

BARKHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of meeting of the Barkham Parish Council held on 14th March 2017
in Barkham Village Hall at 8.00 p.m.

Present: Mrs P. Stubbs (in the Chair), Mr F. A. Scott, Mr L. Heath, Mr. D. Oxbrough,
Mr. C. Heyliger, Mr R. Rowe, Mr A. Crook, Mr J. Kaiser (Borough Councillor) and the Clerk.

Apologies: Mr K. Lane (on holiday), Mr G. Dexter (on holiday), Dr. R. Loader (unwell)

Presentation from Paul Miller from WBC regarding the proposed plans for Barkham Bridge.

Mr Miller gave BPC a very informative explanation regarding the plans for Barkham Bridge, the design process will shortly commence and will take 3 months. The plan is to build on the south side, a completely new 2 lane bridge, this can be completed without any disruption to the traffic and the existing bridge will remain and be used as a pedestrian/cycle route. The pill box will not be disturbed. Discussions are now underway with the land owners to purchase a strip of land to build the bridge. The new bridge will link back into the road with a smooth transition and minimal disruption. The lighting will be improved at the same time, and the junction at The Bull will be reviewed in order that the bottle neck is not shunted into a different location. Ecological surveys are currently underway. By June a more detailed plan should be available to view. Mrs Stubbs thanked Mr Miller for explaining the proposals to BPC.

Declarations of Interests

None

17/682 **Minutes** of meeting held on 14th February 2017 were approved and signed as a true record.

17/683 Planning

The application that was referred to the full Council was:-

| | | |
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| 162120 | 1A Bearwood Road | Approved |
| | Householder application for proposed erection of two storey front extension and two storey extension to dwelling plus new driveway access from Barkham Road. | |

Clerk contacted the case officer Stephen Thwaites regarding this application. BPC had requested that this application was listed for determination at the Planning Committee. This has not been done, Mr Kaiser has copies of the emails sent to WBC requesting the listing which have been acknowledged by the planning officer. Clerk to write to the planning officer (copy to Clare Lawrence (head of planning) and John Kaiser) bringing this to their attention and requesting what action is now to be taken. It would appear from WBC that several revised proposals from the applicant had been submitted, none of which had been sent to the Parish Council, the final scheme with two storey side and front extensions was considered acceptable, although not ideal from a design point of view, it was felt that a refusal could not be justified. The WBC Highways Officer had no objection to the proposed access from Barkham Road on highway safety grounds, but details of the access including visibility splays will have to be submitted before commencement. Clerk to write to Highways stating that it is total madness to agree to this access from Barkham Road, the visibility approaching the brow of the hill is extremely poor, the property will have two entrances from two different roads.

17/684 Highways

A meeting took place on 15th February at WBC with Matt Gould (Traffic Service Manger), Mike Horton (Senior Engineer) and Tony Humphries (TVP Traffic Management) to discuss the speed limits in the roads around Barkham. A summary of the meeting was compiled by Mr Dexter:-

Barkham Road.

- 30mph speed limit is indicated by the presence of street lights (Highway Code).
- Extends to 246m NE of School Road junction.
- Repeater signs are not recommended/required under such circumstances (as much a cost issue as anything else).

- WBC agreed to replace existing signs advising of 'new speed limit' to advise 'new 30 mph speed limit'.

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- Next traffic survey due Jun 2017.

Clerk to write to Matt Gould stating that nothing has been done since our meeting and the new 30 mph speed limit signs need to be actioned.

Langley Common Road.

- TVP advised that practice is to agree to changes in speed limits once it can be demonstrated that average speed can be managed down towards the speed limit (+10% +2mph). Why they can't just to drop the limit and enforce hard
- was not clear – just not how it is done!
- Only two out of five zones in Langley Common Road meet this criteria so an overall reduction to 30 mph along the road is not possible.
- WBC are committed to managing traffic speed (new signs, changing the character of the road, speed checks etc) in the other zones to allow such a reduction, possibly, within one year. WBC to advise action plan.
- Junction with school road is badly designed and should be re-structured. Expensive and is a resource issue. WBC will look to see if any low cost solutions could help.

Bearwood Road.

- Subject to final survey, WBC are committed to extending the 30mph back to Sandy/Coombes Lane.
- BPC requested that this be taken back to the Gateway Sign. Will be considered as part of above survey.

School Road

- Point was made that the speed limit within the chicanes was enforceable. More comfortable schemes seen at other schools are only advisable.

