

BASILDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Basildon Parish Council held on the 9th October at the Village Hall in Upper Basildon.

Present: Mr Parsons (Chair), Ms Barnes, Mrs Greasley, Mr Couchman, Mr Greasley (Clerk), Mr Chadwyck-Healey,

Apologies: Ms Cox, District Councillor Ms L Coyle

The following members of the public attended – Mrs Kilgour

OPEN FORUM

No items were raised.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None were raised.

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on the 11th September having been circulated to members were declared correct and signed by the Chairman.

PLANNING

The meeting reviewed the following applications:

24/01576 Wysteria Cottage, Newtown – extension

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

Confirmed Decisions

24/01138 The Croft, Park Wall Lane – Heat Pump installation – WBC Approved, PC No Objection

24/08822 Hilberry House, Bethesda St, Internal Alterations - WBC Approved, PC No Objection

GENERAL ITEMS

The Clerk has written to Mr Braclik to gain confirmation that the war memorial hedge will be trimmed within the next month and the Chairman has followed up elsewhere the invoice for the wreath.

Councillor Couchman has provided details of the company used to supply safety signs for use on the road outside of the primary school. The Clerk has contacted the company to ask if they can supply anything more robust but has been informed that they are not aware of any other products that are stronger than those originally supplied. The Clerk will contact Mrs Dewing and make her aware and will offer to purchase two more replacement signs with costs agreed by the Council at the meeting.

There was a report of a significant amount of garden waste being burned at a property on the Aldworth Road which caused a number of minor local issues. This was reported to the District Councillor via email.

Councillor Barnes confirmed that she has met with a local resident to discuss traffic and speed enforcement within the Parish. It has been agreed to reset the community speed watch programme with various notes being prepared for social media and the local Parish Magazine requesting volunteers. Councillor Barnes has agreed to be the focal point for this and the Council confirmed via a

vote that it will support any associated costs for the programme. It was also noted that the District Councillor will meet with the local resident separately to discuss this and other initiatives further.

The Chairman has received details from the laser park owners (who let the required space from Beale Park) of their expectations around traffic impact. They believe there will be between 20 and 30 cars per day extra with this rising to around 50 at weekends. The Chairman will send this on to Beale Park and will request that they consider allowing these visitors to use the main access road through Beale Park to get to the site.

The current situation with regards to the Red Lion pub was discussed. The Chairman will contact the group and ask if they would be prepared to attend an upcoming Parish Council meeting.

DISTRICT COUNCILOR UPDATES

Although unable to attend, the District Councillor provided the following updates:

Gas works in Streatley

These are finally completed, albeit later than hoped and there are still some residual problems at the traffic lights as the contractors engaged by SGN cut through the traffic light loops and new ones need to be installed so they are not able currently to sense the traffic and have had to be put on a fixed cycle.

Speed Signage

I have been contacted by a resident about improving the signage around the village to try and encourage motorists to stick to the speed limits and will be going out with him soon to review and hope to involve a highways representative.

The Grotto

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

St Barts Church

As you may have heard already, the trust involved in trying to obtain funding for the repairs needed has been awarded £20k in CIL money from West Berkshire Council towards the works which is excellent news!

School funding

It has been announced that there will be no clawback from the Downs School, and most other schools – there will only be clawbacks from two schools – £1.5M will be clawed back from Brookfields School from their £3.8 million reserves, but the Council will now put £600K into an accessibility project, within our Capital programme along with over £800K for new classrooms that can take 20 more children.

There will be a very small amount returned from Curridge school. Discussions are ongoing, but they will still have substantial reserves even after this money is repaid.

full details at: [Council completes school funding review - West Berkshire Council](#)

Waste Strategy

The Council is consulting on its draft Waste Management Strategy which looks at the following areas:

- Changing black bin waste collection frequency.
- Reviewing household waste containers.
- Expanding the range of items we recycle.
- Boosting education on waste minimisation, especially in schools.
- Stepping up efforts to tackle littering and fly-tipping.

The draft strategy can be found here: [Draft Waste Management Strategy 2025-2032 - West Berkshire Council](#) and the deadline is 6 November 2024.

NB this is a consultation exercise; we will listen to views expressed, as we did on proposed budget cuts!

Pension Credit drive

In response to the Government’s decision to restrict the Winter Fuel allowance to Pension Credit claimants, the Council has launched a campaign to try and encourage more pensioners to sign up for the benefit as large numbers who are eligible do not claim – more details at [Are you, or someone you know eligible for Pension Credit? - West Berkshire Council](#)

FOOTPATHS, HIGHWAYS AND OPEN SPACES

Footpath 19 had two fallen trees partially blocking it; these have been cleared. Footpath 11 has been tidied to make access easier.

FINANCE - UPDATES

The following cheques were presented to the meeting:

Cheque No	Payee	Purpose	Nett	VAT	Total
103660	R Greasley	Salary + expenses (stamps)@ £21.60	449.33	0.00	449.33
103661	Tactical Facilities Mgt c/o Bibby Financial Services	Grass Cutting	288.50	57.70	346.20
103662	West Berkshire Council	Bin emptying	88.95	17.79	106.74
103663	St Barts Church	Donation towards roof repair	3000.00	0.00	3000.00
103664	PCC Basildon	Post office hire	500.00	0.00	500.00
103665	Michael Cairns	Tree work	960.00	0.00	960.00

Note: Direct Debit to HMRC £285.20 due to a system change and move away from Cheques

The Council accepted cheque numbers 103660 – 103665 and the clerk confirmed the direct debit.
Note – 103663 was not signed at the meeting as a payee name was not supplied. This will be carried forward to the next meeting.

The Clerk confirmed that the relevant audit papers have been added to noticeboards as requested by the auditors and also sent to the website.

OTHER BUSINESS

The meeting concluded at 8:30pm. The next meeting will be on the 12th November.