

NOTES FROM THE BEENHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING- 4th MARCH 2024

PUBLIC FORUM

- A parishioner reported there was a trip hazard on the kerb just outside the school gates in the dark. He suggested that a light should be provided.
- The Victory Hall is finalising the work required to the roof of the building, and updating the costs (c. £12k). The PC was asked to support their application for funds from a WBC Member's Bid: the PC said they would support it, and contribute to the cost.
- A parishioner reported that there is a full list of defibrillators (some inside homes) on the web at <https://www.defibfinder.uk/>. It was suggested that a refresher course in the use of defibrillators would be useful.
- A parishioner asked if copies of the Padworth News could be made available in Beenham. The PC said that printed copies are not available in Beenham Village, but it can be seen online at <https://www.padworthparishcouncil.gov.uk/newsletter>.

PLANNING - *There were no planning applications in February.*

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

David Hancock attended a webcast on community-led housing to build small numbers of social housing in villages. This can be possible on sites outside (but touching) the village boundary. There is a government fund to assist in these schemes.

David will look further into the possibilities for Beenham: the first step is likely to be a survey to assess the need from within the local community.

OTHER MATTERS

- Veolia are holding a compost giveaway on 16-17 March 10am-4pm. Bring your own bags and expect a queue.
- An application has been submitted to British Heart Foundation for a defibrillator near the footbridge on Mallard Way.
- WBC have agreed to carry out remedial work on the track between the Rec and Clay Lane.
- Some volunteers have offered to carry out drainage work on the problem area on the footpath from Wickens Corner to the Church (caused by the current high water table). WBC own this footpath: they are keen to work with local volunteers but the correct procedures must be followed. The PC is liaising with WBC to expedite this work.

FINANCE

- It is likely that there will be a surplus at the end of the financial year, as there were no major projects carried out in the past year. It was agreed that the level of General Reserves should be maintained at about £16k, and consideration should be given to distributing some of the surplus.
- A grant of £1,000 to WBC libraries was agreed. This has been requested by WBC for several years, as they do not have the funds to keep all the libraries open (including the Mobile Library which comes to Beenham) without it.
- A grant of £2,000 was agreed to Beenham PTFA for IT Equipment in the school, on the understanding that this would be match-funding from other sources (or PTFA Funds).
- A grant of £2,000 was provisionally agreed to The Victory Hall for roof repairs. This will be confirmed when the scope of the project is finalised, and the alternative sources of funding are known.
- It was agreed that the PC accounts should be moved from a spreadsheet to an accounting package designed for small councils. The Parish Clerk will investigate further.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held in the Community Room on Monday 8th April, starting at 7.00pm. All parishioners are welcome to attend.

The Annual Parish Assembly will be held on Monday 11th March at 7pm.

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
Dieter Hinke	(Vice-chairman)	Tel: 07488 258374
Peter McEwen		Tel: 077177 18608
Graham Bragg		Tel: 0118 9713688
Alex Cother		Tel: 07764 637190
Peter Hamblin		Tel: 0118 9712959
David Hancock		Tel: 07471148256

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

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

Parish Clerk: Lauren West Tel: 07919 916125
Email: clerk@beenham-pc.gov.uk

CR Bookings: Paula Read Tel: 07793116937
Email: info@beenhampreschool.org

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