BASILDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Basildon Parish Council held on the 12th January 2022 at the Village Hall, Upper Basildon.

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

Apologies: Councillor Law, Councillor Larkin

Minutes: Mr Greasley (clerk)

1 OPEN FORUM

No items were raised.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on the 1st December having been circulated to members were declared correct and signed by the Chairman.

4 PLANNING

The Parish Council considered the following new applications:

21/02922 3 Beckfords – extension

The Parish Council reviewed the application and had no objections subject to the views of neighbours. Any building related traffic should take into account the narrow nature of Beckfords and ensure parking is appropriate.

21/02984 11 Emery Acres – rear extension

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

21/03008 Tiled Cottage – alterations based on previous planning application approval

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

21/03025 Talbot Oaks, Bethesda St – extension

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

21/03102 Beale Park – new gatehouse

The Parish Council reviewed the application and had no objections subject to the views of neighbours. It was noted that whilst the gatehouse will be situated a considerable way down the main entrance to Beale Park there was a small chance of traffic backing onto the main road at peak times and this should be checked by WBC to ensure that the risk is minimal.

Confirmed Decisions:

21/02734 Timberley, Pangbourne Road (extension) – WBC Approval, BPC No Objection

21/02597 The Red House, Lower Basildon (new parking space) – WBC Refusal, PC No Objection (subject to Highways)

21/02583 Quince House, Beckfords (garage extension) – WBC Approval, PC No Objection

21/02555 Otford House, Beckfords / Pangbourne Rd (extension) – WBC Approval, PC No Objection

5 REVIEW OF OPEN ACTIONS

The Clerk took the meeting through the proposed budget for 2022/23. The Clerk confirmed that the overall spend was expected to be just under 31k based on expected outgoings including clerk’s salary, support for various services and the numerous obligations that the Council has around grass cutting, street lighting and salt gritting. The Parish Council voted in favour of the budget with the discussion then moving to the precept. The clerk confirmed that based on current funds a figure of 23K would meet most of the costs whilst accepting that the Council still held a sizeable reserve. This was considered by the Council and agreed with the clerk given the task of confirming this to West Berkshire Council.

Councillors Couchman and Jones confirmed that they had met with representatives from Beale Park during December. Dog walking and residents access to the Park were discussed and Beale Park confirmed that from a safety and liability point of view they remain unhappy with the principle of residents walking on their land (although access still remains in part for now). It was suggested that the Parish Council could pay for the steps to Tookie Wood to be repaired in exchange for residents access but Beale Park were not in favour of this.

A compromise was proposed by the Park – they would offer a small piece of land near the old curtain shop which could be made available for dog walkers for a nominal annual rent; the Parish Council discussed this and were in favour of proceeding subject to cost. Further discussions on this and access will take place at a second meeting.

Councillor Chadwyck-Healey confirmed that the new park equipment is scheduled for the spring with further updates forwarded on as details are received.

The annual library contribution was discussed. The clerk confirmed that in previous years £1720 had been donated to help the service continue and the Parish Council voted in favour of making a repeat donation for 2022. A cheque will be raised by the clerk for the next meeting.

West Berkshire Council have completed their speed survey in Upper Basildon and in particular the Aldworth Road. Results show that between the 4th and 18th November the average speed was between 28 and 29mph with a single peak speed of 55mph recorded. West Berkshire Council have recommended a village verge gate for the entry at the Aldworth end of the village. Councillor Jones will prepare something for wider circulation and will talk to the relevant safety officer about speed gun training.

Councillor Chadwyck-Healey updated the meeting on the Platinum Jubilee. The Village Hall is booked over the weekend of the 4th June for a proposed community event. Further discussions will take place next month and it was confirmed that a committee is in the process of being put together to manage arrangements.

West Berkshire Council have given the Parish Council two trees for planting; both have been planted on the Village Green.

Councillor Larkin has written to the village magazine regarding recycling and the imminent arrival of recycling boxes at the village hall. These will be used as a one off initially, but should interest be sufficient the initiative will continue.

6 FOOTPATHS, HIGHWAYS AND OPEN SPACES

No issues were reported with footpaths this month.

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** |
| 103466 | R Greasley | Salary | 361.58 | 0.00 | 361.58 |
| 103467 | HMRC | Tax on salary | 240.80 | 0.00 | 240.80 |
| 103468 | I Parsons | Expenses | 27.74 | 0.00 | 27.74 |
| 103469 | SLCC | Subscription | 134.00 | 0.00 | 134.00 |
| 103470 | R Greasley | Expenses (stamps) | 13.02 | 0.00 | 13.02 |

The Council accepted cheque numbers 103466 – 103470 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.

9 CORRESPONDANCE

No correspondence was received

10 OTHER BUSINESS

A local resident emailed the Parish Council regarding a potential planning breach. The clerk will write to West Berkshire Council with the detail.

There was no other business and the meeting concluded at 9pm