Page 22/032

BARKHAM PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes** of the annual meeting of the Barkham Parish Council held on 10th May 2022 in the Studio Hall, Arborfield Green Community Centre at 7.30pm.

**Present**: Mrs Stubbs (in the Chair), Mr Scott, Mr G Dexter, Mr Heyliger, Mr Wrobel, Mr Langford and the Clerk.

**22/053 Election of Chairman** Local Government Act 1972 S15(2)

Proposed Chairman: Mrs Stubbs

Proposed by: Mr Scott

Seconded by: Mr Wrobel

Resolved: Majority agreed with 1 abstention – Mrs Stubbs was duly elected as the Chairman of the Council

**22/054 Election of Vice Chairman** Local Government Act 1972 S15(6)

Proposed Vice Chairman: Mr Bundred

Proposed by: Mr Heylger

Seconded by: Mrs Stubbs

Resolved: All Agreed – Mr Bundred was duly elected as the Vice-Chairman of the Council

**22/055 Co-option of New Councillor** Local Government Act 1972 S16 – Council to co-opt Mr Alan Langford onto the Council

Proposed by: Mrs Stubbs

Seconded by: Mr Dexter

Resolved: All Agreed – Mr Langford was duly co-opted on to the Council

**22/056 Election of representatives**

**Barkham Village Hall Management Committee –**Mr Wrobel

**BALC –** This will be shared amongst the Councillors, as and when meetings are arranged

**WDALC –** This will be shared amongst the Councillors, as and when meetings are arranged

**Parish Planning Control (Working Group):** Mr Dexter, Mr Heyliger, and Mr Bundred

**Finance Committee –** Mrs Stubbs, Mr Bundred, Mr Langford and a vacancy to be filled at the June meeting of the Council

**Speed Watch Group** – **Renamed to Road Safety Committee** - Mr Heyliger, Mr Bundred, Mr Dexter + 1 Resident – The Resident is a member of the committee, but does not have any voting rights.

**Highways Committee (to include Greenways)** –Mr Bundred and Mrs Stubbs

**Trustees for Barkham Charity Trust** – Mrs Stubbs,

**Community Liaison Group with Crest** – Mrs Stubbs and Mr Langford

**Parish/Town Forum Meetings with WBC –** Mrs Stubbs, and Mr Bundred (to act as deputy)

**District / Community Centre at Arborfield Green –** Vacancy and Mr Dexter (to act as deputy)

**Parish Magazine –** Mrs Stubbs and Mr Bundred

**CIL Advisory Committee** - Mrs Stubbs, Mr Dexter, Mr Heyliger and Mr Bundred. Mr Wrobel will attend meetings when he is able to.

**WBC Climate Emergency** – Mr Wrobel

Page 22/033

**22/057 To receive and accept any apologies for absence** Local Government Act 1972 Sch12

Mr Bundred – Unwell

Mr Barker was absent, but no apologies were received.

**22/058 To receive any declarations of interest on items on the agenda** (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012 (SI 2012/1464)

Mr Langford – Parcel P application, as a neighbour to the site. Mr Langford is allowed to make a statement, but cannot be involved in deliberations and a decision.

**22/059 Minutes of the Council Meeting** LGA 1972 Sch 12 para 41(1) **–**

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 12th April 2022 were approved and signed as a true record.

**22/060 Public Participation (allotted time 15 minutes)** Public Bodies (admissions to meetings) Act 1960 s.1 extended by the LG Act 1972 s.100

Adjournment of the Meeting will be called if any members of the public wish to address the Council on any matters or concerns relating to Barkham.

None

**22/061 Planning**:

1. **Planning Applications –** Council discussed and agreed any comments or objections on planning applications received before 10th May 2022. As follows:

**220822 -** Reading Fc Training Ground, Park Lane, Finchampstead, Wokingham, RG40 4PT

**Application for the approval of Reserved Matters pursuant to Outline planning consent 163547 for the erection of 140 residential dwellings (Use Class C3), associated amenity spaces, play area, access, garages, parking, internal roads, pathways, drainage and associated landscaping (Appearance, Landscaping, Layout and Scale to be considered).**

Barkham Parish Council has expressed concerns about this development - more recently in its responses to PA 163547 submitted 10 Nov 2020 and the Nov 2021 to Jan 2022 Local Plan Update Consultation submitted 05 Jan 2022. There were three points in particular:

1. It has been proposed that a pedestrian link from the development towards the Biggs Lane would be achieved via footpaths across the associated SANG linking up with those in Hazebrouck Meadows. This must be delivered.
2. Section 5.8 of the Nov 2021 to Jan 2022 Local Plan Update Consultation proposes *‘the site is included as part of the Arborfield Garrison SDL policy due to its close association’*. Yet there is no direct road access to any of the SDL infrastructure including the Mile Ride Extension. All car journeys have to begin via Park Lane – even the weekly shop to the much-awaited District Centre. This is not appropriate.
3. The construction of homes so close to Hogwood Park Industrial Estate is worrying because of the potential for noise and smell to cause nuisance to residence. It must be kept in mind that a survey of such nuisances only tells you what is happening on the day of the survey and does not necessarily

Page 22/034

indicate what may happen in the future as equipment wears, new processes are introduced and doors and windows are left open on warm summer nights. This is misguided.

