BASILDON PARISH COUNCIL

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

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

Apologies: Councillors Parsons

The following members of the public attended the meeting:

Mrs Sealey, Ms Preston-Barnes

Minutes: Mr Greasley (clerk)

1 OPEN FORUM

No items were raised.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were raised.

3 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on the 8th February having been circulated to members were declared correct and signed by the Chairman.

4 PLANNING

The Parish Council considered the following new applications:

23/00279 6 Teneplas, extension

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

23/00145 Knappswood Farm, barn conversion

The Parish Council reviewed the application and objected on the following grounds.

The proposal is outside of the settlement boundary and the proposed access continues to be an unacceptable solution (and potentially sets a precedent the Parish Council would be firmly against). Additionally, the Parish Council believe the proposal represents over development for the site.

23/00144 Beechwood, Park Wall Lane, extension

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

23/00190 4 Pennycroft Cottages, Loft Conversion

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

Confirmed Decisions:

23/03062 Hawksbill Cottage, Pangbourne Road – New Garage - WBC Approved, BPC No Objection

5 GENERAL ITEMS

The Clerk confirmed that two follow up emails have been sent to West Berkshire Council regarding the drainage issue on the Aldworth Road (adjacent to the entry to Emery Acres). No response has been received.

The Clerk confirmed that he will again follow up progress on the Grotto. The last update from December 2022 stated that remedial work will take place but no evidence of this has been reported.

The three grass cutting quotes were reviewed and the Parish Council voted to award the contract for 2023 to Tactical FM. The Chairman of the Parish Council will pass on the request and grass cutting will kick off towards the end of the month. The Clerk will write to the other parties to inform them of the decision.

The Church’s proposed room hire costs were discussed by Councillors. It was unanimously agreed that the increase from £400 to over £900 per quarter was more than the Council could commit to. The Clerk confirmed that the Village Hall could potentially be used and Councillor Couchman confirmed that he had also had an informal discussion with the Red Lion pub. The Council instructed the Clerk to offer the church a 25% increase in funding (£500 per quarter) and should this not be accepted the Post Office will be consulted and an alternative location selected.

6 FOOTPATHS, HIGHWAYS AND OPEN SPACES

No issues were reported with footpaths.

7 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT

Councillor Law continues to work on local issues and confirms that there will be a Council Tax increase this year of 4.99%. Additionally, the local plan, which covers planning strategy for the West Berkshire area has now concluded its consultation period and following approval moved to central Government for review.

Councillor Law concluded his update by informing Councillors that he will not be standing at the upcoming May election. The Chairman placed on record his thanks from the Parish Council for Councillor Law’s efforts over his years in office and passed on the Councils best wishes for the future.

8 FINANCE

The following cheques were presented to the meeting:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Cheque No** | **Payee** | **Purpose** | **Nett** | **VAT** | **Total** |
| 103550 | R Greasley | Salary | 368.43 | 0.00 | 368.43 |
| 103551 | HMRC | Tax on salary | 246.00 | 0.00 | 246.00 |
| 103552 | S Barnes | Expenses | 34.48 | 0.00 | 34.48 |

The Council accepted cheque numbers 103550 – 103552.

The standing order cancellation remains outstanding and this was discussed at the meeting. The Clerk will pass on the relevant details to Councillor Barnes.

9 CORRESPONDENCES

No correspondence was received.

10 OTHER BUSINESS

The meeting concluded at 8:40pm. The next meeting will be on the 12th April 2023.