

BASILDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Basildon Parish Council held online on the 5th May 2021

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

Mrs Greasley, Mr Law

Apologies, Ms Cox, Ms Barnes

Minutes: Mr Greasley (clerk)

The following members of the public attended: Mr Walsh

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 8th April having been circulated to members were declared correct and signed by the Chairman.

4 PLANNING

The Parish Council considered the following new applications:

20/00833, Upstream, Aldworth Road – Extension

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

Confirmed Decisions:

20/03083, West Lodge (Streatley) – New House. PC Objection, WBC Refused

21/00449, Walnut Tree Cottage, Blandys Lane – Swimming pool. PC No Objection, WBC Approved

21/00535, Cleobury, Pangbourne Road – Extension. PC No Objection, WBC Approved

21/00608, Tomb Farm – Relocation of Marquee. PC No Objection, WITHDRAWN

21/00459, Kew Cottage – New Dormer windows. PC No Objection, WBC Approved

21/00438, Hadleigh Wood, Bethesda St - New garage. PC Objection, WBC Refused

21/00337, Tree Cottage, Bethesda St – New windows. PC No Objection, WBC Approved

21/00324, Tomb Farm - Grass court hard standing. PC No Objection, WBC Approved.

21/00236, Feathers Farm, Blandys Lane – Extension. PC Objection, WBC Approved.

5 REVIEW OF OPEN ACTIONS

The clerk confirmed that the quote to replace a number of street light fittings in the Wakemans area has been signed off and returned with the work now pending.

The Parish Council were asked to fund the church purchase of a Book of condolence. This was agreed and a cheque raised.

One of two gates to the recreation ground has broken. The Chairman confirmed that a new spring mechanism is required with the order placed. At the request of West Berkshire Council the broken gate has been padlocked to prevent accident or injury.

The Rospa safety inspection of the two parks has now taken place with the report sent to the Chairman and Councillor Chadwyck-Healey for comment. The report showed a considerable improvement over last year with only minor issues raised. Councillor Chadwyck- Healey will follow up the fixes (including the gate above) and will also look into a couple of potential playground additions, namely a rotational swing for older children and a basketball hoop at the recreation ground.

The Chairman discussed the possibility of a new litter bin at Adders Lane and near the old Beehive pub. The Clerk will follow up with West Berkshire Council regarding collection to see if previous capacity issues have been resolved. Should an alternative solution be required, the Chairman will follow this up with other local Councils.

The Clerk confirmed that Insurance quotes have been requested for the Parish Council. Once received these will be shared around Councillors and a decision taken out of meeting via a vote.

Councillor Jones has written to Highways to request a follow up meeting to discuss upcoming traffic improvements. An update will be provided at the next meeting.

The Chairman raised the issue of the AGM for the Parish Council. No date has yet been selected due to Covid 19 issues around meetings; once guidance is received from West Berkshire Council a date will be shared with residents.

6 FOOTPATHS, HIGHWAYS AND OPEN SPACES

All footpaths are currently in good condition with no action required.

7 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT

The District Councillor continues to work on local issues and shared the following.

Site visits will now be available as part of the planning process

Covid cases in West Berkshire have dropped to 14 per 100,000 residents of the area.

Councillor Law will still remain on the Eastern Area Planning Group and will chair the OSMC and the District Planning Group. Work will also be taking place on the local plan.

Members Bids are now open with the opportunity to match fund any local projects.

There is still no update from the Grotto despite a number of chases. Councillor Law will continue to follow this up, as will the Clerk.

8 FINANCE

The following cheques were presented to the meeting:

Cheque No	Payee	Purpose	Nett	VAT	Total
103411	R Greasley	Salary	361.58	0.00	361.58
103412	HMRC	Tax on salary	240.80	0.00	240.80
103413	R Greasley	Stamps	20.40	0.00	20.40
103414	Vision ICT	Website hosting and support	200.00	40.00	240.00
103415	Scofell Commercial Landscapes	Grass cutting	409.63	81.93	491.56
103416	I Parsons	Gate lock (expenses)	3.99	0.00	3.99
103417	G. Eley	Condolences book for church	29.95	0.00	29.95
103418	Rospa	Safety Inspection	79.00	15.80	94.80
103419	R. Hudson	Donation for litter picking services	200.00	0.00	200.00

The Council accepted cheque numbers 103411 – 103419 and the ongoing Standing Order to cover litter picking was confirmed. The Cheque account continues to tally with cheques issued as expected.

The Clerk confirmed that the Internal Audit has now been completed. There were no actions raised this year with only minor observations presented in the findings. It was noted by the Auditor that the VAT Return and Cheque sign off had been actioned as per previous years comments. The Parish Council confirmed they were happy with the returns and signed off the Internal Audit.

9 CORRESPONDANCE

General correspondence has been received by the Clerk and Chairman.

10 OTHER BUSINESS

The meeting concluded at 8:30pm.