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BARKHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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

**Present**: Mrs Stubbs (in the Chair), Mr Heyliger, Mr Dexter, Mr Wrobel, Mr Sheth, Cllr Pittock (Ward Councillor) and the Clerk.

Also in attendance were Mr Prodger and his colleague and a representative from WBC for the CIL fly tipping camera project.

**23/130 To receive and accept any apologies for absence** Local Government Act 1972 Sch12

Mr Barker – Family matter

**23/131 To receive any declarations of interest on items on the agenda** (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012 (SI 2012/1464)

None

**23/132 Minutes of the Council Meeting** LGA 1972 Sch 12 para 41(1) **–**

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 10th October 2023 were approved and signed as a true record. The minutes were signed by Mrs Stubbs.

**23/133 Co-option of New Councillor** Local Government Act 1972 S16 **–** Council to consider co-opting Mr Amit Sheth onto the Council.

Mr Sheth was unanimously co-opted onto council. All relevant forms were completed and signed by Mr Sheth and the Clerk.

**23/134 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.

1 resident attended to express and interest in joining the council. The resident gave some background about himself to the Council and why he wished to join the Council. Co-option will take place at the next meeting if the resident still wishes to join.

1 resident attended to listen to the meeting.

**MOTION by Mr Wrobel to move the agenda item for the CIL Expenditure up the agenda so that the representative from WBC could leave after the discussion.**

Proposed by Mr Wrobel. Seconded by Mr Dexter. Vote – All agreed

The agenda item will be discussed after the presentation by Mr Prodger.

**23/133 Presentation by Mr Prodger** (15 minutes allocated) – Council is asked to give support to Arborfield Aces on a proposed plan to create a new charity called the "Arborfield Green Sport & Wellbeing Trust" whose aim is to improve the health and wellbeing of Arborfield residents.

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This charity will use the latest "Levelling-Up legislation", and apply under "Community Right to Build" rights to take over control of the design and build of the pavilion and "Asset Transfer" rights to take over control over the surrounding green spaces which would incorporate the allotments and 3 play areas.

We can then work directly with the Community to finalise a pavilion based upon our alternative design which seeks to serve a much wider part of the Community, through active participation in both sporting and social events.

Mr Prodger gave a brief presentation outlining his plans for the Pavilion and the use of the new levelling up legislation.

The process going forward would entail WBC organising a referendum of the community to confirm their support for the proposal. The referendum would not necessarily extend to the whole of Barkham but BPC pointed out that its support would have to reflect views across the whole parish. Many specific details have yet to be worked through with WBC – eg who will own the pavilion.

Council asked some questions relating to the proposal for the pavilion, such as costs, population areas, boundary’s for consultations and details of the proposed referendum. Mr Prodger agreed to send a full version of the presentation which included these items.

Council will need to see the document before a final decision for support could be made.

**23/134 CIL Expenditure Requests** CIL Spend Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Regulations 2010 (as amended)

1. **Council is asked to consider the bid funding request from WBC to fund the resurfacing of Aggisters Lane.**

Before Council can make a decision, more information is required. Council would like to know:

* What the replacement surface will be constructed from?
* Will this set a precedence for WBC asking for money for other Roads?
* What happens if the other parishes say no to funding their share?
1. **Council is asked to consider the report and proposals to install fly tipping cameras in The Coombes, Church Lane and Commonfield Lane.**

Council considered the installation of Cameras at the proposed locations, in partnership with WBC, who will take on the monitoring of the cameras and issue any notices. This will link with their contract for their existing cameras. As the project is in partnership with WBC, and needs to use the same contractors, the parish council were unable to obtain other quotes for the installation of the cameras, and for this reason the financial regulations section for quotes is to be suspended for this project.

As the full quote for all 3 locations was a lot of money, and the council were unsure as to the effectiveness of the cameras, it was agreed that the council would start with 1 location, that was known to be a hotspot for fly tipping. The location agreed was Commonfield Lane. Council agreed to take on a 3 year contract instead of 2 years.

