4 touring caravans is too much for this small site. The PC has therefore objected on the grounds of overdevelopment of the site and also objected to parking touring caravans on the site.
- *The Cart House, Webbs Lane.* Single story extension. No objection.
- *Peartree Copse, Webbs Lane.* Two pond areas in field. No objection.
- *Beenham Solar Farm.* This proposed development was discussed following the recent public consultation. The PC will not take a view until a planning application is submitted (probably in October), but **we welcome your comments**.
Do you think a change from agricultural to industrial use should be allowed within the AONB, even if it is next to an industrial area? Will it lead to other solar farms nearby? Will it spoil your view?

OTHER MATTERS

- The PC agreed to install wi-fi in the Community Room. This will be available to all users of the Community Facilities.
- The contract for supply of electricity to the Rec has run out, and a new contract is likely to be considerably more expensive. This supply is only used for a few days each year, but it was decided to investigate a new contract.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held in the Community Room on Monday 4th September, starting at 7.00pm. All parishioners are welcome to attend.

Full details of the Councillors (including email addresses) are on the website at beenham-pc.gov.uk/councillors/ .

Your Parish Councillors are:

Graham Bowsher (Chairman)	Tel. 07557967575
Peter McEwen	Tel: 077177 18608
Graham Bragg	Tel: 0118 9713688
Dieter Hinke	Tel: 07488 258374
Alex Cother	Tel: 07764 637190
Peter Hamblin	tbc
David Hancock	tbc

District Councillor; Dominic Boeck Dominic.Boeck@westberks.gov.uk

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

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Parish Council website: www.beenham-pc.gov.uk
Beenham Community Website: <https://www.beenhamonline.org/>