

BARKHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of meeting of the Barkham Parish Council held on 13th June 2017
in Barkham Village Hall at 8.00 p.m.

Present: Mrs P. Stubbs (in the Chair), Mr F. A. Scott, Dr. R. Loader, Mr L. Heath, Mr. C. Heyliger, Mr K. Lane, Mr R. Rowe, Mr G. Dexter, Mr J. Kaiser (Borough Councillor) and the Clerk.

Apologies: Mr. D. Oxbrough (on holiday) and Mr A. Crook (work commitments)

Declarations of Interests

None

17/722 **Minutes** of meeting held on 9th May 2017 were approved and signed as a true record.

17/723 Planning

No urgent planning matters were referred to the full Council.

17/724 Highways

Notification received from WBC that they have deployed some rubber tube speed surveys on Barkham Road and Langley Common Road to repeat the survey locations from last year. Unfortunately they cannot deploy to Bearwood Road at present, to help with the assessment of extending the 30mph speed limit further north, as there are gas mains replacement works and these are having a severe impact on traffic flow, and hence speed.

Location of Traffic Surveys

1. Barkham Street just before Church Lane (coming from The Bull)
2. Barkham Road just before the Cala Home turning (coming from The Bull)
3. Bearwood Road before Highland Road (coming from the Bull)
4. School Road just past Wood Lane (coming from The Bull)
5. Langley Common Road past School Road (coming from the Bull)

Clerk to write to Matt Gould reminding him of the follow up meeting with BPC, originally early July was suggested depending on the results of the above traffic surveys being analysed.

Footpaths

Mr Rowe conducted a search at the Land Registry regarding the access to the footpath BA7 which has its entrance off Barkham Street alongside the property known as The White House. It is thought that over the years the various owners of the property have gradually encroached upon the land between the boundary of their front garden and the footpath and incorporated it into their garden. This accords with the recollection of older residents in the parish that there was a stile and five-bar gate between the garden boundary and the Barkham Square boundary. The search from the Land Registry (March 1966) unfortunately shows little detail for the access width other than good clearance from the south fence of the property. Clerk to send a copy to Countryside Services showing the width to be substantially wider and request that this is put back to how it is showed on the map.

The hedge at Barkham Bridge again requires cutting back as it is obscuring the sight line.

The footpath from Edneys Hill to Barkham Church is very overgrown, Clerk to write to Countryside Services to request it is cut back.

The Circular Walk through The Coombes requires clearer signage at the junctions near Wysipig Farm Shop. Additional signs will be added here, but new posts are awaited from WBC. This area is in Arborfield so Arborfield Parish Council may be asked to contribute a small sum towards the cost.

17/725 Litter

There were no areas of litter that required clearance.

17/726 Finance

Barkham PCC – grant	232	£1500.00
Barkham Village Hall – grant	233	£3500.00
The Coombes C of E School – grant	234	£300.00
Relate – grant	235	£400.00

BVRA – grant	236	£700.00
Wokingham Job Support Agency – grant	237	£400.00
Keep Mobile – grant	238	£432.00
WBC – purchase of 3 “Welcome To Barkham” signs	239	£1665.39
HMRC – N.I. for April, May, June (£22.72 x 3 = £68.16)	240	£68.16
R. Rowe – Land Registry Search Fee	241	£3.00
C. Heyliger – purchase of flyers from Solopress	242	£27.00
BALC – purchase of book Local Councils Explained	243	£19.99
BALC – annual subs + NALC Levy 2017 – 2018	244	£791.74 (£659.79 exc VAT)
Emma Holland – Welcome Map	245	£555.00
Standing Order for Clerk’s salary for June		£742.80
Standing Order to Royal Bor. Windsor – Pension Fund for Clerk for month of June (Employee & employer contribution)		£197.41

The sum of £405.50 has been received from WBC, this represents 50% of the cost for the signage for the two walks around Barkham.

17/727 To Appoint an Additional Member to the Finance Committee

The Finance Committee consists of Mrs Stubbs, Dr Loader and Mr Rowe. The Standing Orders state that the Finance Committee should consist of four members with a quorum of three. Clerk to ask Mr Crook if he would like to be on this committee as currently he does not have a specified post, if not Mr Heyliger will take the position up.

17/728 To Formally Adopt the Standing Orders for Barkham Parish Council

All agreed to adopt the Standing Orders, subject to editing in indication of which items were restatements of the legal framework within which parish councils operate (and thus not capable of being modified or excluded) together with references to the relevant legislation.