The costs for the Commonfield Lane Site are: first year and equipment cost £11,240.00. Second year cost £2,640.00. 3rd year cost £2,640.00. Set-up and maintenance cost: First year £1936.25 Second and third yar costs are yet to be confirmed. Total cost for set up and first year: £13,176.25.

It was also agreed that appropriate signage would be installed in Church Lane to provide a control. WBC advised that BPC would have to pay for this.

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8.07pm – The WBC representative left the meeting.

**Planning**:

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

**232164** -22 The Woodlands, Barkham, Wokingham, RG41 4UY

**Householder application for the proposed two storey side extension. Please see the details of the above planning application.**

Barkham Parish Council had no comments on this application.

**232488** -1 The Shires, Barkham, Wokingham, RG41 4SZ

**Householder application for the proposed erection of single storey rear extension, plus formation of new side door, following demolition of existing rear conservatory**.

Barkham Parish Council had no comments on this application.

**232621** -Land West Of Limmerhill Road, Wokingham

**Outline Planning Application for up to 60No. dwellings including age-restricted housing for older people with associated public open space, landscaping, ecological enhancements, drainage and other supporting infrastructure, with access from Barkham Road. Means of Access to be considered (with Appearance, landscaping, Layout and Scale to be reserved).**

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

1. This site lies outside the existing settlement area. It will increase the urbanisation of the area and detract from the nearby countryside (Policies CP1, CP11, CC02, TB21 & IRS1).

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 potential agricultural land.  (TC3)
3. This proposed development will harm the biodiversity in the area.  This will have a significant and negative impact on wildlife in the area, such as badgers, foxes, deer, owls and red kites.  (Policies CP7 & IRS3)
4. The traffic on Barkham Road, already congested at peak times, and 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. The access point is not covered in this application, and has been included as reserved matters.  This is not acceptable.  Access to the proposed development should be included in the full application.  BPC is aware that a recent application for access at this location (231990 – Full application for the proposed creation of a site access to serve the existing Public House and the Equestrian centre along with clearance of the former access) was refused by WBC, so how will the development be accessed? Contrary to that Section 3.5 of the Planning Statement states "the access is to be taken from Barkham Road to the South. around 15m west of the existing access to Ye Olde Leathern Bottel pub and the pub access will be stopped up to vehicular traffic and access to the car park instead provided via the access road''  This does not make it any safer as this will still comes out onto Barkham Road where there is double white lines in

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the middle and is already on a dangerous bend with a hidden brow on the hill to the west where visibility at this point is restricted .

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 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.

**232641** -11 Martingale Grove, Arborfield Green, Wokingham, RG2 9HD

**Householder application for the proposed erection of pergola to the rear.**

Barkham Parish Council had no comments on this application.

**223528 -** 33 Barkham Ride, Barkham, Wokingham, RG40 4EX

**Outline application for the proposed erection of 56 residential dwellings with associated access, following demolition of the existing dwelling and out buildings. Access only to be considered. (with Appearance, Landscaping, Layout and Scale to be reserved).**

Barkham Parish Council still object to the application, and agreed that the previous comments submitted on this application still stood. The Clerk is to resubmit the previous comments from the last time this application was considered.

**231095** -Hogwood Farm, Sheerlands Road, Arborfield, Wokingham, RG40 4QY

**Application for the approval of Reserved Matters pursuant to Outline Planning Consent O/2014/2179 (as varied by 181194, dated 14/11/2018). The Reserved Matters comprise details of 256 dwellings across Parcel P10 with access via the Nine Mile Ride Extension (NMRE) and Southern Bus Loop, associated internal roads, provision of Public Open Space and play areas, together with parking, cycle ways, footpaths, landscaping and sustainable urban drainage systems (SuDS). Details of access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale to be considered.**

Barkham Parish Council had no comments on this application.

