BASILDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Basildon Parish Council held on the 12th July 2023 at the Village Hall in Upper Basildon.

Present: Mr Parsons (Chairman), Mrs Greasley, Ms Cox, Ms Barnes, Mr Chadwyck-Healey, Ms L Coyle (District Councillor)

Apologies: Mr Jones, Mr Couchman

The following members of the public attended: Mr Hovell, Dr Twitchett, Ms Vormawah

Minutes: Mr Greasley (clerk)

1 OPEN FORUM

Dr Twitchett gave an update on Emery Down Wood and requested an annual grant from the Parish Council. The woods were purchased in 2015 using money raised locally from various sources and is currently using the surplus from the purchase to fund any tree work that’s required. Safety remains the top priority, especially as a footpath runs through the wood and the Parish Council agreed to a grant of £1000 which will be reviewed on an annual basis. Additionally, the Chairman will invite the Emery Down Wood Trustees to investigate costs for information boards for the woods which the Parish Council will contribute towards.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were raised.

3 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on the 14th June having been circulated to members were declared correct and signed by the Chairman.

4 PLANNING

The Parish Council considered the following new applications:

23/01472 Crossways, Lower Basildon – Garage Conversion and Internal Works

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

Confirmed Decisions:

23/00936 Telecommunications Mast Lower Basildon – confirmed planning application is not required.

23/00846 Walnut Tree Cottage, Blandys Lane, Solar Panels – WBC Approved, BPC No Objection

23/00624 Campion House, Aldworth Road, heavy duty rural crossover – WBC Refused, BPC No Objection

23/00601 Campion House, Aldworth Road, Replacement dwelling – WBC Approved, BPC No Objection

5 GENERAL ITEMS

Councillor Chadwyck-Healey informed the meeting that the Rospa report has now been reviewed. Overall, a clean bill of health was reported with minor a repair to exterior fencing and a power wash of facilities being the only items raised. Quotes for this will be followed up.

The Clerk updated the meeting on recent issues around grass cutting in the Parish. The new contractors believe that the recent purchase of a new mower will result in normal service being resumed. Both the Clerk and Chairman will monitor and update Councillors at the next meeting.

The Parish Council have received a renewal for CPRE membership. Councillors will review the organisation and decide at the next meeting whether membership is still required.

Details of Street lighting in the Parish have been sent to the District Councillor as part of an investigation into a switchover to LED devices. Additionally, a new offer from the electricity company (SSE) has been received for lighting charges and the relevant forms were signed off at the meeting.

6 FOOTPATHS, HIGHWAYS AND OPEN SPACES

Footpaths 3 and 17 have both been tidied up by West Berkshire Council. Councillor Chadwyck – Healey will attend to an overgrown section of the Wakemans play area and the clerk will raise a request for vegetation cut back against footpaths 6 and 11.

7 FINANCE

The following cheques were presented to the meeting:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Cheque No** | **Payee** | **Purpose** | **Nett** | **VAT** | **Total** |
| 103573 | R Greasley | Salary | 399.87 | 0.00 | 399.87 |
| 103574 | HMRC | Tax on salary | 266.80 | 0.00 | 266.80 |
| 103575 | Tactical FM | Grass Cutting | 208.00 | 41.60 | 249.60 |
| 103576 | R Greasley | Paper | 5.00 | 0.00 | 5.00 |
| 103577 | West Berks Council | Rent - Wakemans | 41.77 | 0.00 | 41.77 |

The Council accepted cheque numbers 103573 – 103577.

The Clerk aconfirmed that bank statements continue to tally with the Councils records as required and that the audit documentation has been formally submitted as required with notices added to website and noticeboards.

8 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

The District Councillor updated the meeting with the following:

The Grotto will be followed up to understand why no progress is being made.

Streatley Hill will be closed for around 3 weeks from the end of July for gas works.

EV Charging points across West Berkshire are under discussion with plans for 250 new points to be rolled out.

Street lighting (as referred to above) will be followed up to see if grants are available to switch to LED lighting.

9 CORRESPONDENCES

Correspondence concerning a planning issue were received and raised with the district councillor.

9 OTHER BUSINESS

The meeting concluded at 8:30pm. The next meeting will be on the 9th September from 7:30pm.