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BARKHAM PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes** of the meeting of the Barkham Parish Council held on 8th November 2022 in the Studio Hall, Arborfield Green Community Centre at 7.30pm.

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

**22/114 To receive and accept any apologies for absence** Local Government Act 1972 Sch12

Mr Scott - Unwell

**22/115 To receive any declarations of interest on items on the agenda** (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012 (SI 2012/1464)

None

**22/116 Minutes of the Council Meeting** LGA 1972 Sch 12 para 41(1) **–**

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 11th October 2022 were approved and signed as a true record. The minutes were signed by Mr Bundred instead of Mrs Stubbs, due to Mrs Stubbs having a broken wrist.

**22/117 Sam Hosgood Sporting Award** LGA 1972 s137**–** The Council presented an Award to Bracknell Athletics Club to support Miss Austin’s training in the 400m Hurdles

**22/118 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

**22/119 Planning**:

1. **Planning Applications –** Council discussed and agreed any comments or objections on planning applications received before 8th November 2022. As follows:

**223037** -Land at Edneys Hill, Edneys Hill, Wokingham, RG41 4DS

**Outline planning permission for the proposed erection of up to 40 no. dwellings plus open space, pedestrian and cycle links with other associated infrastructure and primary vehicular access from Barkham Road, following the demolition of no. 368 Barkham Road. (All matters reserved except for access).**

Barkham Parish Council (BPC) wishes to oppose this application for the following considerations:

1. This site lies outside the existing settlement area and protrudes away from the existing residential sites into an area that relates better to the neighbouring countryside. It will increase the urbanisation of the area and detract from the nearby countryside. The harmful effect on the character of the area is acknowledged in Section 5.82 of the Planning Statement (Policies CP1, CP11, CC02, TB21 & IRS1).

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1. The proposed development will encroach into the greenspace around individual residential sites which is contrary to the spatial goals of the 2010 Core Plan set out in Section 2.68 (viii). (Policies CP3, CC03, TB21, IRS1 & IRS2).
2. There will be a loss of good quality agricultural land. (TC3)
3. It is difficult to understand how this proposed development will in practice maintain or enhance biodiversity. An area of mature countryside is being replaced by a residential development that will concentrate human and traffic activity closer to the existing hedgerows and other habitats. This will have a significant and negative impact on badgers, foxes, deer, owls and red kites that are often seen in this location. (Policies CP7 & IRS3)
4. The traffic on Barkham Road, already congested at peak times, is increasing with an average of some 4500 vehicles per day recorded. New developments that feed onto Barkham Road will add to this volume and would not be compatible with proposals to improve the environment for pedestrians and cyclists. Despite the assertions of Section 2.13 of the Planning Statement, there is only limited public transport between the location to Wokingham and Reading which further aggravates the traffic issues on the busy road network.
5. This planning application stresses the importance of encouraging walking and cycling to reduce use of the car but it is questionable whether the proposed access route is wide enough to accommodate a dedicated cycle lane and pavements on either side of the carriageway. This and whether suitable sight lines can be established need to be confirmed.
6. This location is not sustainable. The Wokingham Borough Design Guide SPD states that for locations to be sustainable, ***‘walkable neighbourhoods should be created that have a range of facilities within 10 mins walking distance (800m) to encourage travel by foot or by bicycle’.***

Section 2.11 of the Planning Statement indicates that there are some limited facilities on the edge of the 10 minute walking limit - Section 2.12 goes on to record that supermarkets are some 2.5km distant. There appears to be no reference to medical and dental centres which are also around 2.5 km away. This lack of a focused and sustainable centre will contribute to the traffic issues discussed in Item 5 above.

1. Local services such as schools, medical and dental care are already stretched with people having to travel across the Borough to secure access. This development will add to these shortages.

In addition to the above specific planning considerations, BPC would like to make one further observation.

This application pre-empts the Local Plan Update (LPU) – it is not included in the 2010 Core Plan nor in either of the two recent versions of the LPU. This proposal is just one of many such projects that BPC is aware that could come forward over the coming months – the application for the nearby Blagrove Meadows development is an example that is already being determined.

This resulting piecemeal approach to planning driven by the developers without reference to a professionally produced overall plan will create a number of discrete residential centres rather than a focal point that can be designed to be truly sustainable thereby encouraging walking and cycling and reducing additional traffic as much as possible.