It is disappointing that these last two points have not been heeded.

**220391** - Parcel P, Arborfield Garrison, Arborfield, Reading

**Application for approval of Reserved Matters pursuant to Outline Planning Consent O/2014/2280 dated 02/04/2015. The Reserved Matters (access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale) comprise details of 43 dwellings within Parcel P with access via Princess Marina Drive, associated internal access roads,**

**parking, landscaping, open space, footpaths and drainage. [Re-consultation on revised plans received: reduction in the total number of dwellings from 46 down to 43, re-configuration of site layout and dwelling mix, amendments to hard & soft landscaping scheme.]**

Barkham Parish Council have no further comments on this application.

**Existing Lawful Certificate Notification**

**221288** -Land at The Scrapyard, Highland Avenue, Wokingham, Berkshire, RG41 4SP

**Application for a certificate of existing lawful development for the use of land (Area F) for storage of materials and equipment associated with the business operation at the site.**

It appears that part of the area submitted in this application is woodland. Barkham Parish Council would like assurance that the applicant does not have carte blanche to cut trees down in this area.

**221065 -** 351a Barkham Road Barkham Wokingham RG41 4DJ

**Full application for the proposed part demolition of bungalow and extension to the rear. Raised roof ridge with internal alterations.**

Barkham Parish Council have no comments on this application.

1. **Approved and Refused Applications**

**220618 -** 5 Broom Grove, Barkham, Wokingham, RG41 4TX

**Application to vary condition 5 of planning consent 211180 for the Householder application for the proposed conversion of existing garage to create habitable space, and the erection of a first floor extension. Condition 5 refers to Restriction of permitted development rights and the variation is to Remove the wording North-East elevation within the condition 5, so instead windows and openings are only restricted at first floor level.**

This application has been approved by WBC

**220684** - Handpost Farm School Road Barkham Wokingham RG41 4TN

**Full application for the proposed erection of a replacement dwelling and incorporation of the existing Handpost Cottage Annex into Handpost Farm (house). Demolition of menage building**.

This application has been refused by WBC

1. **Any Other Planning Business**

**School Road Communication and TRO Consultation:**

1. Council is asked to decide whether there has been misapplication of the S106 money, and whether to take up the issue with the Chief Executive of WBC.

Page 22/035

The Council looked at the S106 agreement, and the had been no misappropriation of funds so no further action is needed.

1. Council is asked to agree how to notify residents of the upcoming TRO Consultation, and what roads should be included in communications and to start considering the Council’s response for to the TRO.

Council discussed the updated information that the TRO will be an experimental order for a period of 18 months with comments allowed within the first 6 months of the order coming into force.

Barkham Parish Council will await the publication of the ETRO. BPC will write to residents in School Road, Langley Common Road and Bridge Cottages, to notify them of the ETRO, and what it entails and the process they can follow.

The Speed Watch Group will take stats using the data logger before and after the ETRO comes into force to monitor traffic usage.

**BVRA Article –** Council approved the article to be sent to the BVRA for inclusion in their magazine.

**District Centre Consultation Event Response –** Council discussed comments to be submitted to Crest on the District Centre Consultation event held on the 29th and 30th April. Mr Dexter, Mr Langford and the Clerk will collate the discussions and the Clerk will submit the response to Crest and WBC. A list of items that the Council would like to see included has been created and will form part of the response.

BPC want to work with the with the stakeholders to ensure the needs of the residents and Community Centre Users are met as far as possible. BPC to consult with residents and current users to obtain their opinions of what should be at the Community Centre. BPC is prepared to use CIL to assist with financing the Community Centre if required.

**The Coombes –**Mr Dexter discovered through conversation with a resident, that there was a management plan being created for The Coombes woodland. The Council would like to understand more about what this entails. Contact will be made with the resident, to invite them to meet with the parish councillors either at a council meeting or informally to find out more about the plans.

**22/062 External Report – Ward Councillor report.**

**22/063 Delegated Authority Report**

The following decisions were made via Delegated Authority in April 2022 as the decisions were required to be made before the Council was due to meet in March.

**Response to Application 220944 – 8 Somerville Close**

At the Council meeting in March, a response to the application was deferred until nearer the comment deadline to gauge residents’ views. A response needed to be submitted by 27th April 2022. The below response was agreed by majority of the Council to be submitted.

*This is a compromise solution which still entails converting amenity land to residential purposes and the siting of a fence that would be detrimental to the ambience of the area and overall street scene.  The negative impact of the fence would be minimised by positioning it along the line of the original brick wall that was demolished and this should be enforced.*

*The proposal is contrary to the NPPF, policies CP1 and CP3 of the Core Strategy, and Policies CC03 and TB21 of the MDD Local Plan.*

*We understand that other residents who may have wished to comment were not aware of this current application and this throws into doubt the validity of the consultation and any subsequent decision.*

Page 22/036

*Barkham Parish Council does not consider this application to be significantly different from the previous one (PA 212782), which was refused, to warrant a change in stance.  All of our earlier comments still stand and we request this latest application is also refused.*

**Queens Jubilee Equipment Expenditure**

An Amazon order, after approval from the Chairman of the Council, was placed for craft equipment for the Queens Jubilee Fun Day totalling £120.32.

