BASILDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Basildon Parish Council held online on the 9th February 2022

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

Apologies: Councillor Law, Mr Jones

Minutes: Mr Greasley (clerk)

The following members of the public attended – Mrs Lines, Mr Twitchett, Ms Pontin, Ms Keysen, Mr Edwards

1 OPEN FORUM

Mrs Lines raised the issue of the old curtain shop in Lower Basildon and its current condition. This will be raised with owners (Beale Park) at the next meeting between the Parish Council and the Beale Park trustees.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chairman declared an interest in Appletree Cottage and confirmed that they would not take part in the review of the associated planning application. Councillor Cox declared an interest in Tree Cottage and also confirmed that they would not be in involved in that discussion.

3 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on the 12th January having been circulated to members were declared correct and signed by the Chairman.

4 PLANNING

The Parish Council considered the following new applications:

21/03243 Land adjoining Sarum House / Mead Lane, Stable Block and land change of use

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

The changes represent a significant change to the character of Blandys Lane with impact to both the land itself and the adjoining hedgerows and verges. The Council could find no provision for utilities which they would expect at site and there was concern that the development would further eradicate the rural nature of the immediate area.

22/00111 5 Knappswood Close, Change of adjacent land use

The Parish Council reviewed the application and were supportive of the proposed planting schemes and the positive impacts proposed for local wildlife. However, due to the location of the land outside of the settlement boundary the Parish Council objected to the change in land use believing that the works to the land could proceed regardless of this change.

22/00014 Clayhanger Farm, Quicks Green, Storage of machinery for business

The Parish Council had no objections subject to the view of neighbours.

22/00019 Claremont House, Bethesda St, Change of adjacent land use

The Parish Council reviewed the application and were supportive of the proposed planting schemes and the positive impacts proposed for local wildlife. However, due to the location of the land outside of the settlement boundary the Parish Council objected to the change in land use believing that the works to the land could proceed regardless of this change.

22/00016 Apple Tree Cottage, Pangbourne Rd, 3 x New Houses

The Parish Council reviewed the application and voted to object on the grounds that the proposal represents significant over development and is to the detriment of Appletree Cottage which will be engulfed by the proposed new properties. The Council noted that of the three houses proposed, two appear to be squeezed into the rear of the plot with insufficient parking and poor access whilst a third fronts the main Pangbourne Road and further reduces the rural character of Upper Basildon. The Parish Council concluded that the proposal is not in keeping with its surroundings (including the village green opposite) and will do nothing to enhance the area of AONB in which it will potentially reside.

22/00142 Honeypot House (Village Green), Extension

The Parish Council reviewed the application and voted to object on the grounds that the proposed garage is too large and is an over development of the site. No issues with the proposed extension to the house were noted.

22/00148 Maple Corner, Maple Lane, New House (Conditions)

The Parish Council reviewed the application and had no objections.

22/00166 Tree Cottage, Bethesda St, New Car Charger

The Parish Council had no objections subject to the view of neighbours.

Confirmed Decisions:

21/02984, 11 Emery Acres, (Extension) WBC Approval - PC No Objection

21/02642, Dewerstone Bethesda St (Garden Room) WBC Approval – PC No Objection

21/02922, 3 Beckfords (Extension) WBC Approval – PC No Objection

21/02012, West Lodge, Reading Road (Replacement House). WBC Approval – PC No Objection

21/03008, Tiled Cottage, Aldworth Road (Extension) WBC Approval – PC No Objection

21/02136, White Lodge, Reading Road (Extension) WBC Approval – PC No Objection

5 REVIEW OF OPEN ACTIONS

Councillor Barnes confirmed that there will be no discount this year for entry into Beale Park. This will be discussed further when the Parish Council next meet the Beale Park trustees.

In previous years the Parish Council has offered financial support to Pangbourne Toilets (£520). Councillors reviewed the latest request and voted in favour of proceeding as per last year. The Clerk will make the necessary arrangements.

Grass cutting at the Village Hall, triangle and Wakemans was discussed. The Chairman and Clerk have approached two companies and received one quote to date. Councillor Couchman offered up a third company and will contact them with the requirements for grass cutting and obtain a quote; these will then be collectively circulated outside of the meeting and a preferred contractor selected.

The annual assembly was discussed and confirmed for the 11th May.

Councillor Larkin confirmed that Terracycle have now delivered the recycling boxes and these will be in place at the hall shortly. The Clerk confirmed that costs for this were being picked up this month.

Councillor Greasley requested support for the local football team who would like to purchase a pitch line marker for use by their league teams. This was agreed by the Parish Council and the clerk will process the cheque next month once an invoice is received.

Members of the WI attended the meeting and updated the Parish Council regarding the upcoming Platinum Jubilee. The WI confirmed that various stakeholders were being assembled and a number of items were under consideration. These included the booking of the Village Hall for 4 days, the purchase of a Jubilee beacon and various events around the Upper Basildon area. The clerk will enquire about the feasibility of road closures generally and Councillor Chadwyck-Healey will request that the village hall booking is extended from two days to four. The Parish Council will also make arrangements for the website to include a Platinum Jubilee section which can then be developed by the committee over time.

6 FOOTPATHS, HIGHWAYS AND OPEN SPACES

No issues were reported with footpaths this month although a number of paths are currently in a muddy condition due to 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** |
| 103470 | R Greasley | Salary | 361.58 | 0.00 | 361.58 |
| 103471 | HMRC | Tax on salary | 240.80 | 0.00 | 240.80 |
| 103472 | West Berks Council | Library Support | 1720.00 | 0.00 | 1720.00 |
| 103473 | N.Larkin | Terracycle – cost payback | 329.04 | 0.00 | 329.04 |

The Council accepted cheque numbers 103470 – 103473 and the ongoing Standing Order to cover litter picking was confirmed. The Direct debit to SSE was also confirmed as received and acceptable.

Cheques versus bank statements were confirmed as correct by the Clerk with no issues noted.

The Clerk confirmed that the request to WBC for this years precept had been submitted with two payments of 11.5K to be made to the Parish Council in April and October.

The Clerk brought to the attention of the meeting the fact that costs for street lighting have risen steeply since the turn of the year with SSE confirming to the Parish Council that the monthly bill will effectively double. This has been borne out by the February invoice which shows a cost of almost £100. This was noted by Councillors and the Clerk confirmed that currently there are no obvious cheaper options.

9 CORRESPONDANCE

West Berkshire Council have offered cherry trees which have been taken up by the Parish Council. Additionally, Mrs Lines has written to WBC and Councillor Law regarding the condition of the pavements and gutters in Lower Basildon. The clerk will contact both in a bid to move the request forward.

10 OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was raised.

There was no other business and the meeting concluded at 9.15pm