BASILDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Basildon Parish Council held on the 14th June 2023 at the Village Hall in Upper Basildon.

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

Apologies: Ms Barnes

The following members of the public attended: Mr & Mrs Keysen

Minutes: Mr Greasley (clerk)

1 OPEN FORUM

The Parish Council were asked about vehicles using local paths and tracks and the legality of this. It was confirmed that by-ways could be used by vehicles, however, these must be taxed and insured with the police informed should residents encounter reckless or dangerous driving.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were raised.

3 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on the 10th May having been circulated to members were declared correct and signed by the Chairman.

4 PLANNING

The Parish Council considered the following new applications:

23/01284 Kubaisa, Pangbourne Road – extensions and wall cladding.

The Parish Council had no objections subject to neighbours.

23/01318 Lower Basildon View, Reading Road – Garage and boundary fence

The Parish Council objected as the proposed building is outside of the settlement boundary.

Confirmed Decisions:

23/00845 Walnut Tree Cottage, Solar Panels - WBC Approved, BPC No Objection

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

23/00856 The Firs, Pangbourne Road – Alterations, WBC Approved, BPC No Objections

23/00762 Bramleys, Gardeners Lane – Tool store, WBC Approved, BPC No Objections

23/00490 Apton, Ashampstead Road – Extensiosn and alterations – WBC Approved, BPC No Objections

5 GENERAL ITEMS

The Chairman confirmed weed treatment and additional strimming around the village hall car park has been arranged with the current contractors. Additionally, grass cutting will continue to be monitored by the Parish Council following a number of recent issues.

Councillor Chadwyck-Healey confirmed that the revised electricity tariffs were ready for sign off and this was actioned by the Chairman. Additionally, work to find a contractor to replace the faulty light at Wakemans continues after it was noted that SSE no longer managed repairs.

The Chairman noted that agreement had been reached with the Church regarding Post Office room hire and this will now continue as per before.

Councillor Jones informed the meeting that the Parish still needs another 4 members of the public to volunteer to be trained as speed gun operators. A note will go in the Country Neighbour and no further action will be taken until 8 volunteers are confirmed.

Councillor Chadwyck-Healey informed the meeting that the Rospa report is now under review with further discussions set for next month.

6 FOOTPATHS, HIGHWAYS AND OPEN SPACES

Footpath 5 (by the school) and 17 (off Aldworth Road) have been reported to West Berkshire Council for cutting back.

7 FINANCE

The following cheques were presented to the meeting:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Cheque No** | **Payee** | **Purpose** | **Nett** | **VAT** | **Total** |
| 103566 | R Greasley | Salary | 399.87 | 0.00 | 399.87 |
| 103567 | HMRC | Tax on salary | 266.80 | 0.00 | 266.80 |
| 103568 | Play Safety Ltd | Playground checks | 106.80 | 0.00 | 106.80 |
| 103569 | Tactical FM | Grass Cutting | 123.00 | 24.60 | 147.60 |
| 103570 | West Berks Council | Litter bin emptying | 235.89 | 0.00 | 235.89 |
| 103571 | West Berks Council | Grounds Maintenance | 86.23 | 17.25 | 103.48 |
| 103572 | Tactical FM | Grass Cutting | 123.00 | 24.60 | 147.60 |

The Council accepted cheque numbers 103566 – 103572.

The Clerk confirmed that the internal audit was now completed and signed off. Only minor observations were raised with the Clerk to review and action including the consideration of online banking. The Clerk confirmed that the formal audit submissions were therefore now ready for sign off by the chairman and Councillors confirmed they were happy to proceed as required.

The Clerk also confirmed that bank statements continue to tally with the Councils records as required.

8 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

The new district Councillor introduced themselves to the meeting and confirmed that plans were being in place for a monthly Council surgery to be held at Village Hall. This is likely to be in advance of the Parish Council meeting with more detail to be provided. Additionally, the new Council are looking at planning and the sharing of related information to residents as well as other matters at a local and wider district level.

9 CORRESPONDENCES

The Parish Council were copied in on correspondence relating to localised flooding in Lower Basildon. The issue is with both the district councillor and the relevant department of West Berkshire Council to resolve and the Council noted the frustrations of affected residents.

9 OTHER BUSINESS

The meeting concluded at 8:30pm. The next meeting will be on the 12th July and will commence at 7:30pm.