**232490** -Land off Langley Common Road, Arborfield, Wokingham

**Outline planning application for a proposed residential development of up to 50 dwellings together with open space and associated works. Means of Access to be considered (with Appearance, Landscaping, Layout and Scale to be reserved).**

The Council object to this application on the grounds of the following:

Outside of settlement boundaries, Development in the countryside, Degradation of the identity of the area and Development of a greenfield site. A full response will be drafted and agreed via delegated authority, and will be reported at the next meeting of the Council.

**232749** -54 Langley Common Road, Barkham, Wokingham, RG40 4TS

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**Householder application for the proposed erection of boundary fences and access gates.**

Barkham Parish Council wish to view the site before a decision can be made on this application. The site will be visited and if any objections are found, a response will be drafted and agreed via delegated authority, and will be reported at the next meeting of the Council.

**232769** -Vine Ridge Farm, 17 Sandy Lane, Wokingham, RG41 4DD

**APPLICATION FOR WORKS TO PROTECTED TREE(S) TPO 339/1987, AREA 1**

**T1, Oak – Fell dead tree.**

Barkham Parish Council had no comments on this application.

1. **Approved and Refused Applications**

**230872** - Arborfield Green District Centre, Arborfield Green, Arborfield, Berkshire

**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 a mixed-use District Centre including 206 dwellings, commercial floorspace (Use Class E), a pre-school, public open space, pedestrianised high street, and a mixed-use community centre building including cafe, associated community facilities and day nursery. New vehicular, pedestrian and cycle accesses to be provided with associated internal roads, parking, landscaping, drainage, substations, plant, bin and cycle storage.**

This application was approved by WBC

**232144** - Doles Farm, Doles Lane, Barkham, Wokingham, RG41 4EA

**Full application for the proposed installation of 14 no. ground based solar PV panels following demolition of 2 no. existing outbuildings.**

This application was approved by WBC

**232132** -275 Barkham Road, Wokingham, RG41 4BY

**Householder application for the proposed erection of a single storey rear extension with 1 no. lantern rooflight following demolition of existing garage, plus changes to fenestration and alterations to landscaping including addition of hardstanding, removal of front steps and relocation of retaining wall in front garden**.

This application was approved by WBC

**231992** - Sparks Farm, Barkham Road, Arborfield, Wokingham, RG41 4TL

**Application for Listed Building Consent for the proposed replacement of 9no. windows and repair of 3no.(total 12) Windows to match existing.**

This application was approved by WBC

**230152** -Arborfield Garrison, & Adjoining Land, Arborfield, Reading, RG2 9NW

**Application for the approval of Reserved Matters pursuant to outline planning consent O/2014/2280 (dated 02/04/2015). The Reserved Matters comprise details of 135 dwellings within Parcel O2 (including both market and affordable housing) with access from Biggs Lane, associated internal access roads, parking, landscaping, open space, footpaths and drainage. Access, Appearance, Landscaping, Layout and Scale to be considered.**

This application was approved by WBC

**232244** -73 Bearwood Road, Barkham, Wokingham, RG41 4SX

**Householder application for the proposed wall mounted installation of an Air Source Heat Pump.**

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This application was approved by WBC

1. **Any Other Planning Business**

**Licensing Policy Consultation**

Council decided not to submit any comments on this consultation.

**Reading Transport Strategy Consultation**

Council decided not to submit any comments on this consultation.

A query was raised whether the recent announcement by central government that the cap on bus fares would be extended would have any effect on the CIL agreement with WBC, for BPC to fund the bus service for the next 3 years. The Clerk will make enquiries.

**3/135 Ward Councillor Report –** Council received a report from Cllr Ian Pittock.

The following report was given by Cllr Pittock at the meeting:

BARKHAM PARISH COUNCIL REPORT – 14 NOVEMBER 2023

1. Discussions have been held regarding the use of the WBC/Bohunt Sport Hall out of school hours. David Cornish and I met with the new head of Bohunt 2 weeks ago and we believe there is a re-set in the understanding of the access for residents. I am pressing WBC to announce an intention to provide access for residents and to work up plan for a phased opening for the main hall, climbing wall, 2 dance/exercise studios and 3 squash courts. There is much resistance from the current Executive Member.
2. A consultation has been published on polling stations due to the 18 new 3-member wards for WBC. In particular, this is an opportunity to change the polling station for those in the Arborfield Green area to the community centre so that most residents can walk to vote.

