Page 23/013

BARKHAM PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes** of the meeting of the Barkham Parish Council held on 14th March 2023 in the Studio Hall, Arborfield Green Community Centre at 7.30pm.

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

**23/022 To receive and accept any apologies for absence** Local Government Act 1972 Sch12

None

**23/023 To receive any declarations of interest on items on the agenda** (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012 (SI 2012/1464)

None

**23/024 Minutes of the Council Meeting** LGA 1972 Sch 12 para 41(1) **–**

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 14th February 2023 were approved and signed as a true record. The minutes were signed by Mrs Stubbs.

**23/025 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

**23/026 Planning**:

1. **Planning Applications –** Council discussed and agreed any comments or objections on planning applications received before 14th February 2023. As follows:

**223480** -Pype Hayes, School Road, Barkham, Wokingham, RG41 4TR

**Householder application for the proposed erection of single storey rear extension following demolition of 1no. existing conservatory, plus changes to fenestration to include rooflights.**

Barkham Parish Council have no comments on this application

**230493 -** 4 Japonica Close, Barkham, Wokingham, RG41 4XJ

**Householder application for the proposed erection of a two storey side extension.**

Barkham Parish Council object to this application.

There are concerns over the access for construction traffic and the impact on neighbouring properties which share the narrow access to their properties.

The Parish Council is aware of residents’ concerns regarding this application, and has been contacted by a resident to explain his concerns. Barkham Parish Council request that a planning officer visit the site and speak with the neighbours to hear their concerns, and to assist with the decision on the application.

Page 23/014

**223125** -Hogwood Farm, Sheerlands Road, Arborfield, Wokingham, RG40 4QY

**Application for approval of Reserved Matters pursuant to Outline Planning Permission O/2014/2179 as varied by 181194 (dated 14/11/2018) in respect to the "Employment" land parcel as defined by the approved Land Use Parameter Plan. The Reserved Matters comprise details of buildings for General Industrial use (Class B2), together with associated parking, landscaping and sustainable urban drainage systems. Access via the Nine Mile Ride Extension. Details of appearance, landscaping, layout and scale to be considered.**

Barkham Parish Council have no comments on this application

**230543 -** 330 Barkham Road, Barkham, Wokingham, RG41 4DE

**Application for a certificate of existing lawful development for the use of the building as a Beauty Salon.**

Barkham Parish Council have no comments on this application

**223435** - Hogwood Farm Sheerlands Road Arborfield Wokingham RG40 4QY

**Reserved Matters application pursuant to Outline Planning Consent O/2014/2179, as varied by application 81194. The Reserved Matters comprise details of 100no. dwellings, associated internal access roads, parking and landscaping. Details of access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale to be considered.**

Barkham Parish Council have no comments on this application

1. **Approved and Refused Applications**

**223460 -** 2 Langley Common Road, Barkham, Wokingham, RG40 4TS

**Householder application for the proposed erection of a single storey front extension to form a porch and 2 no. single storey side extensions following demolition of the existing side conservatory, plus insertion of rooflights to facilitate conversion of the loft to form habitable accommodation and changes to fenestration.**

This application has been approved by WBC

**223783** -Bluebell Farm, Commonfield Lane, Barkham, Wokingham, RG40 4PR

**Full application for the proposed erection of 1no. replacement dwelling and car port, following demolition of existing dwelling.**

This application has been approved by WBC

**223281 -** Little Hayes, Hayes Lane, Barkham, Wokingham, RG41 4TA

**Householder application for the proposed erection of a two storey front/side extension (east elevation), two storey side extension to include garage (west elevation), two storey rear extension to create habitable accommodation following demolition of existing front extension, existing conservatory and car port with changes to fenestration.**

This application has been approved by WBC

1. **Any Other Planning Business**

**Local Government Ward Boundary Review Consultation** – Council reviewed a draft response to the Ward Boundary Review. There are a few amendments and additions to the response to be made. The amendments will be made and sent to all councillors for approval under delegated authority.

**23/027 Delegated Authority Report –** Council received a report on decisions made under delegated authority since the last meeting

Page 23/015

**Finance**

**Funding to BVRA for the Coronation event.**

At the February meeting of the council, Council agreed to fund £5000 for the coronation event that the council had asked the BVRA if they would organise. After the meeting, a request was received for an additional piece of entertainment at a cost of £250.00.

**This was unanimously approved by the councillors.**

**Payment of funding to BVRA for the Coronation event.**

A request was also made for an amount to be paid in advance so that deposits for the bookings can be paid. The Clerk asked if the council was willing to pay the full agreed amount, with clauses so that invoices can be settled as and when they come in. The Clauses are: 1. In the event of any unspent amount of the payment, this will be repaid to Barkham Parish Council. 2. A copy of all invoices for the event will be provided to the council for their records of what the money has been spent on.

**This was unanimously approved by the councillors. As agreed, the payment has been made.**

**Purchase of Speed Watch accessories**

The Speed Watch Group made a request for some electrical components for the SID and Data Logger equipment to standardise the wiring connections across the devices. The cost of the Components was £40.04.

