BASILDON PARISH COUNCIL

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

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

Apologies: Councillor Larkin

Minutes: Mr Greasley (clerk)

The following members of the public attended: Ms Keysen, Mr Edwards, Mr Burvill, Mr Green, Ms Montgomery

1 OPEN FORUM

The Parish Council was asked for an update regarding traffic speed monitoring in Upper Basildon. Councillor Jones confirmed that West Berkshire Council had monitored speed for two weeks earlier in the year and have confirmed that the average was below 30mph meaning that no speed indicator signs can be erected in Upper Basildon. However, West Berkshire Council confirmed that further village gates are planned, complete with 30mph signage and speed gun training for local residents will be made available. Additionally, it was noted that at the end of February local police monitored speed on the Aldworth Road to ensure limits were being obeyed.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None were raised

3 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on the 9th February having been circulated to members were declared correct and signed by the Chairman.

4 PLANNING

The Parish Council considered the following new applications:

22/00235 Pippins Orchard, Park Wall Lane – twin unit mobile home in garden

The Parish Council reviewed the application and objected on the grounds of unnecessary size given its intended use (one person), precedent for the local area and its general appearance which is out of keeping with its surroundings.

22/00264 Redmoor Cootage (off Park Wall Lane) – Shepherds Hut in garden

The Parish Council reviewed the application. Whilst not having an objection to the shepherd’s hut, the Parish Council objects to the commercial aspect of the application.

22/00424 Tanglewood, Pangbourne Road - Extension

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

22/00399 1 Kiln Ride – Conservatory extension

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

22/00443 Basildon Park – Replacement skylights

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

22/00430 Timberley, Pangbourne Road – Certificate of Lawfulness

The Parish Council is aware that it can only offer facts for this application, however, it wishes to object on the following grounds:

According to both aerial photographs and those offered by local residents the land is shown recently as paddock land. Additionally, it was noted that on previous applications (from 2020) the applicant had classed the land as ‘paddock’ and this should be considered by West Berkshire Council when reviewing this application.

22/00484 Varchfold, Bethesda St – extension including new garage

The Parish Council had no objections subject to the views of neighbours but requested that the annex is ancillary to the main house and is for the use of residents of the main house only.

22/00420/21 Church Farm, Lower Basildon – extension.

The Parish Council had no objections subject to the views of neighbours but requested that should the application be successful then West Berkshire Council should add as a condition that lighting be sympathetic to the local area and footpaths be kept clear by associated building traffic.

Confirmed Decisions:

21/03025, Talbot Oaks, Bethesda St, WBC Approval, BPC No Objection

5 REVIEW OF OPEN ACTIONS

Grass cutting and the three received quotes were reviewed following an email circulated to Councillors in advance of the meeting. It was noted that Scofell, the existing contractor, had provided both good service and been available for various extra tasks across a variety of areas when required and that an increase in price was the result of the use of greener fuels. When compared with two other quotes, it was noted that Scofell’s was the middle price and given its proximity to the cheapest (within £500) it was agreed to sign with Scofell for 2022. The Clerk will make the necessary arrangements.

The Chairman updated the meeting on the Parish Council website. He confirmed that he’d asked Mrs Jones (the web administrator) to investigate the current website support contract and provide feedback on both value for money and service. Mrs Jones reported back that both costs and service were satisfactory and that it was worth continuing the relationship with Vision ICT; the Parish Council supported this. Additionally, Mrs Jones has approached a number of other local groups and offered use of the web site in order to publicise local activities and make it more of a village resource. The Chairman concluded by offering his thanks for the work done in this area by Mrs Jones.

Councillor Couchman informed the meeting that he had spoken with Beale Park again following a meeting earlier in the year. Discounts for entry will be available this year for local residents with future years subject to further discussion between Beale Park and the Parish Council. Additionally, it was confirmed that dog walking on Beale Park land remained on the agenda of the trustees and they’d also noted issues with the old curtain shop and the Parish Council’s comments regarding the fix of the tookie wood steps.

The Jubilee committee has had its first meeting and Councillor Chadwyck-Healy will continue to liaise with the group as required.

The Chairman confirmed that recycling boxes were now in place at the village hall and ready for use.

6 FOOTPATHS, HIGHWAYS AND OPEN SPACES

No issues were reported with footpaths this month although it was noted that both Aldworth Road and Park Wall Lane had been closed for a period of time following storm damage to trees at the end of February.

7 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT

The district Councillor updated the Parish Council on local issues.

The Annual budget was discussed at district level with a 1% increase in Council tax and a 3% adult social care rise agreed for the coming year. Additionally, Councillor Law confirmed the one year anniversary of the local lottery which has successfully contributed to a number of local charities.

The district housing plan continues to be worked upon, however, legislation changes at a national level mean that plans must now include a 30 year vision for major developments which must be outlined before any final sign off. Following discussion at district level this will just be for both Thatcham and Newbury with the Basildon Parish unaffected by either this or other aspects of the plan.

The parliamentary boundary consultation continues to take place and will conclude in April. The proposal currently sees Basildon moving to West Reading along with a number of other local parishes and would be renamed as ‘Mid Berkshire’ should the changes be accepted.

Members bids will be open shortly for Parishes to apply for grants and details have been passed to the clerk.

Councillor Couchman asked about an environmental transport review which the Parish Council have contributed to. Councillor Law agreed to follow this up.

8 FINANCE

The following cheques were presented to the meeting:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Cheque No** | **Payee** | **Purpose** | **Nett** | **VAT** | **Total** |
| 103475 | R Greasley | Salary | 361.58 | 0.00 | 361.58 |
| 103476 | HMRC | Tax on salary | 240.80 | 0.00 | 240.80 |
| 103477 | The Good Exchange | Support for Pangbourne Toilets Maintenance | 520.00 | 0.00 | 520.00 |
| 103478 | M Greasley | Line Marker for football club | 350.00 | 0.00 | 350.00 |
| 103479 | Vision ICT | Support | 215.00 | 43.00 | 258.00 |
| 103480 | West Berks Council | Bus Contribution | 1272.00 | 0.00 | 1272.00 |

The Council accepted cheque numbers 103475 – 103480 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

None was received between meetings.

10 OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was raised.

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