The Clerk will query this with WBC, as this has not been received by BPC.

1. The new draft Local Plan Update has been awaiting a revised national Planning Policy framework from Whitehall. This now expected in November or December. This will need to be assessed and changes incorporated in the new draft LPU. It is hoped that this will allow WBC to take into account the over pro vision of new houses in recent years so that fewer houses need to be built and included in the plan. The draft will be subject to a Task and Finish Group and Executive before full Council and then, if passed, onto the Planning Inspectorate. Full Council is unlikely to get this before March or possibly after the May elections.

Question – did not Cllr Pittock say that he felt it would more like March 2024 before the next draft of the LPU was available?

With the uncertainty over the timetable for delivering the next draft of the LPU and increased activity of developers proposing speculative housing projects across Barkham and on its boundaries, BPC agreed to request a follow up meeting with Lindsay Ferris to understand how he proposes to protect Barkham from these ‘pop-up’ planning applications.

9.30pm – Vote to continue – All agreed

1. A project board has been set up to manage all the new/revamped outdoor sports facilities at Arborfield Green as follows:
2. NEAP, LEAP, MUGA – locations need to be discussed;
3. Tennis courts – a new surface is to be laid. An organisation has been appointed to run the courts;

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1. Football/cricket pitches – to be re-seeded
2. New pavilion – s106 funds index linked (c £120k), deciding on what add-ons to include (eg solar panels, awning, electronic scoreboard) and seeking additional funding from other budgets;
3. Councillors giving steer on management model post first 18 months of operation;
4. Discussions being held with a range of sports groups, seeking to grow these locally.

The projections are currently over budget, and WBC are looking at funding streams, and BPC may be asked to contribute financially.

Cllr Pittcock confirmed that this initiative was separate to that discussed by Mr Prodger during the Public Participation session earlier.

Dead trees on the SDL have been reported to WBC and they will be replaced.

Mr Dexter had some queries from the last meeting report for Mr Pittock to answer. They were as follows:

1. Mr Pittock agreed to look into why BPC were frequently missed from Consultations, and why were they are always sent as a news release, has any progress been made?

Work on this is ongoing.

1. One of the conditions of the solar farm planning application was that a liaison group, including the parish council and residents, be formed before work began. Cllr Pittock was to expedite this arrangement, is there any update?

It is to be set up, and will cover the whole of the Rooks Nest proposals, no date has been agreed as yet and the action will be carried over.

1. Do you have any update on if there will be a review of the School Road ETRO? No feedback has been given to councillors. There will be a review some time next year and the action will be carried over.

Ian Pittock

WBC Councillor for Barkham

**23/136 Delegated Authority Report November 2023**

The below decisions were made under delegated authority between October and November 2023.

**Council operations**

**The Coombes Woodland Committee**

1. **The Coombes Woodland Committee Members**

As the purchase was nearing completion, the Council needed to agree to a Committee being formed, and to agree on Council Members to sit on the Committee.

Council agreed to the committee being formed with Arborfield Parish Council. The Committee is to consist of 2 Councillors from each Parish Council and can have 1 lay member per parish.

Mr Wrobel and Mr Barker volunteered to be on the committee for Barkham.

Barkham Parish Council agreed that the members for Barkham would be Mr Wrobel and Mr Barker

**This was agreed by majority of the Council**

1. **The Coombes Woodland Committee Terms of Reference**

To be able to operate, the Committee needed to have Terms of Reference (TORs), approved and adopted by both parish councils. The Clerk for Barkham Parish Council had drafted the TORs and sent out to for review and comments. The Final drafted document was then sent to Council for approval and adoption.

Council agreed to adopt the TORs.

**This decision was agreed by majority of the Council**

**Finance**

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**Site survey for CCTV for fly tipping issues**

A site survey was required to survey the area for suitability for CCTV to catch fly tipping. The cost is £450 and will be added to the final package bill.

