

Notes from Beenham Parish Council Meeting 7th April 2025

Public Forum

- The large amount of litter on the road from Beenham Hill to Bath Road was raised by a parishioner. Although they were willing to help remove it, the request was made to provide some support. It was suggested that WBC Streetwise should be contacted for help.
- The WI is currently working on the creation of a poppy waterfall to celebrate the 80th Anniversary of VE Day in May. The planned location is for this to be on the grassed area next to the school. The idea was fully supported as a welcome initiative for the Community.
- The WI reported that the first of five courses for use of the defibrillator and CPR had been held with 13 participants. The further four to be completed shortly.

Councillors

- WBC have responded to the PC letter asking for clarity on the matter of Sovereign Housing's disposal of property which might be suitable for affordable housing. WBC reported that they cannot do anything about this as it is a matter of the improvements needed to the properties to comply with environmental regulations.
- Affordable Housing initiative. A meeting will be held with WBC shortly to discuss the progress of the initiative in the context of the announced Government plans for the building of 1.5 million additional homes.
- It was reported that WBC and two other authorities have submitted proposals to merge after the Government announced their intention to streamline local authorities. West Berkshire Council, Vale of White Horse District Council and South Oxfordshire District Council have agreed in principle to propose their merger. If this is approved by Government, it will involve a huge reorganisation which could take 2 years to complete. WBC, being the only unitary authority of the three, is in a good position to lead on the project.
- The planned upgrade of Fire doors in Beenham School and Community Room was discussed. It is likely that the work will be carried out over the Summer break.
- There has been some interest in the provision of a pop up library to replace the withdrawn mobile library. WBC has suggested that Beenham PC pay for the catalogue of books required. The PC expressed concern that having had the mobile library withdrawn by WBC, and with the resulting lack of a library facility being available to parishioners, WBC should not be asking for funding of the supply of books.

Planning Matters

- 25/00568/AGRIC: 3 Hall Place Cottages Beenham. Application to determine if prior approval is required for a proposed track across the owners farmland. It was suggested that any parishioner with views on this application should contact WBC Planning.
- 25/00086/HOUSE: 4 Hillfoot Cottage, Beenham Hill. Erection of storage shed. Application granted.
- 24/02654/HOUSE and 24/02655/LBC: Old Dairy Webbs Lane. Single storey extension. Application granted.
- 24/01899/FULMAJ: Beenham Landfill Site, Grange Lane. Installation of PV Solar Panel Farm. Application granted.

Parish Councillors

- Newbury Rowing Club have responded to the letter of complaint sent to them about previously reported anti social behaviour at Aldermaston Wharf.
- Broken barrier posts adjoining the Rec have been replaced
- Goalmouths on the Rec have been repaired by turfing and seeding of grass. Please do not use these until the turf and grass seed has established.
- Community Room. Fence posts are broken. AES to be asked for a quote to repair.
- The Beenham Walks map has been completed. It was resolved to print them and make these available.

Financial Matters

- The closing budget for 2024/25 was agreed.
- The budget for 2025/26 was agreed.

The next PC meeting and Annual Meeting of the Council will be held on Monday 12th May in the Community Room at 7.00pm.

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

Your Parish Councillors are:

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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

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Parish Council website: www.beenham-pc.gov.uk

Beenham Community Website: <https://www.beenhamonline.org/>

