

BASILDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Basildon Parish Council held online on the 6th October 2020.

Present: Mr Parsons (Chair), Mr Jones, Ms Barnes, Mr Chadwyck-Healey, Ms Cox

Minutes: Mr Greasley (clerk)

Apologies

Ms Czjaka; Mr Couchman, Councillor Law.

The following members of the public attended the meeting:

Ms N Larkin

1 OPEN FORUM

Ms Larkin outlined local concerns regarding speeding across the Parish including those raised on the next-door website. Councillor Jones took the meeting through the actions of the Parish Council over recent years and these included details of escalations to the District Councillor and local MP and the subsequent MP's letter requesting West Berkshire Council re-painting of road 'slow' lines in Upper Basildon, install speed indication signs and the cut back of vegetation. Despite this letter, West Berkshire Council have yet to reply to the Parish Council despite having over a month to do so. Councillor Jones confirmed that the Parish Council are prepared to meet some of the costs of any improvements, however, West Berkshire Council need to be engaged and currently they continue to fail to grasp the issue and widespread concern. The Parish Council will write again to West Berkshire Council to highlight this.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Cox had an interest in Tree Cottage and therefore did not participate in the discussion.

3 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on the 3rd September having been circulated to members were declared correct and signed by the Chairman.

4 PLANNING

New applications:

20/02210. Tree Cottage, Bethesda Street – New windows and replacement fireplace
The Parish Council had no objections subject to the views of neighbours and the conservation officer.

20/02092 Rose Cottage, Newtown – Garage, change of use (Certificate of Lawfulness)
The Parish Council had no view on this application.

Confirmed Decisions:

20/01671, Patchways, Kiln Corner – Extension	PC No Objection, WBC Approved
20/01553 (CERT), 1 Blandys Lane – Extension / Alteration	PC No view, WBC Approved
20/01522, 12 Tenepas – New Dormer Window	PC No Objection, WBC Approved
20/01441, Oak Tree House – New Gates	PC No Objection, WBC Approved
20/01192, 41 Wakemans – New Porch	PC No Objection, WBC Approved

5 REVIEW OF OPEN ACTIONS

The Chairman confirmed that Councillor Czjaka has tendered her resignation and this has been reluctantly accepted. The Chairman and those councillors present placed on record their thanks for Councillor Czjaka's contribution across a number of areas in particularly addressing concerns over speeding. The Council continues to require new councillors with applications welcome from the community.

The Clerk has written to West Berkshire Council regarding the Grotto and is yet to receive a response. He will also submit an article to the Country Neighbour to highlight the plight of the building.

Councillor Jones confirmed that he has written to the head of transport for West Berkshire Council regarding the lack of response to the recent MP's letter.

The Chairman confirmed that the local MP had replied to him regarding phone masts. The letter confirmed that the issue is both widespread and unlikely to be resolved in the short term.

The parish website requires a number of changes to meet Government based standards. Vision ICT have been engaged and the Council agreed to pay for any work to take place.

The 'vision of the future' white paper document has been sent to the Parish Council to review in advance of the District Council discussing it further and replying formally to Government. The meeting discussed the general contradiction between the local area being in an area of outstanding beauty yet potential developers seeming to be favoured and even encouraged at times. The Chairman will write with these thoughts, and others, to West Berkshire Council.

The clerk confirmed that Basildon Badgers, the local children's football club have joined a league for the first time this season. The clerk thanked the council for their support over recent years which has allowed the club to steadily grow to approaching 70 players.

The Parish Council have been offered a number of free trees from the West Berkshire Climate Action Group. The clerk has written to the group, accepted the offer and awaits the next steps.

Councillor Barnes has met with the Beale Park representatives regarding the park's future. It was confirmed that a number of initiatives are being explored with a view to increasing the park's involvement in the local area.

A new bin is required for Church Lane after the one on the bridge was removed. The Chairman and clerk will make the necessary arrangements.

6 FOOTPATHS, HIGHWAYS AND OPEN SPACES

No footpath issues were reported this month.

7 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT

The District Councillor continues to work on local issues.

8 FINANCE

The following cheques were presented to the meeting:

Cheque No	Payee	Purpose	Nett	VAT	Total
103364	R Greasley	Salary	361.18	0.00	361.18
103365	HMRC	Tax on salary	241.20	0.00	241.20
103366	Scofell Landscapes	Grass Cutting	366.50	73.30	439.80
103367	Royal British Legion	Annual Donation	150.00	0.00	150.00
103368	R Greasley	Expenses (paper)	5.00	0.00	5.00
103369	West Berkshire Council	Gritting Costs	857.26	171.45	1028.71
103370	Michael Cairns	Tree Work	950.00	190.00	1140.00
103371	SSE Enterprise	Lighting Repairs	161.63	32.33	193.96

The Council accepted cheque numbers 103364 – 103371 and the ongoing Standing Order to cover litter picking was confirmed.

The Clerk confirmed the following:

Cheques and bank balances continue to match with no issues reported.

Final confirmation from the external auditors is still yet to be received but the expectation is that there were no issues with the audit submission for this year.

9 CORRESPONDANCE

Further requests relating to discounted admission at Beale Park have been received. These have been addressed by the Chairman.

10 OTHER BUSINESS

The meeting concluded at 8:45pm.