**22/064 Clerks Report**

**Land at Highlands Avenue**

No progress has been made. The Clerk has sent an email to the solicitors, but has not yet received a response. There is still no information on the Land Registry site.

**Item ongoing**

**Enforcement Issues**

Land by Coppid Hill House – No update since the last meeting has been recieved.

The Coombes –

* Land adjacent to White Heart Grove – No updates have been received regarding these cases since the last meeting
* Plot B. – No updates have been received regarding these cases since the last meeting
* Beech Wood – No updates have been received regarding these cases since the last meeting

**Items ongoing**

**Queens Platinum Jubilee**

The organisation of the day is going well. Volunteers for the day are needed, to man stalls. There has been some interest by local organisations in having a stall at the event.

**Item ongoing**

**School Road / Langley Common Road Junction**

The road Safety Group have received an update from Highways on the traffic monitoring that WBC was to undertake at School Road / Langley Common Road. The junction is not suitable for changing due to the HGV’s that use the junction, which would result in damage, if the layout was changed.

**Item Ongoing**

**Trees at Barkham Fields (possible CIL Project)**

A meeting to assess a second area has taken place, and this area, requires monitoring for endangered species before a decision can be made on suitability. If suitable it will be scheduled for planting in October / November.

**Item Ongoing**

**Closed Items:**

**Phone box Adoption**

Due to the decision not to progress, the Clerk has informed the relevant parties of this.

Page 22/037

**Bus Shelters**

The insurance claim for the bus stop by The Bull, that was damaged by a car hitting it, has been settled. A payment of £6856.00 has been received.

**Item Closed**

**Window Replacement at the Village Hall**

The Village Hall windows have now been replaced at the Village Hall. The Village Hall Committee sends it thanks to the Parish Council for funding the replacement.

**Item Closed**

**22/065 Finance**

* 1. **Accounts** – Proposal to agree accounts and payments for February to March 2022 LGA 1972 s150 (5)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Payments for April to May 2022 for authorisation at Council meeting on 10th May 2022 | | | |
| S/O | Staff Wages | £957.51 | April 2022 salary - LGA 1972 s111 |
| DD | Nest | £94.63 | Pension Contribution Employer & Employee – April 2022 - LGA 1972 s111 |
| DD | Plusnet | £33.38 | Internet and phone charges – April 2022 - LGA 1972 s111 |
| DD | Lloyds Bank (Credit Card) | £3.00 | Credit Card bill – March Payments  £3.00 – monthly fee. – LGA 1972 s111 |
| BACS | Tivoli | £59.33 | Bin emptying – March LGA 1972 s111 |
| BACS | Savills | £148.50 | Hall Hire for January to June 2022 LGA 1972 s111 |
| BACS | Amazon | £426.40 | Queens Jubilee Equipment Purchase LGA 1972 s111 |
| BACS | HALC | £944.10 | BALC and Nalc Membership Fee LGA 1972 s143 |
| BACS | Barkham Village Hall | £234.00 | Village Hall Hire for Queens Jubilee Fun Day LGA 1972 s111 |

* 1. **Report on Monies received**

**£6856.00 –** Insurance pay-out for bus stop replacement, **£29515.00** – WBC Precept Payment

**£55.00** – Advert Payment CAE Autos

**22/066 Councillors Forum**

Mrs Stubbs had received an image of the Brass plates that the Parish Council have agreed to fund. These were shared with the council. The final quote is being prepared, and will be bought to Parish Council for approval to make the payment to the church in June.

Mr Wrobel raised the X-map (Parish Online) subscription, which is due for renewal. The Clerk informed that it will be on the agenda for June.

Mr Dexter raised that the CIL projects need reviewing. The Clerk will arrange a meeting of the CIL committee for this and will report back at the next Council meeting.

Mr Langford raised the rubbish bins on the Garrison that are full. This is currently being investigated by WBC as this has been raised by a resident. As it is DIO land, it creates an issue. Mr Wrobel would like to look into this further.

Page 22/038

Mr Heyliger raised that on one of his drives through Barkham, he noticed that the Welcome to Barkham signs need cleaning. The clerk will seek quotes for approval at the next meeting.

Mrs Stubbs raised the possible crossing on Barkham Street. This has been raised with Traffic Management at WBC, and some investigation into pedestrian demand and road suitability will need to be carried out before WBC can make a decision.

Mr Heyliger gave an update on Speed Watch. Barkham is now registered on the new Speed Watch Initiative online. 2 members of the committee have undergone the assessment and have been registered as co-ordinators. The committee is in the process of looking at new equipment which is now required due to the changes to the scheme by the Police. This will be bought to Council for a decision, once it is ready.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.50pm.