

## **BARKHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

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**Minutes** of meeting of the Barkham Parish Council held on 11<sup>th</sup> April 2017  
in Barkham Village Hall at 8.30 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 G. Dexter and the Clerk.

**Apologies:** Dr. R. Loader (ill), Mr K. Lane (ill), Mr A. Crook and Mr J. Kaiser (Borough Councillor) on holiday

### **Declarations of Interests**

None

17/688 **Minutes** of meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> March were approved and signed as a true record.

### **17/689 Planning**

There were no urgent planning matters that required referral to the full Council.

### **17/690 Highways**

#### **Drains**

Eddie Napper from WBC has now reported that the gullies from Coppid Hill down to Barkham Brook in Barkham Road have been visited and cleared. Those that could not be cleared have been marked up with either JL(Jammed Lid) or B/BL if the outlet is blocked and requires excavation. As previously mentioned he will need to check with the Streetworks team when they can attend to these as they will require traffic lights and SGN are still working on Barkham Road with 4 way traffic lights. He will also inform the relevant water board that the leak is back in the verge near the metal gate and that there is also a missing valve cover in the footway heading down towards the bridge. Mr Oxbrough expressed his exasperation with WBC and their contractors who clearly do not carry out the required works. Twice we were promised that works would be completed within 7 days and on neither occasion did this happen. The gutters have not been swept in two months despite constant reminders to WBC who seem incapable of checking that work is carried out to a reasonable standard. Mr Oxbrough concluded by stating that probably the majority of the drains within Wokingham Borough are all blocked with debris and it was false economy to let the maintenance of such basic things slide as this undoubtedly come back to bite them when a huge expenditure will be incurred.

#### **Footpaths**

Mr Oxbrough has now ordered signs and posts in order to clearly way mark the two new footpaths in Barkham. He will organise a working party to erect the posts and signs. Once the work has been completed BPC will organise a publicity drive and a photographer. Maps to be installed in key places such as Rooks Nest Wood Car Park and The Coombes.

Mr Oxbrough also advised BPC that a new guardian of The Coombes has taken over from Keith French, Alistair Noble is a young man who is keen to maintain The Coombes and redirect people on to the designated paths and repair areas that have become wet and muddy with hard core. All agreed that this will be a huge improvement.

The area of land adjacent to Langley House has been cleared of trees to make way for the new entrance, unfortunately the trees have not been dug up, only cut off and will soon regrow. Clerk to write to Crest and ask that the area is cleared properly. Also the pond has become very neglected and it would be advantageous if this could be tidied up and maintained.

### **17/691 Litter**

Another very successful litter pick was held on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> April, a lovely warm and sunny day encouraged residents to come and help. 34 helpers picked up 32 bags of recycling (cans and bottles) and 43 sacks of general waste, 4 tyres, 1 wheel, 1 electric fire and numerous hub caps. Thank you to Marion Heath and Amanda Dexter for providing the tasty bacon rolls, teas, coffees etc. to the returning volunteers. It was suggested that the signs should in future state the date and the venue rather than the phone number as this is the information required by residents. Mr Oxbrough will adjust this next year.

**17/692 Finance**

WEL Medical Ltd – purchase of defibrillator at Post Office	212	£1639.44 (£1366.20 exc VAT)
G. Stevens Electrical Services – defibrillator installation at Post Office	218	£216.00 (£180.00 exc VAT)
D. Oxbrough – charge to replace dates on litter pick boards	219	£30.00 (£25.00 exc VAT)
J. Neuhofer – Staples purchase of ink cartridges	220	£100.98 (£84.15 exc VAT)
Oxfordshire County Council – TVERC Data Search N. Plan	221	£276.00 (£230.00 exc VAT)
D. Oxbrough – purchase of footpath signs	222	£973.20 (£811.00 exc VAT)

This cost to be split 50/50 with WBC, Clerk to submit an invoice to WBC for £405.50

Standing Order for Clerk's salary for April	£736.60
Standing Order to Royal Bor. Windsor – Pension Fund for Clerk for month of April (Employee & employer contribution)	£182.62

The standing order in favour of the Berkshire Pension Fund has been increased to £197.41 due to the increased contribution that BPC has to pay now being to 20.4% increased from 18.7%.

The Clerk to pay £41.92 at 5.5% and BPC to pay £155.49 at 20.4. %. Total £197.41.

The standing order in favour of J. Neuhofer to be increased to £742.80 due to a pay increase to £12.564 per hour SCP 27. Also an increase in employees and employers National Insurance contributions. Clerk to pay £10.82 and BPC to pay £11.90 per month with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> May 2017.

The Clerk reported that she has now prepared the end of year accounts and Claire Connell will be auditing them on 27<sup>th</sup> April. The subject of the Standing Orders still needs addressing, Mr Scott will now prioritise this.

