*Barkham Parish Council*

Arborfield Green Community Centre

Sheerlands Road

Arborfield

 RG2 9ND

Tel: 0118 976 2089

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Clerk: Mrs Ellen Tims

Meeting of the Council Notice

to be held on **Tuesday 13th September 2022**

at the Studio Hall, Arborfield Green Community Centre

Commencing at **7.30pm**

**PLEASE NOTE: YOU ARE ASKED NOT TO ATTEND THIS MEETING IF YOU HAVE ANY COVID SYMPTOMS OR HAVE TESTED POSITIVE FOR COVID-19.**

**A G E N D A**

1. **To receive and accept any apologies for absence** Local Government Act 1972 Sch12,
2. **To receive any declarations of interest on items on the agenda** (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012 (SI 2012/1464)
3. **Minutes of the Council Meeting** LGA 1972 Sch 12 para 41(1) – To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 12th July 2022.
4. **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. If you would like to ask a specific question to be answered at the meeting, please submit the question at least 24 hours in advance

1. **Planning**:
2. **Planning Applications** – To discuss and agree any comments or objections on planning applications received before 13th September 2022. To include:

**222491** - 1 Sherman Avenue, Arborfield, Wokingham, RG2 9TF

**Householder application for the proposed conversion of garage into habitable accommodation with changes to fenestration**

Comments by 14.09.2022 – Extension requested to 16.09.2022

**221954** -58 Sandy Lane, Barkham, Wokingham, RG41 4ST

**Householder application for the proposed erection of a first floor side and rear extension with front and rear dormers.**

Comments by 22.09.2022

1. **Approved and Refused Applications**

**221572 -** Barkham Manor Farm, Barkham Road, Barkham, Wokingham, RG41 4DQ

**Householder application for the proposed construction of garden swimming pool and ancillary building with toilet, changing facilities and garden room.**

Application Refused Notification

**221580** -73 Bearwood Road, Barkham, Wokingham, RG41 4SX

**Householder application for the proposed single storey rear extension, double storey side extension, raising of roof to create first and second floor habitable accommodation with 1No front three storey gable, following demolition of 2 No. chimney stacks, existing front and rear extensions and existing garage and changes to fenestration.**

Application Approved Notification

**222226 -** 48 The Lilacs, Barkham, Wokingham, RG41 4UT

**Householder application for the proposed part garage conversion to create habitable accommodation.**

Application Approved Notification

**222041 -** Feathercot, School Road, Barkham, Wokingham, RG41 4TP

**Householder application for the proposed erection of a rear conservatory.**

Application Approved Notification

**220779 -**The White Cottage, Barkham Street, Barkham, Wokingham, RG40 4PJ

**Householder application for proposed two storey side extension with integral garage, single storey rear extension, 4No. rooflights, 2 juliet balconies, associated fenestration, following the demolition of existing detached garage**.

Application Refused Notification

1. **Any Other Planning Business**

**Let’s Talk Climate Emergency – Survey –** Council is asked if it would like to respond to the survey, and to agree the answers to the questions in the survey, should the council decide to respond.

**Ward Boundary Review Consultation –** Council is asked to decide whether to respond to the Land Boundary Review Consultation, and what response is required.

**Land to the East of Edneys Hill and South of Barkham Road –** Council has received notification from a developer regarding a proposed development at this site. Council is asked to discuss this notification, and how to raise awareness with residents, prior to the application.

1. **Attendance of Cllr Lindsay Ferris to discuss the 5 Year Land Supply and Local Plan Update (30 mins)**

**Background:**

Barkham is a relatively small semi-rural parish within Wokingham Borough Council.  The 2011 census reports there were 1226 households in Barkham and this stands at around 1650 today – an increase of 34%. On completion of the housing already planned this will approach 3440 by 2037 – almost a threefold increase in just 25 years. This is in Barkham alone and there are similar housing projects just over the parish boundaries.  In addition, 130 acres have been earmarked for a solar farm project within the parish.  Barkham is doing its part and enough really is enough.

