

BASILDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Basildon Parish Council held online on the 2nd March 2021

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

Minutes: Mr Greasley (clerk)

The following members of the public attended:

Mr Elliott

Apologies were received from Councillor Law.

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 3rd February having been circulated to members were declared correct and signed by the Chairman.

4 PLANNING

The Parish Council considered the following new applications:

21/00236 Feathers Farm, Blandys Lane (extension)

The Parish Council reviewed the application and voted to object for the following reasons:

The proposal over develops the housing side of the site and will have a detrimental impact on immediate neighbours.

21/00174 Woodgreen Farm (New entrance canopy)

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

21/00337 Tree Cottage, Bethesda Street (Replacement windows and door)

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

21/00324 Tomb Farm (Relaying former grass courts for hardstanding)

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

21/00459 Kews Cottage, Aldworth Road (New Dormer Windows)

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

21/00438 Hadleigh Wood, Bethesda St (New 3 bay garage)

The Parish Council reviewed the application and noted that there were no orange signs in place at the site currently. This aside, the council objected on the following grounds:

The proposed location is too close to the main road and will be imposing despite hedging separating it from Bethesda St. It will give the appearance of a second property on the site and will spoil the character of the immediate area which includes a listed building.

21/00364 & 365 Hawksbill Cottage, (Shed Removal and new double garage)

The Parish Council reviewed the application and objected on the grounds that the plans were unclear with the Council unsure as to the full nature of the proposal and how it would impact the immediate neighbours. This was based on two different garage images and no clear explanation as to which would be implemented.

21/00449 & 450 Walnut Tree Cottage (New swimming pool)

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

Confirmed Decisions

20/02883, 2 Emery Acres – extension. WBC Approved, PC Objection

20/02609, Millers Barn – extension. WBC Approved, PC No Objection

5 REVIEW OF OPEN ACTIONS

The Chairman confirmed to the meeting that Mr Martin had offered his resignation with immediate effect. The Chairman placed on records his thanks for the work that Mr Martin did his time in office. Additionally, it was confirmed that Mrs Greasley had completed the necessary forms and was therefore co-opted to the Council.

The Clerk outlined the position with regards to grass cutting and confirmed that of three companies approached, two had returned with quotes and one had failed to reply. Following discussion, it was decided that although the quote for Scofell was higher than that received from Technical Facilities Management Ltd, the service from Scofell had matched and at times exceeded the Council's requirements and as a result it was confirmed that the Parish Council would sign up for a further 12 months. Included in the contract will be provision to cut the triangular section of grass at the top of Teneplas drive and the clerk will make the necessary arrangements. Councillor Cox requested that clearer parameters were laid out to aid the tendering process next year and the chairman agreed that this would be actioned.

The clerk provided an update on the streetlighting for the Parish. SSE have been contacted to be the electricity supplier and contracts have been signed. The clerk has now approached SSE to quote for repairs / upgrades to a number of the old lights on the Pangbourne Road.

The Clerk confirmed that he has written to West Berkshire Council and confirmed that the Parish Council will financially support the bus service as requested.

Councillor Chadwyck–Healey confirmed that the Wakemans play park work has been completed. A couple of areas will require further minor attention: the clerk will ask Scofell to lay grass seed around the park bench once grass cutting starts again and Councillor Chadwyck–Healey will contact Wicksteed regarding potential extra equipment. Additionally, the Country Neighbour will be updated regarding the work to make residents aware.

Councillor Barnes has contacted Beale Park regarding discounted entry for residents of the Parish and will follow this up.

Councillor Jones gave a brief update regarding traffic calming in the Parish. West Berkshire Council have confirmed that some pothole repairs have taken place and a number of white lines repainted with further signs to warn HGV's under discussion. The Parish Council agreed that they are happy to pay for these in order to speed up the process. Further improvements are also planned with discussions around further signage and SID cameras are on the agenda.

The Clerk confirmed that a fixed assets review has been kicked off with results to be shared next month.

Councillor Jones confirmed that a local charity called Floatability had contacted the Parish and requested a grant to aid their commitment to offer disabled people access to boating on the Thames. The Parish Council reviewed the application and felt the area of charitable donations required further discussion and a firm policy to be agreed. This discussion will continue between meetings and be on next months agenda with the clerk informing Floatability so they are aware.

6 FOOTPATHS, HIGHWAYS AND OPEN SPACES

Footpaths are now in a considerably better state with the improved weather starting to dry out the various paths in the area. Various Councillors provided feedback on potential footpath improvements and these were shared by the Chairman.

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
103396	R Greasley	Salary	361.18	0.00	361.58
103397	HMRC	Tax on salary	241.20	0.00	240.80
103398	The Good Exchange	Pangbourne Toliets Donation	520.00	0.00	520.00
103399	Opio Ltd	Playground remedial work	1124.86	0.00	1124.86
103400	West Berkshire Council	Library Contribution	1740.00	0.00	1740.00
103401	Opio Ltd	Playground remedial work Pt2	88.36	0.00	88.36

The Council accepted cheque numbers 103396 – 103401 and the ongoing Standing Order to cover litter picking was confirmed.

The Clerk confirmed the following:

Cheques and bank balances continue to match with no issues reported and the clerk has submitted the VAT return for 3K.

9 CORRESPONDANCE

General correspondence has been received by the Clerk and Chairman.

10 OTHER BUSINESS

The meeting concluded at 9pm.