

BASILDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Basildon Parish Council held online on the 8th April 2021

Present: Mr Parsons (Chair), Mr Jones, Ms Barnes, Mr Chadwyck-Healey, Ms N Larkin, Mr Couchman, Mrs Greasley.

Apologies, Ms Cox and Councillor Law.

Minutes: Mr Greasley (clerk)

The following members of the public attended: Mr Howard

1 OPEN FORUM

No items were raised this month.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were presented.

3 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on the 2nd March having been circulated to members were declared correct and signed by the Chairman.

4 PLANNING

The Parish Council considered the following new applications:

21/00474, Honeysuckle Cottage, Aldworth Road – extension

The Parish Council reviewed the application and had no objections subject to the views of neighbours. The Council noted that the site has already been cleared in preparation of work taking place and expects that landscape improvements will be included as part of this application.

21/00535, Cleobury, Pangbourne Road – extensions

The Parish Council reviewed the application and had no objections subject to the views of neighbours.

21/00588, The Cottage, Reading Rd, Lower Basildon – new door

The Parish Council reviewed the application and had no objections subject to the views of neighbours.

20/02238, Oak View, Pangbourne Road – new fence

The Parish Council reviewed the application and had no objections subject to the views of neighbours but requested that any planting in front of the fence uses established hedging to lessen the urban impact of the new structure.

21/00527, Old Pig Sty, Blandys Lane – Reposition of existing access

The Parish Council reviewed the application and had no objections subject to the views of neighbours.

Confirmed Decisions:

21/00174 & 175, Woodgreen Farm, New porch. WBC Approved, PC No Objection

21/00115, Swifts, replacement garage. WBC Approved, PC No Objection

5 REVIEW OF OPEN ACTIONS

The Council discussed Charity donations and the policy of the council towards them. It was agreed that the Council would review each application on a case by case basis with donations being made to those organisations that it was felt would be of benefit to residents of the Parish.

The settlement boundary proposals have now been received by the Parish Council. The Chairman noted no significant changes to the Basildon Parish and will respond to the consultation confirming that the Parish Council accept the proposal.

The list of Parish Council assets have been reviewed and updated by Councillor Greasley. The value of a number of items were discussed (including noticeboards and benches) and the list updated with a view to using it for the upcoming insurance renewal.

Councillor Chadwyck-Healey has continued to liaise with a number of firms regarding fixes to existing as well as new play equipment. This work will continue during April.

The Clerk shared with members of the Council the link for raising a problem with West Berkshire Council. Councillors were asked to raise issues as and when they encounter them in order to speed up resolution times.

The Clerk has followed up the quote for SSE to replace one of the lighting gantries in the Parish. This, according to SSE, should be with the Parish Council shortly. Additionally, the Clerk has set up a direct debit with SSE to pay for street lighting electricity costs which is expected to be around £500 p.a.

Councillor Larkin outlined the litter picking being carried out by Richard Hudson in the Parish. The council discussed the work and confirmed that they were prepared to support Mr Hudson with a donation. The clerk will raise a cheque for £200 which will be signed at the next meeting.

The Clerk confirmed he'd been in contact with Alan Law regarding the Grotto. Results of a structural survey are still to be received by West Berkshire Council with no decision on the building made as things stand.

The Chairman has received two quotes for chopping back the bushes at the Triangle Noticeboard area. The Council agreed to proceed with a quote from Berkshire Hedging and the Chairman will make the necessary arrangements.

An AGM for the Parish Council will be scheduled in July to ensure the public have a chance to attend.

Councillor Barnes will contact West Berkshire Council regarding permitted writes of way in the Church Lane area. Feedback to this will be discussed at the next meeting.

6 FOOTPATHS, HIGHWAYS AND OPEN SPACES

The footpath at the end of recreation ground was reported as having a tree blocking it. This was raised to West Berkshire Council (and is now cleared). All other footpaths are currently in good condition although footpaths 10 & 11 are still muddy.

7 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT

The District Councillor continues to work on local issues.

8 FINANCE

The following cheques were presented to the meeting:

Cheque No	Payee	Purpose	Nett	VAT	Total
103402	R Greasley	Salary	361.58	0.00	361.58
103403	HMRC	Tax on salary	240.80	0.00	240.80
103404	West Berks Council	Grit bin refill – Blandys Lane	110.63	22.13	132.76
103405	West Berks Council	Bus service contribution	1272.00	0.00	1272.00
103406	West Berks Council	Line painting contribution	250.00	0.00	250.00
103407	Scofell Commercial Landscapes	Grass Cutting	409.63	81.93	491.56
103408	West Berks Council	Empty of litter bins	107.69	0.00	107.69
103409	West Berks Council	Ground rent, Wakemans Park	54.74	10.95	65.69
103410	Scofell Commercial Landscapes	Pitch Rolling	210.00	42.00	252.00

The Council accepted cheque numbers 103402 – 103409 and the ongoing Standing Order to cover litter picking was confirmed. The Cheque account continues to tally with cheques issued as expected and the internal audit has now kicked off.

The Direct debit to SSE was confirmed with amounts totalling £44.72 and £3.53 set to be paid shortly.

9 CORRESPONDANCE

General correspondence has been received by the Clerk and Chairman.

10 OTHER BUSINESS

The meeting concluded at 9pm.