Barkham is vulnerable to opportunistic development by virtue of Section 11 of the NPPF and the weak 5 Year Land Supply position as a number of applications previously considered could easily be resurrected.  A current application (222306) to build some 350 dwellings just over the parish boundary at Blagrove Meadows will be an interesting pointer to the way things may go in the immediate future.

**Broad Discussion Headings:**

1. It appears there will be a significant delay in progressing the next version of the Local Plan Update (LPU) which will put further pressure on WBC’s already weak 5 Year Land Supply (5YLS).  What is the expected current timing?
2. With the time and cost taken to produce a Local Plan (LP), it is disappointing that WBC does not do more to protect it.   What more can WBC do to ensure approved housing is delivered at the required rate?
3. With a weak 5YLS, the risk of inspectors approving developments outside any LP by virtue of Section 11 of the NPPF will increase.  How will WBC counter the threat of such opportunistic approvals whilst we wait for the next version of the LPU?

**Conclusion and way forward**

1. **External Report –** Council is asked to receive a report from Cllr Kaiser on items relating to WBC
2. **Delegated Authority Report** – Council is asked to receive a report on decisions made under Delegated Authority
3. **Clerks Report –** Council is asked to receive a report from the Clerk
4. **CIL Projects and Expenditure**

**Electricity at Barkham Fields –** Council is asked to decide whether to continue with the installation of an electricity box at Barkham Fields and to discuss an alternative idea, after feedback from the BVRA that it would unlikely be used for their events.

A second proposal relating to the electricity supply at the fields has been raised by Mrs Stubbs, for possible lighting at the fields for early evening to assist dog walkers to be able to see in the winter months.

**Footpath Repair on Bearwood Road** – Council is asked to approve that the Clerk obtains quotes from WBC to repair the footpath along Bearwood Road after several residents have complained about the uneven state which makes it difficult to walk along the path.

**VAS Purchase –** Council is asked to agree to the purchase of 2 further VAS signs, 1 which is solar powered and 1 which is mains powered.

**CIL Project Proposals –** Council is asked to consider other CIL proposals raised by members or residents, including

1. Could an existing trust have its remit extended or a new trust created to supply Children of the Parish with a musical instrument and give subsidised music lessons to Children of the Parish?
2. Upgrade of football goal / basketball hoop equipment at Barkham Fields.
3. **Finance**
	1. **Accounts** – Proposal to agree accounts and payments for August to September 2022 LGA 1972 s150 (5)

* 1. **Report on Monies received**

* 1. **Internal Auditor Appointment for 2022-2023 financial year audit –** Council is asked to re-appoint C. Connell as the internal auditor for the 2022-2023 financial year.
	2. **External Audit Conclusion –** Council is notified that the External Audit for the Year Ended 31st March 2022 has concluded and the council has received and Unqualified audit report, with no action needed to be taken.
	3. **Treatment of Bracken at the Junipers**

The Bracken on the top field at the Junipers has grown out of control. The Company that planted the trees on the bottom field have a treatment for the Bracken that can be applied, which will kill the bracken (and only the bracken), which will enable planting of new trees to be undertaken. The cost of the treatment is £740.00 (plus VAT).

1. **Parish Office Operations**
	1. **SAAA External Audit Arrangement Opt-Out** – Council is asked to decide whether to opt out or remain part of the SAAA External Audit agreement, and arrange their own External Audits.
	2. **Follow up meeting with WBC Executives –** Council is asked to consider a draft agenda for the next meeting with the Executive Members of WBC.
	3. **Help for parishioners over the winter –** Council is asked to discuss and agree ways to help and support the Parishioners, who may have financial hardship over the winter due to the increasing energy costs. Some suggestions are: advertise Barkham Parochial Charities in the next issue of Village Info, and how they can help. Put on coffee mornings so parishioners can have somewhere warm to go for a few hours. Any other Ideas to be put forward at the meeting.
2. **Councillor Forum**



E. Tims

Clerk to the Council