**This decision was agreed by majority of the Council**

**Amendment to previously agreed sum for Coombes Purchase**

When the documents for The Coombes purchase were received, the Council received the completion statement, which included fees that hadn’t been included at the October meeting and so were not approved.

Council needed to agree to the new figure, so the instructions could be made to the bank.

Sum agreed at last council meeting was £354,619.50 for purchase and stamp duty.

The total figure for approval, for the purchase, stamp duty and land registry fees is £**354,868.60.**

**This was approved by majority of the full council.**

**23/137 Clerks Report -** Council received a report from the Clerk

**Change over to BT Phoneline and Broadband**

The change of supplier to BT is still in progress.

**Items ongoing**

**Communications**

No further update since the last meeting

**Items ongoing**

**Bus Shelter at Barkham Road / Barkham Ride roundabout**

The Clerk has responded to Barkham Manor Management Committee regarding their stipulations before full permission can be given. The Clerk is awaiting their final decision.

**Items ongoing**

**BVRA Magazine Merger**

BVRA have decided that they would not take the offer of a 2 issue trial of the merger, and have decided to keep their own publication and distribute it online only. BPC will retain and look at their own communications to residents.

**Item closed**

**Enforcement Issues**

Land by Coppid Hill House – No further update since the last meeting

The Coombes – No update received

**Items ongoing**

Land rear of 263 Barkham Road, Wokingham - RFS/2023/088783 – This item has been looked into, and has planning permission for storage of vehicles, so this item has been closed.

**Item closed**

**School Road / Langley Common Road Junction**

No further update since the last meeting

**Item Ongoing**

**Meeting with WBC Executive Officers**

The next meeting is scheduled to be held on …..

**Item ongoing**

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**Insight Strategy and Inclusion meeting with WBC**

No further update at this time.

**Item ongoing**

**District and Community Centres**

The planning application has been approved. WBC will set up a task and finish group for the final design of the Community Centre, which will include Councils, Crest, and other stakeholders.

**Item ongoing**

**Solar Farm**

No further update since the last meeting

**Item ongoing**

**California Country Park Improvement Scheme**

No further update since the last meeting.

**Item ongoing**

**BVRA/BPC Survey**

The CIL advisory committee need to meet to discuss the CIL projects suggested by the residents to see if they are feasible to take forward.

**Item ongoing**

**Treatment of the Bracken at The Junipers**

No further update since last meeting.

**Item ongoing**

**Purchase of Litter Bins**

This project is ongoing.

**Item ongoing**

**Closure of Langley Common Road Underpass**

No further update since the last meeting.

**Item ongoing**

**Closed Items:**

**Instalcom Appeal**

The decision from the Inspectorate has been received, and the enforcement notice has been upheld. Instalcom have 6 months from the date of the decision notice to comply with the enforcement items.

**Item closed**

**23/138 Finance**

1. **Accounts** – Proposal to agree accounts and payments for October to November 2023 LGA 1972 s150 (5)

|  |
| --- |
| Payments for October to November 2023 for authorisation at Council meeting on 14th November 2023 |
| S/O | Staff Wages | £1,484.63 | November 2023 salary – LGA 1972 s111 (NJC pay award agreed, amount includes back pay from April – October for NJC pay scale increase) |

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|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| DD | Nest | £161.60 | Pension Contribution Employer & Employee – November 2023 – LGA 1972 s111 (NJC pay award agreed, amount includes back pay for pension from April – October for NJC pay scale increase) |
| DD | Plusnet | £32.14 | Internet and phone charges – October 2023 LGA 1972 s111  |
| DD | BT | £34.42 | Internet and phone charges – October 2023 – LGA 1972 s111  |
| DD | Lloyds Bank (Credit Card) | £173.86 | Credit Card bill – September Payments – LGA 1972 s111£3.00 – monthly fee£5.88 – Microsoft – MS Office Subscription£64.99 – Battery for SID£99.99 – Norton 360 antivirus subscription |
| BACS | Wokingham Today | £240.00 | Deputy Clerk Job Advertisement LGA 1972 s111 |
| DD | Information Commissioners Office | £35.00 | ICO registration fee LGA 1972 s111 |

Council is asked to note that BT have charged for the service that we are not yet receiving, but have issued a credit note to come off our first bill.

