

BASILDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Basildon Parish Council held at the Village Hall, Upper Basildon on 4th December 2019.

Present: Mr Geoff Couchman Mr Ian Parsons (Chair), Ms Elaine Cox, Mr David Jones, Mr Chadwyck-Healey, Ms Barnes and Robert Greasley (clerk),

Apologies were received from M Ms Halina Czajka

The following residents attended the meeting:

Mrs Dewing, Mr Oakley, Mr Haynes, Mr Wiesendanger, Mr Packer

1 OPEN FORUM

The issue of parking around the school was raised with particular reference to drivers ignoring double yellow lines and blocking both driveways and road access in places. The chairman responded with details of actions to date including conversations with the school. The following suggestions were made:

Sign bollards be purchased for use either side of school lane – the Parish Council agreed to fund this and will confirm with the school.

A request be put in for yellow lines to be repainted which the Parish Council will drive.

The Parish Council will also investigate the possibility of the school issuing parking tickets.

A Parish Council representative will also visit the school to discuss the issue further with a view to ensuring that the school has ownership for the problem.

Additionally, speeding in Upper Basildon was also raised with the Chairman confirming work to date and the Parish Council's general frustration with the district council. The Chairman and clerk will write again to highways and will copy in the district councillor.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Jones declared an interest in the Network Rail related issue.

3 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on the 6th November having been circulated to members were declared correct and signed by the Chairman.

4 PLANNING

New applications

19/02700 Clifton House, Retrospective Dormer Windows

As it did previously, the Parish Council objects to this proposal for the following reasons:

It presents little new from previous unacceptable application(s)
It is still intrusive to immediate neighbours.

19/02880 Varchfold, Bethesda St, Demolition of house and 3 x new houses

By majority, the Parish Council objected to the application on the following grounds:

The proposal represents over development of the plot and will further erode the natural beauty of the AONB. Additionally, the increased traffic compounds an already serious problem for the Bethesda Street area with the Council noting that no other transport options will be available to the new properties and their owners.

19/02486 The Old Pig Sty, Blandys Lane, Conditions

Having objected to the original application for a new building outside of the settlement boundary, the Parish Council again wishes to object to further work on this sizeable development. The building is unsympathetic to the immediate area, is of a significant size given the field it potentially services and does nothing to add to the character of the village. These conditions offer no improvement to this position.

The Parish Council received a late application for Maple Corner which will be reviewed at the January meeting.

Confirmed Decisions

19/02385 Lower Basildon View, outbuilding conversion - PC Objection, WBC refused

19/02356 4 Kiln Ride, Alterations - PC No Objection, WBC Approved

5 REVIEW OF OPEN ACTIONS

The Chairman confirmed that the local planning officer is happy to attend a meeting and answer any questions which councillors may have.

The Chairman confirmed he had written to the school re:parking

Discussions around the purchase of a number of trees were held. The Chairman will write to the Country Neighbour with details of how residents may be able to request a free tree for their garden.

6 FOOTPATHS, HIGHWAYS AND OPEN SPACES

Footpaths remain in a good if muddy condition.

7 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT

The District Councillor continues to work on local issues.

8 FINANCE

The following cheques were presented to the meeting:

Ch No	PAYEE	PURPOSE	NETT	VAT	TOTAL
					AMNT
			£	£	£
103304	R Greasley	Salary	350.83	0.00	350.83
103305	HMRC	Tax on salary	234.00	0.00	234.00
103306	Scofell	Trees – Village Green	236.00	47.20	283.20
103307	R Greasley	Fasthosts fee (already paid)	19.19	0.00	19.19
103308	Greenbarnes Ltd	Lower Basildon Noticeboard	1402.62	280.52	1683.14
103309	SLCC	Membership	126.00	0.00	126.00
103310	ESE Direct Ltd	Bike Rack (Beale Park)	156.24	0.00	156.24

The Council accepted cheque numbers 103304-103310 and the ongoing Standing Order to cover litter picking was confirmed.

The Clerk confirmed the following:

Further CIL money has been received from West Berkshire Council for Pamber Green.

Bank Statements have been checked and matched the cheque run.

There is money available for projects, note, this was discussed further under actions (above)

10 CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence was received from a number of residents regarding the new fence erected by Network Rail. The clerk will write to Network Rail to express both the concern of residents and the general frustration at Network Rail's inability to show sympathy to the AONB.

A letter was also received regarding a local parking problem which the chairman will raise with West Berkshire Council.

11 OTHER BUSINESS

Meeting dates for 2020 were confirmed and the clerk will pass these on to the website administrator.

The meeting concluded at 8:55pm with the next meeting scheduled for the 7th January.