

BASILDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Basildon Parish Council held online on the 3rd February 2021

Present: Mr Parsons (Chair), Mr Jones, Ms Barnes, Mr Chadwyck-Healey, Ms N Larkin, Mr Couchman, Ms Cox, Mr Martin, Councillor Law

Minutes: Mr Greasley (clerk)

The following members of the public attended:

Mrs Reece, Mr Antill

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 7th January having been circulated to members were declared correct and signed by the Chairman.

4 PLANNING

New applications:

21/00115 Swifts, Upper Basildon - Reinstatement of garage and extension

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

20/03083 West Lodge, Streatley – New house (including demolition of the existing property)

The Parish Council reviewed the application and voted by majority to object on the grounds that the application lacked a number of details which the Council would like to see for an application situated in the AONB and on such a sensitive site. Examples of this include (but are not limited to) details of the view from the opposite side of the Thames, the impact and management of building traffic and the proximity and impact on Grims Ditch plus the protection of trees on the plot. The Parish Council requests that the application is updated to include these additional details (and others) to aid West Berkshire Councils decision making process.

Confirmed Decisions

20/02722, Highfield House, Bethesda Street - new garden office. Withdrawn

20/02690, Outbuilding at Lower Basildon View – conditions. WBC Approved, PC No Objection

20/02681, Blandys Well – new fence. WBC Approved, PC No Objection

20/02669, Tomb Farm – velux Windows. WBC Refused, PC No Objection

20/02584, Red Villa, Upper Basildon – new window and internal alterations. WBC Approved, PC No Objection

20/02571, Hadleigh Wood, Bethesda St – garage conversion and extension. WBC Approved, PC No Objection

20/02540, Blandys Well – carport. WBC Approved, PC No Objection

20/02282, Land Adjoining Sarum House - stable block. WBC Refused, PC No Objection

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

5 REVIEW OF OPEN ACTIONS

The Chairman and Clerk will work on the grass cutting contract renewal. Councillors were asked to provide details of any areas in the Parish that they wish to be included.

The Parish Council reviewed an application for a grant from the Pangbourne Toilets Group and voted to award £520 as they had done last year. The Clerk will make the necessary arrangements.

Councillor Jones has had further discussions with Highways and expects to see their plans for upcoming work within the next month.

Street lighting in the Parish were discussed. The clerk will meet with SSE to discuss replacement light units and the general cost of the service.

Grit salt has been ordered for Blandys Lane with the invoice due next month.

A local resident raised the issue of the steps leading from Church Lane to Tookey Wood. These steps have deteriorated and need to be repaired and / or replaced. The Parish Council discussed this and Councillor Barnes will take up the issue with Beale Park and explore the possibilities.

The work at Wakemans Playground is almost complete and the Parish Council will be invoiced for the work shortly.

West Berkshire Council have approached the Parish Council regarding the annual bus subsidy and confirmed that it will be £1250 for the year. The Council discussed the service and voted to support the proposal; the Clerk will confirm this with the local authority.

A contribution to the local library was discussed. The Chairman will contact the relevant WBC department and confirm the Parish Council's support remains at the same level as last year.

6 FOOTPATHS, HIGHWAYS AND OPEN SPACES

All footpaths remain open although a number are in a muddy condition given recent weather, increased usage and the time of year. Councillors will note those which are in the worst condition with a view to exploring what action can be taken in the coming months.

A tree was reported as down on footpath 2 (towards Quicks Green) and this has been reported to WBC.

7 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT

The District Councillor confirmed that the members bid of £250 has been approved and will contribute to the upcoming highways related work that will be taking place in the Parish. Councillor Law also confirmed that money has been made available for superfast broadband for schools in the area that don't have it.

Consultation for the local plan is coming to a close and the Parish Council were invited to make further comments. The Chairman confirmed that the Parish Council will update their response this week (w/c 1st February)

The census will be happening on the 21st March of this year.

8 FINANCE

The following cheques were presented to the meeting:

Cheque No	Payee	Purpose	Nett	VAT	Total
103392	R Greasley	Salary	361.18	0.00	361.58
103393	HMRC	Tax on salary	241.20	0.00	240.80
103394	Vision ICT	.GOV domain name	65.00	13.00	78.00

The Council accepted cheque numbers 103392 – 103394 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.

9 CORRESPONDANCE

General correspondence has been received by the Clerk and Chairman.

10 OTHER BUSINESS

The meeting concluded at 9pm.