1. **Report on Monies received**

£ 677,050.74 – WBC CIL Payment

1. **Savings Accounts**
	* 1. Council agreed to opening Public Sector Deposit Fund account with the CCLA.

Council considered how much money should be invested in the fund, and agreed that 30% of the amount in the current account should be invested as an initial investment.

* + 1. As approval was given to open the CCLA account, Council did not need to agree to money being moved from the Current Account to the Natwest and Nationwide savings accounts.
1. **Report of the independent remuneration panel**
	* 1. Council is asked to received and accepted the report issued by the independent remuneration panel.
		2. Council considered the report on parish councillor remuneration and RESOLVED that they would not pay any councillor allowances.
2. **Finance for The Coombes Woodland until March 2023**

Council agreed to a budget of £5000 to allow the Coombes Woodlands Committee to manage the Woodlands up to the end of the financial year.

1. **Commando Socket installation to connect VAS to Lamp Column** LGA 1972 s111

Council agreed to the installation of a commando socket to allow a SID to be connected to a lamp column on Barkham Road. The cost of the installation is £162.18.

1. **Grant funding requests**

Council considered and approved the following grants to be made the following grant applications for a grant payment:

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|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Payee:** | **Amount requested:** | **For:** | **Legal power that the grant comes under:** |
| Wokingham Job Support Centre | £400 | To advance the education and training of persons in the Wokingham Borough, who are unable to gain employment, through the supervised provision of services and facilities not otherwise provided by the state employment services. | Local Government Act 1972 s.137 |
|  The Link Visiting Scheme |  £1,050 | Our mission is to reduce chronic loneliness and social isolation, to promote friendship and improve the health, well-being, and independence of older residents living in Wokingham Borough.We celebrate and honour our senior citizens and offer a range of friendship services enabling them to establish new relationships, feel they can be an integral, important part of the community again. Given that our clients are older, vulnerable people, often with limited mobility, much of our work takes place in the home, in-person, via the telephone or videoconferencing. Our in-community services take place in central venues throughout the borough, including Barkham Parish. | Local Government Act 1972 s.137 |

Payments will be raised and authorised along with the expenditure for the month.

**23/125 Parish Office Operations**

* 1. **Finance Committee Representative**

Council elected a representative to the Finance Committee, after the resignation of a member of the Council in August.

Mr Heyliger proposed Mr Sheth to join the committee, which was seconded by Mr Dexter.

Vote all agreed.

Mr Sheth was duly elected onto the Finance Committee.

* 1. **Formation of a Recruitment Committee**

Council elected a recruitment committee for the purpose of recruiting a Deputy Clerk, which will be responsible for interviewing the prospective candidates and making recommendations to Council, but will not be a decision making committee.

Mr Dexter proposed Mrs Stubbs and Mr Barker be the members of the committee, which was seconded by Mr Heyliger.

Vote – All agreed.

Mrs Stubbs and Mr Barker were duly elected as the recruitment committee members.

* 1. **Biodiversity Policy**

Under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 there is a duty on public authorities in England to have regard to conserving biodiversity as part of their policy or decision making. Conserving biodiversity can include restoring or enhancing a population or habitat.

Council agreed to drafting and adopting a policy for conserving biodiversity as part of their operating procedures. This will be drafted and adopted as soon as possible.

**23/139 Councillor Forum**

None

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**23/140 Exclusion of public and press** Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 S1 (2)

Council agreed that, in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, the meeting was closed to the public. The residents in attendance left the meeting and the part 2 discussions began.

Part 1 of the meeting closed at 9.50pm

**Part 2**

**23/141 Minutes of previous part 2 meeting**

**23/142 The Coombes**