The cumulative effect of several such planning applications being adopted will exacerbate the concerns expressed above regarding this specific application. Hence, applications such as this should not be considered in advance of the LPU.

Barkham Parish Council requests that this application is refused.

**222794** -358 Barkham Road, Barkham, Wokingham, RG41 4DL

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**Householder application for the proposed single storey front extension. Replacement of front gates with 2m high gates. Raising the roof of existing single storey side, to accommodate extension. Single storey rear extension to include 1no. Juliet balcony to the First Floor. 3no. rooflights. Changes to fenestration. 11x4x3m swimming pool to the rear.**

Barham Parish Council had no comments on the house extensions, however there are concerns regarding the proposed gate.

The immediate street scene is characterised by low fences/walls, hedges of varying height and low 5 bar style gates.  The proposed 2m high gate and any associated mounting posts and/or side walling of a similar height would be overpowering and not compatible with the overall appearance of that part of Barkham Road.  Barkham Parish Council request that a 5 bar gate (with associated supporting structure etc) of more conventional proportions - around 1.2m - is used.

**223137** -50 Sandy Lane, Barkham, Wokingham, RG41 4ST

**Householder application for the single storey rear extension and changes to fenestration to include changes to the level of the rear garden and patio.**

Barkham Parish Council had no comments on this application.

**223212** -Bearwood Lakes Golf Club, Bearwood Road, Sindlesham, Wokingham, RG41 4SJ

**Full application for the proposed erection of a single storey rear extension to the clubhouse with additional balcony space over and associated alterations to the existing balcony stairs and dining room fenestration, plus removal of existing external stairs and infilling of stairwell to form an extension to the existing balcony.**

Barkham Parish Council had no comments on this application.

**Application:** 220684

**Appeal:** APP/X0360/W/22/3300225

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.**

Barkham Parish Council (BPC) has reviewed the basis of this appeal as recorded in the Appeal Statement and other documentation and does not wish to change its position from that stated in its objection to the original application dated 13 April 2022.  The reasons for that objection included:

1. The proposed site lies outside the settlement boundary, within an area designated as countryside and would contravene policies included in the NPPF, the WBC Core Plan and the Joint Arborfield and Barkham Neighbour Plan as previously listed.
2. This proposed dwelling is a new dwelling and not a replacement dwelling.
3. There would be significant impact on the landscape character when viewed from vantage points in The Coombes woodland area.  The ridge height would make the proposed building conspicuous when viewed through/over hedges from Barkham and School Roads.
4. This cannot be regarded as a sustainable area.

Barkham Parish Council request that this appeal is denied.

1. **Approved and Refused Applications**

There were no approved or refused applications to report.

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1. **Any Other Planning Business**

Mr Dexter gave a short update following the meeting with Cllr Ferris. A letter to Michael Gove, following up on our previous letter is needed.

**22/120 Ward Councillor Report**

As Councillor Kaiser was not in attendance, no report was received.

**22/121 Clerks Report**

**Land at Highlands Avenue**

No progress has been made.

**Item ongoing**

**Enforcement Issues**

Land by Coppid Hill House – Update from WBC Enforcement - A lot has happened in gaining the evidence of noncompliance.  Letters under caution have been sent to the owners and they have responded.  The Officer has carried out visits.  He has all the evidence that the notice, while not now occupied, has not been fully complied with.  He has consulted internally on the evidence he has, and a bit more is needed, to satisfy the court.  This does not add any delay and pursuing this with expediency.

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. The Clerk has seen a post on Facebook, showing that the top level of the water tower is being removed as per the enforcement order.
* Beech Wood – No updates have been received regarding these cases since the last meeting

**Items ongoing**

**Drainage Issues**

The ongoing leak along Barkham Road: This has now been resolved as a leak and repaired by Thames Water.

The Clerk has requested an update from WBC regarding the drainage issue at Barkham Fields, and is awaiting a response.

**Items ongoing**

**School Road / Langley Common Road Junction**

The road Safety Group continue to work to try to reduce the speed limit along Langley Common Road, to make the junction safer.

School Road has now been closed to through traffic. Monitoring is being undertaken, so the Council can comment on the Experimental Traffic Regulation Order before the end date.

**Item Ongoing**

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

No update since the last meeting, however, the tree planting season has only just begun.

