BASILDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Basildon Parish Council held on the 8th February 2023 at the Village Hall in Upper Basildon.

Present: Ms Barnes, Mrs Greasley, Mr Couchman (Chairman), Ms Cox, Mr Chadwyck-Healey

Apologies: Councillor Law, Councillors Parsons and Jones

The following members of the public attended the meeting: Mrs Keysen, Mr Hovell, Mr Stevenson - Hamilton

Minutes: Mr Greasley (clerk)

1 OPEN FORUM

The clerk was asked to follow up the issue of drainage on the Aldworth Road near the entrance to Emery Acres. It was confirmed that as per the last update, West Berkshire Council had ran into issues around land ownership and had therefore halted the construction of a soakaway; a progress update will be requested.

Traffic calming in the Parish was raised and Mr Hovell confirmed that he would be happy to volunteer for speed indicator device training. Additionally, the clerk will follow up with Councillor Jones the outcome of a discussion regarding speed limits on Gardeners Lane and will report back.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were raised.

3 MINUTES

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

4 PLANNING

The Parish Council considered the following new applications:

 23/00055 Little Slade, Aldworth Road – Internal / External Alterations

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

23/00041 Honey Pot House, nr Pangbourne Road – Detached Garage

The Parish Council reviewed the application and objected on the grounds of size and proximity to the road which adds to the impression of infill within the area.

23/00125 Hayfield, Park Wall Lane – Replacement Garden Room

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

Confirmed Decisions:

22/03027 9 Beckfords, first floor extension – WBC Approved, BPC No Objection

22/02894 5A Spring Close, side car port and rear conservatory – WBC Refused, BPC No Objection

22/02632 Flint House, Blandys Lane, New Garage – WBC Approved, PC No Objection

22/02582 Sims House, Replacement Garage – WBC Approved, PC No Objection

22/02336 Apton, Ashampstead Road, Replacement dwelling – WBC Approved, PC No Objection

5 GENERAL ITEMS

The Clerk addressed the meeting regarding the position of Chairman with Councillor Jones stepping into the role to cover the absence of Councillor Parsons. It is expected that Councillor Parsons will return for the April meeting and Councillors wish him a speedy recovery.

An update regarding grass cutting was presented by the clerk. One quote is received, another requested and details were provided for a third company to approach. The Clerk will follow this up and the decision will taken once all quotes are received.

The Clerk was asked to update the contingency plan document to cover access to the Village Hall. This will be completed before the next meeting.

6 FOOTPATHS, HIGHWAYS AND OPEN SPACES

No issues were reported with footpaths.

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** |
| 103548 | R Greasley | Salary | 368.43 | 0.00 | 368.43 |
| 103549 | HMRC | Tax on salary | 246.00 | 0.00 | 246.00 |

The Council accepted cheque numbers 103548 – 103549.

The clerk has been asked to cancel the standing order for Mrs Lines. This will require a visit to the Bank with the clerk hoping to arrange this during February.

9 CORRESPONDENCES

The Parish Council have received a letter from the local church regarding room hire costs for the Post Office. It was noted that this will incur a significant increase in cost for the Parish Council; the Clerk was asked to explore a range of options and will report back to Councillors at the next meeting.

A broken light has been reported at Wakemans. Councillor Chadwyck-Healey confirmed that SSE will investigate when they next visit the site.

10 OTHER BUSINESS

It was confirmed that the AGM will be scheduled for May and will run after the usual Council meeting which will be scheduled to start an hour earlier.

The meeting concluded at 8:30pm. The next meeting will be on the 8th March 2023.