17/729 To Discuss the Parish Office at the Community Centre

The Community Centre has still not been signed over to Crest from the MOD, it is hoped that this will be imminent. Maggie Newman who is the coordinator is currently on leave but when back will sort out the phone line. Mr Rowe offered to sort out the technology plus the Broadband. The Centre is already being used for Neighbourhood Plan meetings and it is the intention to use it for the BPC Planning Meetings scheduled for the 4th week of each month, commencing on 28th June. Mr Kaiser to hold a monthly surgery. Mrs Stubbs and Mr Dexter have keys for the outside door. The code for the office door was given to councillors and the Clerk.

17/730 To Discuss the future working with Thames Valley Police

No further developments regarding the SID, Clerk to write to Inspector Lloyd asking for an update. Those who attended the training session submitted their names for vetting, nothing has been heard since.

17/731 Local Plan Update – Mr Heath

Mr Heath reported that he had a meeting with Ian Bellinger at WBC who informed him that the suggested sites for future development will be discussed with the Parish Councils. Traffic modelling is currently being carried out.

17/732 Neighbourhood Plan – Mr Heath

Mr Heath reported that the draft plan is progressing well. In discussion with WBC about the Neighbourhood Plan, a revised format was recommended. A further consultation event is planned for September, this to be held at the Community Centre and will be preceded by a leaflet drop. Meetings of the Neighbourhood Plan are now being held in the Community Centre which is proving to be very successful and comfortable.

17/733 To receive the BALC report – Dr Loader

Dr Loader reported that the move to the new office at Wyvols Court, Swallowfield had gone very well with BALC now free of the CCB. Mrs Kirk is delivering an excellent advice service to Councils.

17/734 Borough Councillor's Report – Mr Kaiser

Mr Kaiser expressed his displeasure at the CALA Homes Appeal, WBC seemed to be unable to defend their 5 year land supply. The Appeal to continue with Mrs Stubbs to speak.

He also explained that WBC had £850,000 of S106 monies to be utilised for medical services at Arborfield Green, the CCG (Clinical Commissioning Group) have at present not shown any interest in providing a new doctors surgery but would prefer to add to the existing facilities at Finchampstead and Swallowfield, clearly this is not ideal.

The Arborfield Relief Road and Barkham Bridge are both live projects with work being undertaken towards their future construction. The Shinfield Relief Road still has problems with water seeping through the road surface in areas. This road is being paid for by the University and not WBC.

Possible gravel extraction at Arborfield has residents of Arborfield and Shinfield expressing their opposition in the strongest way possible, the outcome is awaited.

17/735 Correspondence

- a. Berkshire Vision – invitation to AGM to be held on Friday 29th September at Green Park Conference Centre, Reading. No one wished to attend.
- b. Thames Valley Police – Shinfield and Swallowfield NAG are holding an evening of presentations at Shinfield Parish Hall on 5th July, to include WBC Street Naming, Cleaner & Greener Team, Community Wardens and Thames Valley Police. Mrs Stubbs to attend.
- c. J. Neuhofer – the Clerk has formally given notice that she will retire in May 2018, a period of transition to be implemented.

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

17/736 Councillors Forum

Welcome Map

Mr Lane circulated a copy of the Welcome Map with a new front cover, all agreed this was a huge improvement. The map now requires proof reading, the weight of paper to be agreed in order that it can be easily folded and delivered. The maps can be displayed in the Marketing Suite by Crest, suitable Perspex display stands to be sought, Mr Lane to liaise with Steve Carey. It was agreed not to ask Crest for funding.

Planning Consultant

Mr Heyliger aired the possible idea of using a planning consultant. Robin Bradbeer had proved very useful for the Coppid Hill Appeal and it was suggested that he be asked if he would be interested in being paid a small retainer fee to give BPC advice on contentious planning issues and appeals. Mr Heyliger and Mr Dexter to meet with him next time he is in Wokingham. A trial of 6 months was suggested. His expertise would be beneficial in pointing BPC in the right direction to fight any complex applications.

Campaign for Protection of Rural England

Mr Dexter stated that a letter will be sent to the Chairman of the Wokingham Branch to introduce our work on the Neighbourhood Plan and to suggest a meeting to see if CPRE can help in any way.

A Community event is being organised for Saturday 22nd July 12.00 – 3.00 p.m. at the cricket green, bring a picnic plus BBQ, sports coaching and family games.

Meeting closed at 10.30 p.m.

Next meeting of full Council will be held on 11th July 2017 at 8.00 p.m.

Next meeting of Planning Committee will be held on Wednesday 28th June 2017 at 7.30 p.m. at Barkham Village Hall.