**Item Ongoing**

**The Coombes Woodland Maintenance**

Contact needs to be made with the resident who manages the woodland, to see if he is willing to meet with the councillors to discuss the maintenance plans for the woodland.

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**Item ongoing**

**Instalcom Appeal**

The Appeal hearing has been set for 29th November at 10am.

**Items ongoing**

**Next meeting with WBC Executive Officers**

The WBC Liaison group are putting together points of discussion, and a meeting will be arranged in due course.

**Items ongoing**

**Treatment of the Bracken at Barkham Fields**

No action can be made until the new year due to product licensing.

**Items ongoing**

**Closed Items:**

None

**22/122 Finance**

* 1. **Accounts** – Accounts and payments for October to November 2022 LGA 1972 s150 (5)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Payments for October to November 2022 for authorised at Council meeting on 8th November 2022 | | | |
| S/O | Staff Wages | £1400.22 | November 2022 salary – LGA 1972 s111 (Includes backpay for NJC Salary Increase from April 2022) |
| DD | Nest | £152.68 | Pension Contribution Employer & Employee – November 2022 – LGA 1972 s111 (Includes pension increase from April 2022 in line with back pay salary increase) |
| DD | Plusnet | £32.14 | Internet and phone charges – November 2022 – LGA 1972 s111 |
| DD | Lloyds Bank (Credit Card) | £478.32 | Credit Card bill – October Payments  £93.97 – Onbuy.com – Speed Watch Ladder LGA 1972 s111  £285.46 – Solopress – Survey Printing LGA 1972 s111  £94.99 – Norton 360 – Antivirus subscription LGA 1972 s111  £0.90 – M&S – Milk for office - LGA 1972 s111  £3.00 – monthly fee. – LGA 1972 s111 |
| BACS | Tivoli | £65.26 | Bin Emptying - LGA 1972 s111 |
| BACS | Royal British Legion | £100.00 | Grant Donation – Wreath - LGA 1972 s137 |
| Cheque | Bracknell Athletics Club | £600.00 | Sam Hosgood Award Grant - LGA 1972 s137 |
| BACS | Mike Bundred | £49.28 | Leaflet Printing for Edneys Hill development LGA 1972 s111 |
| BACS | Abracadabra Distribution | £590.65 | Magazine and survey distribution (Paid) LGA 1972 s142 |
| BACS | Solopress | £635.78 | Magazine Printing (Paid) LGA 1972 s142 |
| BACS | D. Carr | £260.00 | Magazine design LGA 1972 s142 |
| BACS | Amazon | £96.90 | Stationary LGA 1972 s111 |
| DD | Unity Trust | £18.00 | Service Charge LGA 1972 s111 (paid in October) |

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* 1. **Report on Monies received**

£82,752.67 – WBC – CIL Payment

3. **CIL Expenditure** – Council agreed to the purchase of a data logger and speed signs using CIL. The cost of the data logger is £2700.00 and the speed signs are £248.40, both include VAT.

A CIL Advisory Group meeting is needed to discuss other projects and to propose projects for money to be spent on at the next meeting.

4. **Website and Email Package** – Council agreed to upgrade to the Premium Plus Package at the extra cost of £110 per annum.

**22/123 Parish Office Operations**

**Public Participation on Agenda Items –** Council agreed that members of the public would only be able to speak during the public section unless a request to take part in a specific agenda item is received in advance of the meeting.

**Editorial Policy for Village Info –** Council decided an Editorial Policy is required for articles published in the Village Info. The Editorial Team will work to produce a policy before ethe next meeting.

**Additional Signatories for the Bank –** Council agreed to add 2 additional Signatories to the Bank Account. Council agree that Mr Langford and Mr Barker should be added.

**WBC Community Liaison Officer –** Council had questions on how this Officer would be used by the Council and other various stakeholders, and due to this were unable to identify what requirements would be needed. The Clerk is to contact WBC to ask this question, and the Council will then discuss this further.

**22/124 Councillors Forum**

Mr Bundred raised an EV article sent by WBC, there were EV charge points being installed, buit none of theme were in Barkham. Can this be looked at for a CIL project?

Mrs Stubbs informed the Council of the parking arrangements for the Remembrance Day Service on Sunday. The Bull at Barkham is being used for those attending the service. Mrs Stubbs will be attending to lay the Wreath on behalf of Barkham Parish Council.

Mr Barker has volunteered to help Marshal at the Remembrance Day parade.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.55pm