

BASILDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Basildon Parish Council held on the 8th January at the Village Hall in Upper Basildon.

Present: Ms Barnes, Mrs Greasley, Mr Couchman, Mr Chadwyck-Healey (Chair), Mrs Kilgour, Ms Cox, Mr Gidden, Mr Greasley (Clerk).

Apologies: Mr Parsons, District Councillor Ms L Coyle,

OPEN FORUM

No items were raised but the Chairman welcomed Mr Gidden to the Parish Council following his completion of the relevant forms.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None were raised.

MINUTES

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

PLANNING

The meeting reviewed the following applications:

24/02673 Arcady House, Bethesda St, Rear extension and new porch

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

Confirmed Decisions

24/02106 3 Hartslock View, Extension – WBC Approval, PC Objection

24/01826 Pond Cottage, Replacement Windows – Withdrawn

24/01576 Wisteria Cottage, Alterations (various) – WBC Approval, PC No Objection

24/01195 Walnut Tree Cottage, Replacement Windows. -WBC Approval, PC No Objection

GENERAL ITEMS

Councillor Barnes requested the girt bin in Lower Basildon be refilled and the clerk will make the necessary arrangements. It was also highlighted that the dog waste bin at the recreation ground was also full. The Clerk will check that this is raised as an issue with West Berkshire Council.

Councillor Barnes updated the meeting on the speedwatch group. There are now 6 volunteers with training set to start in the middle of the month. Equipment is arranged via Thames Valley Police and an article has been written for both the Country Neighbour and circulation via social media.

Councillor Cox has received a follow up from West Berkshire Council regarding a bike rack for the Village. This will be sent to the Chairman for consideration.

DISTRICT COUNCILOR UPDATES

The District Councillor continues to work on local issues.

FOOTPATHS, HIGHWAYS AND OPEN SPACES

There were no issues to report other than paths being muddier than usual.

FINANCE - UPDATES

The following cheques were presented to the meeting:

Cheque No	Payee	Purpose	Nett	VAT	Total
103678	R Greasley	Salary	400.00	0.00	400.00
103679	West Berkshire Council	Empty litter bins x2	88.95	17.79	106.74
103680	Tactical FM	Grass Cut – Charge split over 12 months	346.20	0.00	346.20
103681	St Stephens Church	Post Office Hire	500.00	0.00	500.00

The Council accepted cheque numbers 103678 to 103681 and the clerk confirmed the direct debit to HMRC and SSE.

The Clerk took the meeting through the proposed budget for 25/26 and highlighted the following for the benefit of Councillors:

The previous two budgets for the Parish Council have been at 29K and 30K respectively with the proposal for 25/26 being £31,321. Key areas of spend are likely to be the grass cutting across the Parish, Clerk salary, electricity costs for street lighting and support grants covering various public services such as the bus, road gritting and library service. Councillors reviewed the key areas and a discussion was held on the spend during 24/25 as well as what was expected over the coming year. Following these discussions, it was agreed to set the precept at 23K and the Clerk will contact West Berkshire Council to confirm this.

OTHER BUSINESS

Councillor Kilgour informed the meeting that there were potential surplus funds available from the Horticultural Society for improvements to public spaces in the Parish. Councillor Kilgour will follow this up and report back with further information but in the meantime asked for any suggestions to be sent to her. The Clerk will raise this with the Village Hall Trustees when they meet later in January.

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