

BARKHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of meeting of the Barkham Parish Council held on 11th July 2017
in Barkham Village Hall at 8.00 p.m.

Present: Mrs P. Stubbs (in the Chair), Dr. R. Loader, Mr L. Heath, Mr. D. Oxbrough, Mr K. Lane, Mr R. Rowe, Mr G. Dexter, Mr A. Crook, Mr J. Kaiser (Borough Councillor) and the Clerk.
Mrs Stubbs was attending a meeting at WBC and arrived at 9.40 p.m., the meeting was chaired by Mr Heath until her arrival.

Apologies: Mr. C. Heyliger (on holiday) and Mr F. A. Scott (unwell)

Declarations of Interests

None

17/741 **Minutes** of meeting held on 13th June 2017 were approved and signed as a true record.

17/742 Planning

Councillor David Lee will meet with the Parish Council on Wednesday 19th July at 7.00 p.m. Venue to be confirmed either Barkham Village Hall or the Community Centre. Questions to be sent to David Lee before the meeting in order that he can be prepared.

17/743 Highways

Notification received from WBC that speed limits are to be revised, it is planned to lower the speed limits through Barkham and Finchampstead on the approach roads to Bohunt School. There are also planned improvements to the footway along Nine Mile Ride and Park Lane including the implementation of a new puffin crossing near the Park Lane/Hogwood Lane junction.

Nine Mile Ride – reducing the existing 40mph speed limit to 30mph from the existing 30mph limit at a point 15 meters west of its junction with Warren Lane to its junction with Park Lane.

Park Lane – reducing the existing 60mph limit to 30mph from the point 100 metres south of its junction with Nine Mile Ride to a point 175 metres north of its junction with Hogwood Lane. All in favour of the reduced speed limit on Park Lane but felt that it would be more sensible to reduce the speed limit to 30 mph for the entirety of Park Lane rather than a small section. In fact the section that it is proposed to leave at 60 mph is around the sharp bend in the road where often people are crossing the road to access the country park.

The follow up meeting with Matthew Gould will be held mid August in order that the results of the speed surveys can be analysed. Not all the surveys have been completed yet. Bearwood Road has been on hold until the completion of the works by the gas company (late July) and WBC are yet to receive all the data from the other sites. It was suggested that a date be obtained for mid August.

SGN have informed residents of Langley Common Road that they will be starting work in Langley Common Road to replace old metal gas mains with new, durable plastic pipe and that this work will begin between 31/07/17 and 09/08/17 and should be finished in approximately 7 weeks. The leaflet advises that "Sometimes we need to use temporary traffic lights, divert local bus routes, or close a road to keep the public and our engineers safe while we're working." The Wokingham Paper reports that WBC will be working from Saturday 22 July to Sunday 3 September on pavement works in Nine Mile Ride. Park Lane will be closed from Commonfield Lane to the A327, and Nine Mile Ride will be closed between Park Lane and Finchampstead Road. Diversions will be along Biggs Lane and Langley Common Road and other roads. The report said that a public notice in a Bracknell publication stated that "The reason for these prohibitions is to enable Wokingham Borough Council contractors to undertake footway improvements and associated work in safety". These two projects being undertaken at the same time will, as we have seen from the gas main installation in Barkham Road, cause serious congestion in Langley Common Road, which is an unclassified road. WBC appear not to have considered the safety of residents in, or users of, Langley Common Road in allowing these two projects to overlap in this way. Clerk to write to WBC asking why the two projects are being undertaken at the same time. There appears to be no communication or co operation between WBC and SGN. Copies of letter to Charlotte Haitham Taylor (Leader of the Council) and Chris Bowring (elected member for Evendons Ward).

Welcome To Barkham Signs

The additional signs have now been erected in Barkham Ride and Langley Common Road. Unfortunately the one in Barkham Ride has been placed on the wrong side of the entrance into Rooks Nest Wood and is pointing in the wrong direction. Clerk to request WBC to move it. The sign in Langley Common Road is correct.

17/744 Litter

Coombes Lane, by the entrance to the Pony Field a large wooden crate and tyre have been dumped. Clerk to request their removal.

17/745 To Discuss the Provision of Allotments in Barkham

Mr Dexter and Mr Oxbrough attended a meeting with other neighbouring Parish Councils and Andy Glencross from WBC. Mr Oxbrough outlined the content of the meeting. Initially the allotments will be for the benefit of the SDL residents, Crest will set them up with the provision of fences, water and a carpark. The allotments will need to be run by someone and hence the meeting with WBC. Swallowfield and Finchampstead Parish Councils are not interested as they already have their own allotments, Arborfield Parish Council do have a list of interested residents but showed minimal interest in taking on the running of them. If no Parish Council steps forward then the Community Interest Company (CIC) will take it on. Andy Glencross did explain that when a Parish Council becomes involved it does attract greater interest in the activities of the Parish Council. If not all the allotments are taken up there is the option of creating a community orchard. Barkham will be the third area to be developed and gain the allotments, Swallowfield first and Finchampstead second, timescale to be roughly 2.5 years. Clerk to put an article in the next edition of the BVRA Newsletter alerting residents and to ascertain interest.

Two questions that Andy Glencross required consideration from the Council are:

1. Is your Council interested in becoming the owner and/or manager of any of the new allotments proposed on the Arborfield SDL site?
Answer: Yes, BPC is interested in the running of this scheme.
2. What are your views on the transfer of any of the new allotments proposed on the Arborfield SDL site to a bespoke Community Interest Company (CIC). It is likely that initially that Crest would have an influential role within the CIC, although this role would pass to the residents of the SDL, once the construction phase is complete.
Answer: The Parish Council is keen to be involved and would seriously consider taking this role on depending on any costs, land ownership, involvement etc. If for whatever reason this is not practical then BPC would be happy for the CIC to run them. If BPC took control then we would have a say in who was allocated an allotment, if Crest had control then the allotments would undoubtedly be allocated to the new residents on the SDL.