Barkham Street

- Similar situation re needing to manage average speeds down before changing the speed limit as discussed for Langley Common Road.
- WBC agreed to conduct survey to see how this could be done.
- Agreed to looking at cutting back hedge hard to improve site line on exiting Church Lane.
- WBC agreed to look at examples where the narrow pavement is being encroached upon (weather boarded shed and Rosemary/Little Bourne Cottages).

Byway 18, Proposed prohibition of driving

- Highly desirable to prevent this stretch being used as 'racing track' for quad bikes etc.
- Any change made now can be reversed if future events warrant this.
- BPC agreed not to object when the formal proposal is put forward but they can still comment accordingly.

Community Speed Watch vs BPC acting alone

- TVP confirmed during the meeting, after an e-mail exchange, that SIDs operated by non-police personnel can result in police letter being sent to miscreants provided operators are fully trained by the police.
- Tony Humphreys will review with Alastair Lloyd,

Pavements in Barkham Street and Bearwood Road.

- WBC were waiting for BPC to confirm they still wished these projects to be progressed. This was done.
- It was explained that the Barkham Street project had to be designed to accommodate existing drainage rather than inflating costs to improve drainage. Estimate £67k
- WBC will need to identify the additional funds for the Barkham Street project and advise timing.
- WBC will develop the Bearwood project and identify how it will be funded.

Drains

- The problem with drains leading from the top of the hill on Barkham Road to The Bull and in Barkham Ride were highlighted.
- The problem caused by mud on the roads was also drawn to the attention of WBC.

- WBC will review and advise.

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The drains from Coppid Hill down to Barkham Brook still have not been emptied. Despite sending requests every month to WBC and receiving assurances that the job will be done, no action seems to be taken. The gutters all need sweeping as they are full of mud, in some places small trees have rooted. Eddie Napper at WBC assured us that a works order had been issued for the drains to be cleared in the next 7 days, this still has not materialised. Clerk to again chase WBC and Mr Kaiser will also investigate what the problem is. There is a lot of mud on the pavement around the area of the bus stop at Coppid Hill (Edneys Hill side of the road), this has now become very slippery and requires sweeping.

The trees have been cut down at the new entrance on Langley Common Road for the film studios, sadly this now looks a complete mess as the trees have only been chopped down within a foot of the ground rather than being removed and will soon grow back.

Footpaths

The two new footpaths, the Coombes circular walk and Barkham Way (walk to Rooks Nest Wood) are both on the web site and in the BVRA magazine. Mr Heath and Mr Oxbrough have met with Rebecca Walkley of Countryside Services and agreed to purchase way markers, cost to be split 50/50. The outdoor maps will be produced during the summer. The new map of Barkham is now on the web site, all agreed this was much improved.

17/685 Litter

The Parish Clean Up will be Sunday 2nd April. Posters to be put up and the signs displayed through the village alerting residents of the event. A large full page poster is in the BVRA magazine. Clerk has asked Sam Hosgood if we can borrow the trailer. Also support has been requested from PCSO's in order that roads that have no pavements can be safely litter picked. Marion Heath and Amanda Dexter will cook the bacon rolls and serve the tea and coffee. Provisions to be supplied by the Clerk.

The household fire is still in the layby in Commonfield Lane, Clerk to request that it is collected.

17/686 Finance

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| HMRC – N.I. for Jan, Feb & March | 215 | £62.34 |
| Arborfield Parish Council – 50% of Neighbourhood Plans costs | 216 | £393.66 (£370.55 exc VAT) |
| J. Neuhofer – expenses for 1.4.16 – 31.3.17 (Postage £87.68 + £48.53 expenses) | 217 | £136.21 |

Standing Order for Clerk's salary for March

£736.60

Standing Order to Royal Bor. Windsor – Pension Fund for Clerk
for month of March (Employee & employer contribution)

£182.62

17/687 To Discuss the Installation of the Defibrillator at the Post Office – Mr Oxbrough

The defibrillator at the Post Office was fitted on Monday 13th March in the evening. Mr Rowe has kindly offered to be the contact. It now needs to be registered with the ambulance service before we can put the unit in the cabinet (takes about one week).