**17/693 To Discuss the Defibrillator at the Post Office – Mr Oxbrough**

The defibrillator is now fully installed at the Post Office and Mr Rowe has volunteered to be guardian and will ensure that that it can accessed if need be. An article to be placed in the next edition of the BVRA magazine. Training sessions can be arranged for residents if sufficient people request training.

10.00 p.m. All agreed to continue the meeting.

**17/694 To Discuss the Parish Office at the Community Centre**

BPC have now been offered the use of the old welfare office at the Community Centre. This is a far superior office and comes with a photo copier and large desk. Mr Lane has kindly donated some office chairs. A keypad is required to be fitted to the door, Mr Heyliger to organise this. The Community Centre is still currently under the control of the MOD but will shortly pass to Crest who will take over the running of it, until this happens BPC cannot move into the office.

**Welcome Map**

Mr Lane circulated two copies of the Welcome Map, one featured a front cover showing a photograph of The Bull and the other a photo of the moat at Church Cottage. All agreed that the photo of The Bull was delightful but not really appropriate and the other rather bland. It was suggested that a photo of the bluebells in The Coombes would be more striking. Also numerous other suggestions and spelling errors were pointed out. Mr Dexter to liaise with Mr Lane. All agreed that Emma had done a wonderful job of producing the map and once these minor details are ironed out then it will be ready to go to print.

**17/695 To Discuss the future working with Thames Valley Police – Mr Dexter**

Inspector Alastair Lloyd has now advised that through contributions and a grant from the Community Safety Partnership they have been able to purchase equipment to be used by the Community Speed Watch Scheme.

Microwave Technology

- \* Portable Speed Indicator
- \* Easy to Use
- \* Sled or Pole Mount
- \* Low Power
- \* Smiley Face
- \* Simple Operation
- \* Immediate Impact

- \* Advance SID - Which can be roadside pole or tri-pod mounted.

This SID is extremely versatile and can be deployed in minutes, coming complete with 10 day interchangeable battery and anti-theft bracket, ready to deploy unit. This Speed Indicator Device is not just static display It has several unique features that give users greater flexibility and a better understanding of how to maximise its use as a road safety tool.

- \* Community Speed Watch Kit:

This is a non-confrontational piece of equipment made up of 1 x Speed Detection Radar (SDR) 1 x Bluetooth Handheld Computer.

This gives a significant pool of equipment that can be used by the scheme to deal with speeding problems in the area. They intend to hold a meeting on Wednesday 26th April for prospective volunteers to come along and get a better understanding of how the scheme will be run and how they can be a part of it. They will need volunteers to assist in using the equipment at the road side and to help with the administration of the scheme at the police station. Inspector Lloyd requests for any volunteers who would be interested in being part of the Community Speed Watch event to be held at Wokingham Fire Station, Easthampstead Road, Wokingham. Mrs Stubbs, Mr Rowe and Mr Heyliger to attend. Clerk to reply to Inspector Lloyd asking out how often the equipment would be used in Barkham and for how long in each location. Also to check that it is not a requirement of subscribing to the scheme in order to attend the training.

#### 17/696 **Local Plan Update** – Mr Heath

Mr Heath reported that he had attended the Liaison Group Meeting. Sheerlands Road is now closed permanently and a new route will open via the Nine Mile Ride extension at the end of May. It is proposed to start work on a new roundabout at the junction of Langley Common Road and Biggs Lane later this year, preparation works have already commenced with the removal of some trees. Work will soon commence on Parcel U2 on the opposite side of the lake. The Parcel of land opposite the proposed new District Centre will be a high density development and is being sold on to an investment company who will manage the building when completed. Crest are now planning another community activity, this to be a summer fete in conjunction with Bohunt School, BPC to be involved too with a stall to promote the Parish Council and the Neighbourhood Plan. Rebecca Eytley is the organiser.

Mr Heath also reported that the list of Preferred Sites was likely to be published in June, this too has been badly organised as WBC should have come back to the Parish Councils first before making the information public knowledge.

#### 17/697 **Neighbourhood Plan** – Mr Heath

Mr Heath reported that he is now in receipt of a briefing note from consultants employed to look at housing needs. This is most interesting as it appears that the people in the age bracket 20 – 40 tend to move away. Tim Parry from CCB is putting together a DIY package to assist Parish Councils to determine housing needs in the future.

#### 17/698 **To receive the BALC report** – Dr Loader

No report was received.

#### 17/699 **Borough Councillor's Report** – Mr Kaiser

No report was received.

#### 17/700 **Correspondence**

None

#### 17/701 **Councillors Forum**

Clerk to invite the Headmaster of Bohunt School to attend the next meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> May.

Meeting closed at 11.00 p.m.

Next meeting of full Council will be held on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2017 at 8.00 p.m.

Next meeting of Planning Committee will be held on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2017 at 7.30 p.m.