

NOTES FROM THE BEENHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING- 13th MAY 2024

ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING

The Chairman and Deputy are elected each year at the Annual Council Meeting. Graham Bowsher and Dieter Hinke were elected unanimously as Chairman and Deputy Chairman. The meeting also confirmed the Standing Orders and Procedures of the PC.

PUBLIC FORUM

The Victory Hall advised that £15k of the £20k required for the roof project has been raised already. They thanked the PC and all the other contributors. Contractors will now be instructed to carry out the work before next winter.

Greyfield Wood CIC advised that Ash Dieback has been identified in several parts of the wood. Expert advice is that most of the ash trees should be removed in the affected areas. This will involve a large number of trees, including some very large trees that are hundreds of years old. The work will take place later in the year, after the necessary licenses have been obtained.

PLANNING

24/00663/FULMAJ and 24/00782/FULMAJ. Grundon Limited, Beenham Landfill Site, Grange Lane. Application for continued use, on a permanent basis, of the existing laydown area for outside storage and light fabrication (00782 includes the erection of a workshop). The PC has no objection, but requested that conditions are attached to limit noise and visual intrusion.

24/00815/COND . Awberry Farm Barn – details of air-conditioning. This application submitted details of the proposed ventilation and air-conditioning, as required by Condition 2 of the Listed Building Consent 23/01014/LBC. The PC considered that the schematic drawing was not the “full details” required. The drawing did not show how the external equipment would blend in with the listed barn.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Discussions are continuing with Connecting Communities Berkshire (CCB) on the possibility of a Rural Exception Site for affordable housing. CCB advised that the first step would be to carry out a housing needs survey, to assess the demand from local people (this would be an update of the 2013 survey). This will be discussed at the next PC meeting.

OTHER MATTERS

- The PC noted that some cars are parking on the pavement, particularly on Back Lane and near the School at pick-up times. It is better to park on the road (possibly delaying traffic) than to obstruct the pavement.
- Fly-posting on public land is illegal. However, the PC tolerates notices concerning local non-commercial events as long as they do not cause a safety hazard and are removed after the event. The PC considers that commercial fly-posting is not acceptable, and can be reported to WBC.

FINANCE

The final accounts for the year ending 31st March 2024 were agreed by the PC. The Internal Audit for the year has been completed, and was accepted by the PC. These documents will shortly be posted on the PC website <https://beenham-pc.gov.uk/> .

The next Parish Council meeting will be held in the Community Room on Monday 3rd June, starting at 7.00pm. All parishioners are welcome to attend.

