

BASILDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Basildon Parish Council held online on the 7th January 2021

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

Minutes: Mr Greasley (clerk)

The following members of the public attended:

Mr & Mrs Flippance, Mr Walton, Mr Owens, Mr Hudson, Ms Farris

Apologies

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 December having been circulated to members were declared correct and signed by the Chairman.

4 PLANNING

New applications:

The Council reviewed the following applications:

20/02883 2 Emery Acres, Extension

The Parish Council reviewed the application and voted to object on the following grounds:

The proposal will detrimentally affect light entering a number of rooms at number 4 Emery Acres.

Should a compromise with these neighbours be agreed the Parish Council would be prepared to remove this objection.

20/02690 Outbuilding at Lower Basildon View, conditions

The Parish Council reviewed the application and had no objections subject to the views of neighbours. Any lighting should adhere to West Berkshire Councils dark skies policy.

Confirmed Decisions

20/02489, Skagen House, Bethesda St – New Garage, PC Objection, WBC Approved

20/00723 Timberley – New House, PC Objection, WBC Refused

20/02282 Land adjoining Sarum House – stable block, PC No objection, WBC Refused

20/02584 Red Villa House, new windows / alterations, PC No objection, WBC Approved

5 REVIEW OF OPEN ACTIONS

Laura Ferris, the local MP, attended the meeting and gave a progress update on Covid 19 vaccinations across West Berkshire. Additionally, the following were raised and discussed:

The Grotto and its current perilous position through continued neglect, despite its listed status. It was agreed that this would be put to WBC for comment. Additionally, mobile phone coverage will be followed up following previous discussions between the Chairman and the MP's office.

There were reports that the Post Box near the Triangle has been repeatedly full. It was suggested that the Parish Council look to have a 'Parcel Box' at either the church or the Village Hall. This will be looked into further by Councillor Martin.

Grass Cutting was discussed as the contract is now up for renewal. The clerk and chairman will request quotes from various suppliers.

Council Jones delivered an update on the traffic meeting held with WBC. With matched funding from the Parish Council, WBC will look to arrange for replacement signs on Gardeners Lane, new footpath signs where paths interact with roads, speed indication signs in two places and new white lines in a number of areas across the Parish. Further discussions will follow with WBC set to offer up next steps during January.

6 FOOTPATHS, HIGHWAYS AND OPEN SPACES

The clerk confirmed that gritting has now been officially signed off with West Berkshire Council with some roads gritted in recent days.

All footpaths remain open although a number are in a muddy condition given recent weather and the time of year.

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
103384	R Greasley	Salary	361.18	0.00	361.58
103385	HMRC	Tax on salary	241.20	0.00	240.80
103386	R Greasley	Expenses (stamps)	9.12	0.00	9.12
103387	Country Neighbour	2021 Donation	250.00	0.00	250.00
103388	I Parsons	Christmas cards and stamps	24.98	0.00	24.98
103389	SLCC	Membership	130.00	0.00	130.00
103390	PCC Basildon	Post Office booking	400.00	0.00	400.00
103391	Michael Cairns	Tree work – village hall	700.00	140.00	840.00

The Council accepted cheque numbers 103384 – 103391 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.

The budget for the financial year 21/22 has been put together. Having been circulated to councillors before the meeting the Clerk took questions and commented on the various costs plus contingencies in place. Councillors added an additional line item for traffic related spending (see above comments from Councillor Jones) and voted unanimously to accept the budget of 34.7K. Following this the precept was agreed at 21K for the coming year which matched the previous year's request.

9 CORRESPONDANCE

General correspondence has been received by the Clerk and Chairman.

10 OTHER BUSINESS

The meeting concluded at 9pm.