**This expenditure was approved by the Chairman of council in conjunction with the Clerk.**

**Planning**

**Response to the School Road ETRO**

A response was drafted for the ETRO at School Road, and sent to the council for approval, as it was due before the next council meeting.

**It was approved by majority of the councillors. The response has been submitted.**

**23/028 Ward Councillor Report**

Mr Kaiser was not in attendance so no report was received.

**23/029 Clerks Report -** Council received a report from the Clerk

**Land at Highlands Avenue**

No progress has been made.

**Item ongoing**

**Enforcement Issues**

Land by Coppid Hill House – No update has been received from WBC on this.

The Coombes –

* Land adjacent to White Heart Grove – No update received
* Plot B. – No update received
* Beech Wood – No update received

**Items ongoing**

Page 23/016

**Drainage Issues**

WBC have looked into the drainage issue at Barkham Fields, and think they have rectified the issue, however, there is still lots of water on the fields, so further investigation by WBC is needed. This has been reported and the parks department will look into it.

**Item 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. The ETRO response has been drafted and sent for approval.

**Item Ongoing**

**The Coombes Woodland Maintenance**

This has been put on hold due to the possible sale of the woodlands.

**Item ongoing**

**Instalcom Appeal**

The Council await the inspector’s decision.

**Item ongoing**

**Next meeting with WBC Executive Officers**

The Working group has met with the Executive and slow progress is being made.

**Item ongoing**

**Insight Strategy and Inclusion meeting with WBC**

Mrs Stubbs, Mr Langford and the Clerk attended the meeting as agreed at the previous council meeting. The meeting was to work to build better relationships with WBC and its partners. The meeting seemed productive, and it was felt that positive steps could be made. The proof will be what comes as a result of the meeting. More meetings to take this forward are planned.

**Item ongoing**

**District and Community Centres**

The promise by Crest to review the Community Centre option costings is yet to occur. The meeting promised for January is yet to be scheduled. The Clerk has chased, and is awaiting a response.

**Item ongoing**

**Solar Farm**

A contractor has now been appointed and work is due to commence later in the year. We were informed that WBC would:

1. Establish a resident liaison forum and
2. Consider the request for land to extend the churchyard.

These will form part of the Contractors obligations.

**Item ongoing**

**California Country Park Improvement Scheme**

The Clerk has received an update from WBC regarding the improvement of California Country Park, for which the Parish was asked to contribute CIL. The improvement scheme has been signed off by WBC and survey

Page 23/017

works and detailed design for the improvements is due to commence soon. The Clerk has requested a schedule for the timeline of the project be sent as soon as it is ready.

**Item ongoing**

**Closed Items:**

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

Tree planting on the upper field took place on Friday 17th February. 190 trees were planted.

**Item Closed**

**BVRA/BPC Survey**

Review of the joint BVRA/BPC Survey is set to be discussed at the council meeting.

**Item closed**

**23/030 Finance**

* 1. **Accounts** – Council agreed the accounts and payments for February to March 2023 LGA 1972 s150 (5)

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| --- |
| Payments for February to March 2023 for authorised at Council meeting on 14th March 2023 |
| S/O | Staff Wages | £1050.78 | February 2023 salary – LGA 1972 s111  |
| DD | Nest | £103.54 | Pension Contribution Employer & Employee – February 2023 – LGA 1972 s111 |
| DD | Plusnet | £32.14 | Internet and phone charges – February 2023 – LGA 1972 s111  |
| DD | Lloyds Bank (Credit Card) | £3.00 | Credit Card bill – February Payments£3.00 – monthly fee. – LGA 1972 s111 |
| BACS | Tivoli | £65.26 | Bin Emptying - LGA 1972 s111 |
| BACS | Staff Expenses | £72.58 | Staff expenses for July 2022 – March 2023 LGA 1972 s111 |

* 1. **Report on Monies received**

£333,649.48– WBC – CIL Advance Payment £8.50 – History Book Sale

**23/031 Parish Office Operations**

**Review of the joint BVRA / BPC survey and actions needed** – Council reviewed the results of the joint survey. It was agreed that:

1. The council need to increase their profile within the parish to promote what they do. Suggestions to assist this were: BPC name and logo on High Vis jackets used by the council and speed watch group and more promotion of activities undertaken by the Council, such as posters.
2. The council need to promote how they are meeting residents needs and requests throughout the parish.
3. The CIL project submitted as part of the survey are to be reviewed for feasibility to take forward. If projects are unsuitable, the council will publish why they are not able to undertake them.
4. The results of the survey are to be published on the Council website and a summary will be included in the next magazine.

**23/032 Councillors Forum**

Mr Dexter – A CIL meeting is overdue, and needs to be arranged for the projects to be looked at.

Page 23/018

Mr Wrobel – Questioned how we can consistently contact the planning officers at WBC. The clerk submits queries to the planning enquiries email address in the first instance, and if a response is not received, she then contacts a more senior person.

**23/033 Exclusion of public and press** Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 S1 (2)

There were no public or press in attendance at the meeting. Council agreed that, in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, the meeting was closed and the part 2 discussions began.

**Part 2**

**23/034 Minutes of previous part 2 meeting**

**23/035 The Coombes**