17/688 To Discuss the Parish Office at the Community Centre

Keypads still need to be fitted to the doors of the new office, Mr Heyliger will arrange for this to be done. Sue Johnson the current caretaker will be leaving the Centre at the end of March, it is unclear who will take over the running, possibly Crest but somebody is required to deal with the general running of the Centre and taking any bookings. Steve Carey has promised to sort out a phone and internet for the office. Additional copies of the BVRA News will be available for any new residents to pick up, as to date 45 dwellings are now occupied.

17/689 To Discuss the future working with Thames Valley Police – Comments from Mr Dexter

- Buying into the Community Speed Watch programme for only £200 will get us started and keep us alongside Community Policing regardless of whether or not BPC decide to purchase their own equipment. The real value of this will only be apparent once it is known how many other parishes buy into the programme – hence confirming the actual cost, when and how frequently we can expect to see manned SIDs on the streets of Barkham.

- TVP have confirmed that the police will send out letters to speeding motorists if the information is collected by trained non-police personnel using their own SID, as in Finchampstead. This message has yet to be

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- spread across the police force! This is now a real option and we have to determine what the required training entails how we set up the channels to the police. We also need willing volunteers – Mr Dexter is on the list and John Kaiser has put his forward as well.
- Mr Dexter noted from discussions with Matt Gould that WBC rely on ‘the squashy rubber cables’ to gain evidence in support of speed reducing initiatives. This can also be augmented by SID collected data. At the meeting, Matt agreed to instigate the required studies at a number of speeding hotspots in Barkham and we need to progress these.

Clerk to write to Inspector Lloyd asking how many Parishes have now signed up for the scheme? Also what happens if less than 17 Parishes commit, do the ones that have paid £200 have to pay more to purchase the equipment? Councillors were keen to pursue this, possibly ask Finchampstead PC if a couple of councillors could attend a session when their equipment is in use in order to see how effective it is. Mr Heyliger, Mr Rowe, Mr Dexter and Mrs Stubbs are all keen to attend the training.

17/670 **Local Plan Update** – Mr Heath

The Marino development land now has outline planning with Reserved Matters still to come.

17/671 **Neighbourhood Plan** – Mr Heath

The survey results are now available on the Barkham/Arborfield website. Focus groups all running to plan. It has been decided to employ a professional to undertake some consultancy work to look at the housing.

17/672 **To receive the BALC report** – Dr Loader

No report was received.

17/673 **Borough Councillor's Report** – Mr Kaiser

Mr Kaiser outlined ongoing problems at WBC, the 5 year land supply is being challenged, currently WBC is committed to build 856 dwellings p.a. the Inspector could increase this by 14%, WBC are now examining the figures but it will be difficult to defend as the neighbouring Boroughs put pressure on WBC. Adult Social Care continues to be a growing problem with an aging population, Optalis Company has been created by WBC to handle this, the aim is to work alongside Windsor Council to give greater purchasing power, this will continue to be a major drain on finances. The Council Tax is set to increase by 2% + a further 3% which is ring fenced for adult social care. In the next 4 years WBC will be in a position of having a negative grant from Central Government, clearly this an area of grave concern. The cost of emptying the bins will be up for negotiation, the current contractor is running at a loss, WBC is still the only Borough to have weekly collections, whether this will continue will have to be seen. Recycling needs to increase with the possibility of introducing food waste. Mr Kaiser concluded by announcing that he will be standing Deputy Mayor to support Rob Stanton as Mayor.

10.00 p.m. All agreed to continue.

17/674 **Correspondence**

- a. Wokingham Town Council – Allotments. The system previously in place was that Barkham residents went on a separate list at WTC and then if their list had no one on it then they would take names from the other list, in reality this did not work. It is now suggested that everyone is on the same list. BPC currently have 10 names on a list, Clerk to find out if these people still want an allotment.
- b. WBC – the next Borough Liaison Forum will be held on 3rd April. Suggested items for the agenda are drains/gutter and path sweeping, revised plans are not being sent to the Parishes and enforcement is required at the level crossing as motorists are consistently disobeying the traffic signs and turning right into Oxford Road when coming from Station Road. Two further examples of misbehaviour: traffic turning left from Wellington Road into Barkham Road, and traffic going forward from Barkham Road into Station Road against the traffic flow.

Meeting closed at 10.15 p.m.

Next meeting of full Council will be held on 11th April at 8.30 p.m.

The Parish Assembly will be held 7.30 – 8.30 p.m. Planning will be held 7.00 – 7.30 p.m.

Next meeting of Planning Committee will be held on 28th March 2017 at 7.30 p.m.