

BASILDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Basildon Parish Council held on the 12th June at the Village Hall in Upper Basildon.

Present: Mrs Greasley, Mr Parsons (Chair), Mr Greasley (clerk), Mr Chadwyck-Healey, Ms Cox, Mr Couchman

Apologies: Ms Barnes, District Councillor Ms L Coyle.

The following members of the public attended:

Ms Keyser, Mr Edwards

OPEN FORUM

The following items were covered off:

An update was provided on the drainage issue on the Pangbourne Road (see correspondence below) as well as a number of open planning enforcement notices covering various village sites. Additionally, it was requested that the area around the Triangle noticeboard was trimmed back which the Clerk will co-ordinate (c/o West Berkshire Council).

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No items were raised.

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on the 8th May having been circulated to members were declared correct and signed by the Chairman.

PLANNING

The meeting reviewed the following applications:

24/00882 Beech House, Bethesda St, Internal Alterations

The Parish Council reviewed the application and had no objections subject to the views of neighbours.

24/00546 26 Wakemans, extension

The Parish Council reviewed the application and had no objections subject to the views of neighbours.

Confirmed Decisions

24/00382 Collabrack, Pangbourne Road - Extension - WBC Approved, PC No Objection

23/01627 The Old Pig Sty, New vehicular access – WBC Refused, PC No Objection (subject to numerous conditions)

GENERAL ITEMS

The Chairman confirmed that he'd received a request from the Country Neighbour for the annual grant of £250. This was agreed by Councillors and a cheque was added to the list for signing.

Volker Highways have instructed the Council that half of the invoice for upcoming street light repairs should be paid in advance of any work taking place. A cheque was therefore presented and signed at the meeting.

Further consideration will be given to the Bike rack installation due to the unavailability of the pub location with the Chairman exploring alternatives at two other sites.

Councillor Greasley attended a climate forum on behalf of the Parish Council and provided a report on proceedings. Of note were free climate awareness courses and a list of 20 possible activities for Parish Councils to consider. These will be reviewed and those relevant implemented if possible.

The Chairman attended the Eastern District Parish Conference and provided an update. Of most concern was the future of the mobile library service which has yet to be decided and the Council noted that a request for a grant has not been received in the last calendar year. Additionally, it was noted that there have been various changes to West Berkshire Council's planning department and a renewed interest in Parishes producing a neighbourhood development plan with some funding available.

The Chairman noted that there have been revisions to the proposed bus service with an improved Saturday service notice. The Council agreed to continue its support of the service via a small subsidy with the Clerk to confirm this to West Berkshire Council.

Following a Rospa assessment, the playground at Wakemans is now scheduled for pressure washing on the 18th June. Wicksteed have also been sent the Rospa assessment remediation list to quote against.

FOOTPATHS, HIGHWAYS AND OPEN SPACES

Footpaths are becoming overgrown in a number of places with numbers 3, 5 and 17 requiring a cut back. The Clerk will raise these with West Berkshire Council. Additionally, it was noted that Frying Pan Lane (footpath 10) and footpath 12 remains extremely muddy in places although with warmer weather (hoped for) it's expected these will improve. Visibility at the Yattendon Road junction (by the coffee house) was also raised as an issue and the Clerk will report a problem to the district council for them to pursue.

FINANCE - UPDATES

The following cheques were presented to the meeting:

Cheque No	Payee	Purpose	Nett	VAT	Total
103640	R Greasley	Salary + stamps @21.60	449.73	0.00	449.73
103641	HMRC	Tax on salary	285.20	0.00	285.20
103642	CAS Suffolk	Insurance Renewal	612.95	0.00	612.95
103643	Bibby Commercial Finance	Tactical fm grass cut – (note name change)	288.50	57.70	346.20
103644	Volker Highways	Lighting – 50% of upgrade cost in advance	2958.27	591.65	3549.92
103645	Country Neighbour	Annual Donation	250.00	0.00	250.00

The Council accepted cheque numbers 103640 – 645 and the clerk confirmed the direct debit for SSE. Notices have been added to the website and noticeboards to confirm the position with regards to the external audit. The reporting pack will now be posted to the external auditors for consideration.

CORRESPONDENCES

In last month's minutes the Clerk confirmed he'd been asked to report a drainage issue on the Pangbourne Road. West Berkshire Council have since confirmed that the remediation work will take place in June.

OTHER BUSINESS

The meeting concluded at 8:30pm. The next meeting will be on the 10th July.