BASILDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Basildon Parish Council held online on the 8th June 2022

Present: Mrs Greasley, Mr Chadwyck-Healey, Mr Parsons (Chairman), Mr Couchman, Mr Jones.

Apologies: Ms Barnes, Ms Cox, Councillor Law,

Minutes: Mr Greasley (clerk)

The following members of the public attended:

Mrs Worth, Mr Thompson, Mr Hobley

1 OPEN FORUM

Recycling was discussed with an update provided under section 5 below.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None were raised.

3 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on the 11th May having been circulated to members were declared correct and signed by the Chairman.

4 PLANNING

The Parish Council considered the following new applications:

22/01082, Knapps Cottage, Gardeners Lane – new outbuilding.

The Parish Council reviewed the application and offered no objections. The Parish Council requested that the outbuilding is considered ancillary to the existing dwelling and is for the use of the main house only.

22/01137 Two Elms, Bethesda St - extension

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

The extension will in effect ‘wrap around’ Devon Cottage and also comes into close proximity with Arcady House.

There will be a detrimental visual effect when viewed from Bethesda Street with the extension running parallel to the road.

The extension is significant when compared to the existing dwelling and the Council believed that it would be more acceptable if sited elsewhere on the plot.

22/01152 2 Morrison Close – oil tank move

The Parish Council reviewed the application and offered no objections.

Confirmed Decisions:

22/00814 Callisay, The Ridge, Lower Basildon – new garage – WBC Approved, PC No Objection

22/00787 FairView, Newtown – new fence – WBC Approval, PC Objection

22/00723 1 Teneplas – extension - WBC Approval, PC No Objections

22/00712 The Topiary, Pangbourne Road – extension – WBC Approval, PC No Objection

21/02377 Berkshire Shooting School – tower – WBC Approval, PC Objection

22/00568 Hillfields Farm, Lower Basildon – 7 x new dwellings – WBC Refused, PC Objection

22/00424 Varchfold, Bethesda St – extension – WBC Approval, PC No Objections

22/00310 Yew Cottage, Bethesda St – extension – WBC Approval, PC No objections

5 General items

The Clerk confirmed that the Parish Insurance for 2022/23 has been confirmed and a cheque raised for this month.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Chadwyck-Healey for his work in relation to the Jubilee. In addition, the Chairman placed on record his thanks for the efforts of all committee members in the build up to the event.

The Parish Council have been contacted by the Country Neighbour regarding the annual donation of £250. This was confirmed acceptable by the Parish Council and a cheque raised.

Councillor Greasley informed the meeting that the teracycle recycling bins have now been collected from the Village Hall. Overall, the cost did not meet the value offered and it was noted that the bins had also been filled with a variety of non recyclable items which further complicated the process of packing and sending away the waste. Other options will be looked into, however, any offering will need to be carefully supervised or risk becoming just a general waste disposal point which will then fall on a Councillor to resolve. The clerk will assist in looking into options for being paid to collect certain recyclable items with a view to involving the local community football club and the Country neighbour will be contacted to remind residents of local recycling options available in Pangbourne and Aldermaston as well as those more local. It was also noted that West Berkshire Council have confirmed that kerbside collections will not change.

The Chairman informed the meeting that following a vote the Clerks pay will be raised by 2%. This will be backdated to April 2022 and HMRC will be updated.

The Chairman attended the recent NAG meeting and reported back on the general issues raised. Purley has seen considerable anti social behaviour in the riverside area and other similar issues were reported in Pangbourne. In the last three months there has been one car theft in the Basildon Parish and one report of anti social behaviour.

The Rospa playground report for Wakemans has been received; Councillor Chadwyck-Healey will follow up on a fix for the wire fence between playground and path.

Councillors reviewed the current risk document and agreed to accept it. Additionally, updated registers of interest returns were collected. The Clerk will share the Parish Standing Order documentation with a view to amending and signing it off at the next meeting.

6 FOOTPATHS, HIGHWAYS AND OPEN SPACES

Footpaths were reported as clear, however, vegetation is starting to grow, particularly on footpath 17.

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** |
| 103493 | R Greasley | Salary | 376.07 | 0.00 | 376.07 |
| 103494 | HMRC | Tax on salary | 250.40 | 0.00 | 250.40 |
| 103495 | Scofell | Grass cutting | 406.19 | 81.24 | 487.43 |
| 103496 | Cas Ltd | Insurance premium | 473.84 | 0.00 | 473.84 |
| 103497 | Rospa (Playsafety Ltd) | Health and afety Report | 100.80 | 0.00 | 100.80 |
| 103498 | Country Neighbour | Annual Donation | 250.00 | 0.00 | 250.00 |
| 103499 | West Berks Council | Litter Bin Emptying | 211.83 | 0.00 | 254.20 |

The Council accepted cheque numbers 103493 – 103499 and the ongoing Standing Order to cover litter picking was confirmed. The Direct debit to SSE was also confirmed and it was noted that the costs continue to quickly escalate. The Clerk will write to SSE and ask if there are options for reducing the bill or introducing timed lighting in a bid to cut cost and save energy.

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

The Clerk confirmed that the internal audit is now complete and details were shared with councillors. The Chairman signed the audit documentation following agreement from the Council. The external audit documentation and notices will now be sent by the clerk to the auditors and the dates set for the exercise of public rights were confirmed as Monday 13th June until the 22nd July.

9 CORRESPONDANCE

None were received between meetings.

10 OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business and the meeting concluded at 8:30pm