

BASILDON PARISH COUNCIL

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

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

Apologies:

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 14th August having been circulated to members were declared correct and signed by the Chairman.

PLANNING

The meeting reviewed the following applications:

24/01745 Dolphins, Reading Road – extension

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

21/02331 Myrtle Cottage, Kiln Corner – renewal of permission for new double garage

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

24/01674 Summer Place, Newtown – New detached garage

The Parish Council objected on the following grounds:

The proposed location of the garage is too close to the main road and will be detrimental to the immediate area in which it resides. The council noted that close proximity of hedging but does not believe this will provide enough of a screen for the proposal.

24/10795 Birchwood, Kiln Ride – extensions

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

24/01778 Ridgeway, Newtown – extensions

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

24/01780 7 Teneplas – Replace conservatory roof and frames

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

Confirmed Decisions

24/00882 Hillbury House, Bethesda St – Alterations – WBC Approved, PC No Objection

24/01275 Tomb Farm, Certificate of Lawfulness for shipping containers, WBC Approved, PC No view

24/00546 26 Wakemans, extensions – WBC Approved, PC No Objection

GENERAL ITEMS

The Clerk has arranged cutting of the war memorial hedge with Mr Braclik which will be completed before November.

The Chairman informed the meeting that St Bartholomews church had contacted the Parish Council to request a donation towards the repair of the roof. The clerk confirmed that legislation allowed Parish Councils to donate to projects such as this and following discussion a majority voted in favour of a £3000 grant with the cheque to be raised for the next meeting.

The Chairman asked the meeting to support funding for new parking signage around the entrance to School Lane to replace the 4 previous purchased and subsequently damaged. Councillors agreed to this and Councillor Couchman will investigate what was purchased previously and what is available going forward.

The Clerk has been contacted by the Red Lion residents group and asked to cover the cost of joining the Plunkett Foundation who provide expertise to local communities wishing to buy their local pub. The cost is expected to be approaching £300 and was supported by the Parish Council.

The Bus service has now been taken on by Reading buses who will deliver the current timetable. They've highlighted one service they're unable to deliver – the 14:15 service which will only run outside of term time due to a timetable clash with Langtree School.

Councillor Couchman raised the issue of inaccurate road closure notices in the Parish. This will be followed up by the District Councillor who advised the meeting that in some instances it was due to utility companies changing strategy and failing to advise West Berkshire Council that they no longer planned to carry out the work.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR UPDATES

The district councillor provided the following report:

Highways

Gas works in Streatley (and Whitchurch!)

You will be aware that the temporary lights at the Bull Crossroads are still causing significant issues, especially now that Whitchurch Bridge is currently closed as well until Friday. WBC are contesting that closure with Oxfordshire County Council, but I don't know how far that will go.

In the meantime, in order to alleviate the issues, parking restrictions will be enforced on the High Street. Hopefully this will all be over by 20 September 2024 when the gasworks are due to end.

In terms of the gasworks themselves, I am still awaiting answers from SGN about these, you may have seen my letter in the GGN this month.

20mph zones

The Government released a statement last week making clear it would be for local authorities to decide whether to introduce these. It seems there is quite strong support locally for 20mph limits in the village.

The position of the current WBC administration is that we are open to them if there is community support and I will be discussing with colleagues.

Planning and Enforcement

There is a new enforcement reporting service and planning breaches should now be reported at
Planning enforcement: reporting a potential planning breach - West Berkshire Council
There have been two requests for planning breaches to be investigated and these are both ongoing.

School funding

You may be aware of controversy over clawback by the Council of maintained schools' reserves. The Downs School was on the list of schools from which money was due to be clawed back and they protested very forcefully saying that the monies had been raised by the school, it appears likely that there will not be a clawback from the school now that this has been clarified but this is not completely final yet as far as I am aware.

New kerbside battery collection

Starts this week to coincide with black bin collection day Recycling your household batteries just got a whole lot easier...

Flooding and Water Quality Issues

The Council's scrutiny commission will be questioning the Environment Agency and Thames Water at their meeting on 17 October and has invited questions to be put to them to be submitted by 18 September 2024

FOOTPATHS, HIGHWAYS AND OPEN SPACES

The riverside footpath at Lower Basildon was flagged as having a couple of obstructions which moves walkers away from the bank. It was also noted that a recent incident of anti social behaviour had been reported to the local police force.

The clerk confirmed that Kiln Hill road markings had been repainted.

Councillor Couchman asked if warning signage for HGV drivers could be reviewed.

FINANCE - UPDATES

The following cheques were presented to the meeting:

Cheque No	Payee	Purpose	Nett	VAT	Total
103656	R Greasley	Salary	428.13	0.00	428.13
103657	West Berkshire Council	Winter salting of roads 23-24	772.05	154.41	926.46
103658	Tactical Facilities Mgt c/o Bibby Financial Services	Grass Cutting	288.50	57.70	346.20
103659	PKF Littlejohn LLP	External audit fee	210.00	42.00	252.00

The Council accepted cheque numbers 103656 – 103659 and the clerk confirmed the direct debit for SSE and HMRC which as per the July minutes is now no longer paid by cheque.

The Clerk confirmed that the external audit has now been completed with no issues raised this year by the auditors. The Clerk will now perform the relevant tasks to complete the exercise including notices across the parish and website and the raising of the cheque to pay for the work.

OTHER BUSINESS

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