BASILDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Basildon Parish Council held on the 13th December at the Village Hall in Upper Basildon.

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

Apologies: Mr Jones

The following members of the public attended: Mr King-Harris.

OPEN FORUM

No issues were raised.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were raised.

MINUTES

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

PLANNING

The Parish Council considered the following new applications:

23/02729 5 Teneplas Drive, Extensions

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

23/02764 7 Wakemans, Replacement garage with studio

The Parish Council reviewed the application and voted by majority to object on the grounds of size and its proximity to the road and footway.

23/02692 Beale Park, New Gatehouse

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

23/02492 Feathers Farm, Blandys Lane – retrospective stable / shelter

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

23/02717 Beale Park – upgrade telecommunications mast

The application was reviewed and it was confirmed that no action was required of the Parish Council.

The following decisions were confirmed:

23/01858 – Bramleys, Gardeners Lane – Alterations. WBC Approved, PC No objection

23/01861 - Half Hatch, Bethesda Street – replacement extension. WBC Approved, PC No Objection

23/00951 – Robin Hill Farm, Mead Lane – change of use (barn to office). WBC Approved, PC No Objection

GENERAL ITEMS

The Clerk confirmed that salt bins have been filled during the month in preparation for the colder weather. The invoice from West Berkshire Council is expected shortly.

The Parish Council will likely need to consider a move to ‘.gov.uk’ email addresses and it was agreed to discuss this in further detail at the next meeting.

The Parish Council have been asked to comment on the street name for the new houses on the site of the old garden nurseries. Whilst the Parish Council didn’t collectively have a preference it was felt something reflecting the former use of the site would be the most appropriate.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR UPDATES

Councillor Coyle updated the meeting with the following:

Two traffic issues have been raised in the last month covering the crossroads at the top of Hook End Lane and the exit from Yattendon Road by the Coffee House. Highways have been asked to review both and have provided feedback to Councillor Coyle who is now in discussion with the relevant residents.

The members bid for the bike station at the Red Lion pub has been successful. The Parish Council can proceed with the installation and claim back 75% of the cost.

The District Councillor confirmed that there will be upcoming budget cuts for West Berkshire Council. The Chairman asked Councillors to consider what preferences around cuts/retained services they have, and has collated a response to the District Councillor / West Berkshire Council based on the following views:

*There was a majority in favour of NOT reducing Gully Emptying and Bridge Maintenance and NOT restructuring Adult Social Care transport costs. One councillor each wanted NOT to change Parking Fees, emptying dog and litter bins and adult social care home charges.

There was a strong majority to alter the hours of opening for the Household waste centres (but to ensure also that the weekend provision is maintained or even extended) and to reduce the amount of open spaces maintenance.  Two councillors wanted to see weed spraying maintenance reduced; there were single votes for reducing litter and dog waste collection, closing or changing the management of the William Edge Care Home and for restructuring car parking charges.*

Additionally, the Chairman will request costs for litter/dog bin emptying from two suppliers who have contacted the Parish Council and offered to take on the service should West Berkshire Council no longer perform it.

FOOTPATHS, HIGHWAYS AND OPEN SPACES

No issues were reported with footpaths other than their general muddy condition following recent wet weather.

The Chairman confirmed that conversations have taken place with the Country Neighbour with regards to the planting of replacement trees on the Village Green; these will be cared for by a volunteer who has offered to help. The first new tree will be planted shortly with the removal of the existing to be arranged by the Chairman.

FINANCE

The following cheques were presented to the meeting:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Cheque No** | **Payee** | **Purpose** | **Nett** | **VAT** | **Total** |
| 103601 | R Greasley | Salary  | 399.87 | 0.00 | 399.87 |
| 103602 | HMRC | Tax on salary | 266.80 | 0.00 | 266.80 |
| 103603 | R Hudson (c/o WorldShare) | Litter picking charity donation | 200.00 | 0.00 | 200.00 |
| 103604 | SLCC | Membership | 144.00 | 0.00 | 144.00 |
| 103605 | R Greasley | FastHosts domain name payment + stamps + WI reimbursement (Christmas Tree) | 64.19 | 0.00 | 64.19 |
| 103606 | Tactical FM | Village Hall area clean up | 800.00 | 160.00 | 960.00 |
| 103607 | I Parsons | Christmas cards / stamps | 32.96 | 0.00 | 32.96 |

The Council accepted cheque numbers 103601– 103607 and the clerk confirmed the direct debit for SSE. The Clerk confirmed that cheque to bank balance checks have been completed without issue.

CORRESPONDENCES

No correspondence has been received.

OTHER BUSINESS

The meeting concluded at 8:30pm. The next meeting will be on the 10th January from 7:30pm.