

BASILDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Basildon Parish Council held on the 11th December at the Village Hall in Upper Basildon.

Present: Mr Parsons (Chair), Ms Barnes, Mrs Greasley, Mr Greasley (Clerk), District Councillor Ms L Coyle

Apologies: Councillors Couchman and Chadwyck-Healey, Mrs Kilgour, Ms Cox,

OPEN FORUM

No items were raised.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None were raised.

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on the 12th November having been circulated to members were declared correct and signed by the Chairman.

PLANNING

The meeting reviewed the following applications:

24/02270 Upstream, Extension

The Council had no objections subject to the views of neighbours.

24/02417 Tomb Farm – replacement shipping containers

The Council had no objections subject to the views of neighbours.

24/02376 Willow Rise, Park Wall Lane - extension

The Council had no objections subject to the views of neighbours.

Confirmed Decisions

24/01617 Myrtle Cottage – Renewal of permissions for new garage - WBC Approved, PC No Objection

24/01909 Tomb Farm – new temporary building – WBC Approved, PC No Objections

GENERAL ITEMS

The Chairman informed the meeting that he'd met with Vision ICT to talk about a new website for the Parish Council. This is required as the old one is set to go out of support and Vision ICT have offered a number of options for the Council to now review. This will be circulated by the Chairman post meeting for comment.

The cycle repair station and its proposed location in Upper Basildon was discussed. It was agreed that it would go on current hard standing at the Village Green.

Councillor Barnes requested that a number of items were purchased for the speed watch group. The Clerk will make the necessary arrangements.

DISTRICT COUNCILOR UPDATES

Report of the West Berkshire Councillor December 2024

Speed Signage

I am chasing for a response to my email to officers regarding extending the current 30 mile limit to include those sections of the village currently outside it and also for an improvement to signage coming in to the village on Pangbourne Road.

Bradfield Road Closure

I am aware of the huge anger in the community re the proposed closure of the road through the school for much of next year and am discussing with officers – I am attending a meeting on Monday 16 December 2024 at which I hope to learn more and will report back as soon as I can.

The Grotto

Am chasing for an update on where this is up to as I have not heard further from enforcement as to their plans.

Council wide news

West Berkshire Council's public consultation on the main changes to the district's Local Plan 2022-2039 is now live.

The Local Plan sets out planned development for West Berkshire and guides decisions on future development proposals in line with the needs of the district.

The Public Examination stage began earlier this year with a number of public hearings – the last of which took place on Thursday 3 October 2024. During this process, the Planning Inspector required additional sites to be identified to address a shortfall in the number of houses to be delivered within the next five years. Consequently the Council put forward the following amendments and additions to the plan:

- An increase in the number of homes in North East Thatcham from 1,500 to 2,500, including a masterplan Supplementary Planning Document
- Additional sites proposed for housing at:
 - o Henwick Park, Bowling Green Rd Thatcham – approximately 225 homes
 - o East of Regency Park Hotel Thatcham – approximately 45 homes
 - o Pincents Lane, Calcot – approximately 138 homes
 - o Land north of Pangbourne Hill Pangbourne – approximately 25 homes.

These sites achieve the enhanced housing numbers the inspector expected to have in the Local plan. The Government requires every Local Plan to be reviewed at least once every five years. Our current Local Plan sets out our planning policies up to 2026, and this latest review, if approved, will take us up to 2041.

Regularly reviewing the Local Plan ensures the Council will meet both the current and emerging housing needs of the district. It sets the strategy for distributing development and policies for protecting, conserving, and enhancing the natural built and historic environment.

Speaking about the Local Plan Review, Councillor Denise Gaines, Deputy Leader, and Executive Member for Planning said:

“We have now reached the next key milestone in the Local Plan process after a long and difficult journey. The council has been put in the most challenging position of being told to progress this plan by Central Government. We were ready to vote to withdraw the plan, but we were directed to proceed to examination by the Secretary of State. The sites identified in the main modifications are extremely contentious with many residents in West Berkshire, but we are in the invidious position of

having to proceed to consultation. If we do not continue to work with the Inspector then there is a very high probability that the development of the Plan will be taken over by Central Government and the Council will lose any influence and control over the process at considerable cost to our residents. “The Inspector now requires that we carry out full public consultation on the main modifications which will give you, our communities, another opportunity to highlight your views and your concerns to the Inspector.”

The consultation was live from Friday 6 December and runs until Friday 31 January 2025 and residents are encouraged to have their say at <https://www.westberks.gov.uk/lpr-proposed-main-modifications> Following the consultation the Council will be able to make a brief written response to any submissions received. All submissions and the Council’s response will then be sent to the Inspector so that he can prepare his final report.

Budget Consultation

As reported previously, the Council is consulting on a round of proposed budget cuts ahead of the 2025-26 budget - Balancing our budget for 2025/26 - West Berkshire Council Feedback is requested by 23 December 2024 so please do make your views known and encourage other to do so.

Winter Fuel Payments

The deadline to apply for Pension Credits to give access to winter fuel payments is 21st December.

Cutting CO2 emissions

All of WBC’s waste collection vehicles that are used to collect weekly food waste from households, and the delivery vehicle for bins, boxes and bags across the district, are now running on Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO), a cutting-edge renewable diesel. This transition is expected to save around 230 tonnes of CO2 annually.

Licencing fees

The Council recently passed a motion calling on the Government to increase statutory licensing fees, these have not gone up in 20 years and no longer cover the cost of administering local authorities’ licensing functions.

FOOTPATHS, HIGHWAYS AND OPEN SPACES

There were no issues to report.

FINANCE - UPDATES

The following cheques were presented to the meeting:

Cheque No	Payee	Purpose	Nett	VAT	Total
103671	R Greasley	Salary + fasthosts	448.12	0.00	448.12
103672	Vision ICT x 2	Support Invoices	280.00	56.00	336.00
103673	Ian expenses	Christmas Cards	37.47	0.00	37.47
103674	Tactical Facilities Mgt – c/o Bibby Financial	Grass cutting	288.50	57.70	346.20
103675	Volker part 2	Streetlight repairs (second part)	2958.27	591.65	3549.92
103676	SLCC	Membership? Need to Decide	150.00	0.00	150.00
103677	West Berkshire District Council	Library contribution	1771.00	0.00	1771.00

The Council accepted cheque numbers 103671 – 103677 and the clerk confirmed the direct debit to HMRC and SSE.

OTHER BUSINESS

The meeting concluded at 9pm. The next meeting will be on the 8th January.