17/746 Finance

Sue Ryder Care – grant	246	£200.00
The Link Visiting Scheme – grant	247	£560.00
Berks County Blind Society – grant	248	£200.00
Citizens Advice Bureau – grant	249	£596.00
Cruse Bereavement Care – grant	250	£200.00
WADE – grant	251	£250.00
R. Rowe – 250 A4 flyers	252	£30.00
J. Neuhofer – stationery	253	£61.34 (£51.12 exc VAT)
Standing Order for Clerk’s salary for July		£742.80
Standing Order to Royal Bor. Windsor – Pension Fund for Clerk for month of July (Employee & employer contribution)		£197.41

Mr Crook agreed to be a member of the Finance Committee. This now consists of Mrs Stubbs, Dr Loader, Mr Rowe and Mr Crook.

17/747 Standing Orders – To finally adopt the Standing Orders with legal references added.

The Clerk has now added the letter M in front of the standing orders that are mandatory and the relative legislation. No further alterations are to be made. Mrs Stubbs proposed a vote to accept the amendments with no further alterations.

7 votes in favour

1 vote against

Carried by the majority.

This item is now final and will not be discussed again.

17/748 To Discuss the Parish Office at the Community Centre

The Community Centre is still in the hands of the DIO, Crest to take over the running of it, this should be imminent. Mr Dexter offered to find out the usage. BPC Planning Meetings to move up to the Community Centre. Mr Heath will move the Neighbourhood Plan maps and other related documents to the office where the meetings now take place. It was noted that there are two photocopiers, and a laminator plus manuals in the office for BPC to use. Clerk to purchase some pens for use on the white board.

Mrs Stubbs reported that she had seen some good quality chairs for sale, some are metal stacking chairs and others are wooden with padded arms and backs. Cost approx. £8 each but she may be able to get a discount for 10. All agreed that £100 was acceptable to spend on the chairs to be placed at the Parish Office for use for future meetings.

17/749 To Discuss the future working with Thames Valley Police

Mr Rowe reported that he had received an email from the police requesting that more forms concerning personal information for vetting are required from those volunteers for the operation of the SID (Speed Indication Device). He will forward the email to Mr Dexter and Mr Kaiser in order that they can complete and return the forms.

17/750 Local Plan Update – Mr Heath

David Lee (Chairman of Planning Committee at WBC) will attend a meeting with BPC on 19th July, Clerk to submit questions in advance, to discuss the five year land supply and other related planning issues.

Mr Heath has had a meeting with Ian Bellinger at WBC regarding the preferred sites for development, no comments have been forthcoming, all sites to be reviewed again plus traffic modelling and the officers' reports to be reviewed. Concern was raised as to the accuracy of the traffic modelling. Mr Dexter to speak to Paul Townsend from Arborfield Parish Council who is an expert on the subject.

17/751 Neighbourhood Plan – Mr Heath

Mr Heath reported that another drop in event is planned for September (date to be confirmed) to be held at the Community Centre at Arborfield Green, leaflet drop to be organised to advertise the event. The main issues to be flagged up plus the suggested preferred options. It is hoped to submit the Neighbourhood Plan to WBC during December. A draft copy of the Neighbourhood Plan to be circulated to councillors.

17/752 To receive the BALC report – Dr Loader

Dr Loader reported that he was attending a NALC meeting tomorrow plus BALC meetings and would have more to report in September.

17/753 Borough Councillor's Report – Mr Kaiser

Mr Kaiser reported that WBC had two major issues currently at the forefront of their agenda.

1. The Local Plan
2. The tackling of future planning appeals

WBC intend to use the best barrister they can in the future in order to assist with fighting planning appeals. Funding for schools continues to be a problem, with the Government having been asked for further funding for our schools. The Bohunt School deal has now been signed and councillors were given a guided tour of the new school, all very impressed.

Concern is raised with the proposed Marino development of 1500 dwellings, outline planning permission has been granted but no further action has been forthcoming. This development forms part of the five year land supply.

House prices appear to be suffering with developers offering large discounts to sell properties.

17/754 Correspondence

- a. Wokingham Job Support Centre – invitation to AGM to be held on 20th July at 6.30 p.m. at The Cornerstone. No one was able to attend.

17/755 Councillors Forum

Welcome Map

Mr Lane confirmed that all the corrections to the map were now complete, the colour of the Parish boundary was made a darker colour in order that it is clearer to see. The final version has been sent Steve Carey at Curtin & Co. who has confirmed that Crest are happy with the map having increased the size of the Crest logo. Funding from Crest will be forthcoming. Mr Lane suggested that the map should be placed in a clear plastic folder, this will make delivery easier and ensure the map is kept in better condition and it will also be water proof. Weight of paper to be confirmed and printers. The map will also be available at the Crest Marketing Suite and placed in the packs for the new residents. All agreed that the final version was very impressive, thanks to Mr Lane and Emma Holland for their efforts in producing such a high quality map. It was suggested that a print run of 5000 be initiated.

Mr Oxbrough reported that the signage for Barkham Way was now complete. More posts are required for The Coombes Circular Walk, some posts will be positioned in Arborfield and require the words “Bye Way” to be added. Mr Oxbrough and Mr Heath to organise.

The basket ball court at The Junipers requires attention along the edging, with the recent hot weather the edging is cracking and requires some additional tarmac to be added. Clerk to request that this is done and report it to WBC.

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 10.10 p.m.

Next meeting of full Council will be held on 12th September at 8.00 p.m.

Next meeting of Planning Committee will be held on 25th July 2017 at 7.30 p.m.