

BASILDON PARISH COUNCIL

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

Present: Mr Parsons (Chair), Ms Barnes, Mrs Greasley, Mr Couchman, Mr Greasley (Clerk), Mr Chadwyck-Healey, Mrs Kilgour, Ms Cox, District Councillor Ms L Coyle

Apologies: None

The following members of the public attended: Mr Smith, Mr Warren, Mr Gidden, Mr Skidmore, Mr Howard, Mr Ash

OPEN FORUM

No items were raised.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None were raised.

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on the 9th October having been circulated to members were declared correct and signed by the Chairman.

PLANNING

The meeting reviewed the following applications:

24/02106 3 Hartslock View, extension

The Parish Council reviewed the application and objected on the following grounds.

The proposal represents a significant addition to the property that will drastically alter the street view and is (in the opinion of the Parish Council) out of keeping with the rest of Hartslock View. The Parish Council requests that West Berkshire Council review a previous similar (and ultimately unsuccessful) application for the same road when considering this planning application and noted that no provision for parking had been made.

24/02077 Telecommunications Mast, Beale Park

The Parish Council had no objections.

24/02100, Land adjacent to Walnut Tree Cottage, Change of use

The Parish Council objected on the following grounds:

The land in question is outside of the settlement boundary with the Parish consistently opposing applications wishing to effectively amend or endanger this. It was noted that the application refers to house building on the site at various points within the documentation and although it does not suggest this will happen, the Council believe that allowing the change of use furthers the chances of this occurring in the future. It was also noted that current access is on a corner which may present an issue to Highways.

24/01909 Tomb Farm, Ashampstead Temporary Building

The Parish Council had no objections.

Further Planning Observations

It was noted that an application for Upstream was on the District planning pages and was dated the 24th October. The Clerk confirmed this application was not visible on the 6th November when the agenda was put together and therefore would be carried forward to the December meeting.

Confirmed Decisions

24/01780 7 Teneplas Drive, Conservatory replacement, WBC Approved, PC No Objection

24/01778 Ridgeway, Newtown, extensions, WBC Approved, PC No Objection

24/01795 Birchwood House, Kiln Ride, extensions, WBC Approved, PC No Objection

24/01745 Dolphins, Reading Road, extensions, WBC Approved, PC No Objection

24/01674 Summer Place, Newtown, new detached garage, Withdrawn, PC Objection

23/02817 Swan Yard, Reading Road, barn conversion, WBC Approved, PC Objection.

GENERAL ITEMS

The Chairman confirmed that Mrs Kilgour had completed the relevant forms and was therefore co-opted on to the Parish Council.

Grass Cutting was discussed and the Chairman will contact Tactical FM to confirm the two year fixed contract in place.

An overflowing bin at the top of Bethesda Street was reported and resolved between meetings; the Clerk placed on record his thanks to West Berkshire Council for their quick turnaround.

The Council were asked to consider support for the library service and voted unanimously to continue this for another year. The Clerk will write to West Berkshire Council to cover off the arrangements. It was noted that the mobile library service would stop due to vehicle age and renewal costs, however, West Berkshire Council are looking at replacement options including pop up library and book delivery and these will be advised in due course.

The Council have received a number of mental health wellbeing leaflets. These will be distributed around the village (Village Hall, Church etc) for residents.

An update on Speedwatch for the Village was given by Mr Warren. The group has now been created and hopes to be fully functional in the new year across the Parish. It was noted that whilst those speeding cannot be prosecuted as a result of this work with handheld speed recording devices, details of vehicles speeding will be passed to the police who will in turn contact the driver(s) to remind them of the limits in place.

To support this initiative, various items are required by the speedwatch team including calibrated equipment, storage facilities and signage and the council agreed to fund these costs as required with the expectation that it will be around £1500 in total.

Representatives of the campaign group to save the Red Lion pub attended the meeting and provided an update. It was confirmed that a working group of around 20 people are currently reviewing options and working towards the ultimate goal of bringing the Red Lion back as a viable concern that operates as a pub with extra potential features such as a café. This may be via a public/private funding initiative or through fresh tenants at the pub with all options being on the table currently.

The group confirmed that Stonegate are receptive to a purchase bid in their opinion and that they have met with the Plunkett Foundation to gain advice on the best strategy going forward. They will continue to keep the Parish Council updated and the Chairman confirmed that the Parish Council remain committed to the pub and will look to assist in any practical way required.

DISTRICT COUNCILOR UPDATES

The District Councillor presented the following updates:

The District Conference has taken place with West Berkshire Council offering up a new service to Parishes to perform specific tasks (in addition to those already undertaken) for one off payments. These include signage cleaning, gully clearing, and additional bin emptying and will be available for Parish Council to consider and request as required in the future.

There are a number of planning enforcement enquiries in progress and the meeting was updated on the progress against each.

The District Councillor has been asked to look at the speed limits around the village that are currently greater than 30mph. These include Kiln Hill and the stretch of road to the Hook End Crossroads / Aldworth Road and the District Councillor will share feedback following upcoming conversations with Highways. Additionally, signage for the Pangbourne Road 30mph limit has also been raised with Highwaysasked to investigate and improve.

Elsewhere, residents are reminded that battery recycling is now available on 'black bin' collection day.

FOOTPATHS, HIGHWAYS AND OPEN SPACES

Mud on the road between the Red Lion pub and the old Coffee House was noted with no action required.

FINANCE - UPDATES

The following cheques were presented to the meeting:

Cheque No	Payee	Purpose	Nett	VAT	Total
103666	R Greasley	Salary + expenses (stamps)@ £487.01		0.00	
103663	St Barts Church	Donation towards roof repair	3000.00	0.00	3000.00
103667	Volker Highways	Streetlight repairs	3549.92	0.00	3549.92
103668	J Pearson	Wreath	150.00	0.00	150.00
103669	Tactical FM	Grass cutting – Village Hall	288.50	57.70	346.20
103670	Alan Braclik	War Memorial Hedge Cut	80.00	0.00	80.00

The Council accepted cheque numbers 103666 – 103669 and the clerk confirmed the direct debit to HMRC and SSE.

The Clerk advised that the plans to move away from cheques to online banking continue with signatories presented to the bank.

OTHER BUSINESS

The meeting concluded at 9pm. The next meeting will be on the 14th December.