BASILDON PARISH COUNCIL

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

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

Apologies: Mrs Greasley

The following members of the public attended: Mr King-Harris, Mrs Williams

1 OPEN FORUM

A planning matter was raised which the Chairman will follow up with West Berkshire Council.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were raised.

3 MINUTES

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

4 PLANNING

The Parish Council considered the following new applications:

23/02207 Springfield, Ashampstead Road – New Greenhouse

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

23/00172 Feathers Farm, Blandys Lane, Retrospective hay, feed and agricultural barn

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

The following were confirmed as approved by West Berkshire Council:

23/01971 - 1 Park Farm Cottages, Mead Lane – extension – No objections from Parish Council

23/01722 – 27 Wakemans – extension – No objections from Parish Council

5 GENERAL ITEMS

The Parish Council confirmed that it wished to make a donation to Mr Hudson’s African school building charity following his continued litter picking across the Parish. The Clerk will raise a cheque for £200 for the December meeting.

Lighting across the Parish was discussed with an update provided by Councillor Chadwyck-Healey. The Parish Council is responsible for 8 lights in and around the Wakemans area and conversations have kicked off with Volker highways regarding replacement of the ageing units for more efficient Philips lanterns which are sensor controlled, emit a warm light and are considered better for the environment. The Council await a quote from Volker and will review this upon receipt. Additionally, it was noted that following conversations with SSE the monthly direct debit paid for lighting has fallen significantly from £250 to just over £100 per month. The Chairman thanked Councillor Chadwyck-Healey for his work to date.

The Clerk requested that councillors check and request refills for salt bins across the Parish. This can be done via the ‘report a problem’ page on the West Berkshire Council website.

The District Councillor informed the meeting that grants for defibrillators are now available from West Berkshire Council and will forward on the detail to the Chairman and Clerk.

Councillor Couchman asked if the District Councillor could follow up on the local bus consultation and an update will follow at the next meeting.

6 FOOTPATHS, HIGHWAYS AND OPEN SPACES

No issues were reported with footpaths.

The Chairman confirmed that the two cherry trees on the Village Green have been checked over and will need to be cut down in the near future due to their deteriorating health. A donation for a new tree is available from the Country Neighbour and a local resident has agreed to be responsible for its care once planted. Councillor Cox will make enquiries with West Berkshire Council’s tree officer regarding a suitable replacement and will advise the Chairman accordingly.

The Chairman confirmed that he’d received a request for the Parish Council to contribute to a village Christmas tree. The Parish Council agreed to support the request; the Chairman will liaise with the WI as required.

7 FINANCE

The following cheques were presented to the meeting:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Cheque No** | **Payee** | **Purpose** | **Nett** | **VAT** | **Total** |
| 103596 | R Greasley | Salary  | 399.87 | 0.00 | 399.87 |
| 103597 | HMRC | Tax on salary | 266.80 | 0.00 | 266.80 |
| 103598 | Royal British Legion | Donation | 150.00 | 0.00 | 150.00 |
| 103599 | Michael Cairns | Hedges – Village Hall | 960.00 | 0.00 | 960.00 |
| 103600 | West Berkshire Council | Grounds Maintenance | 86.25 | 17.25 | 103.48 |

The Council accepted cheque numbers 103596– 103600 and the clerk confirmed the direct debit for SSE. The Clerk confirmed that cheque to bank balance checks have been completed without issue.

8 CORRESPONDENCES

Correspondence has been received with regards to footpath 5 and its route through the school. The Chairman confirmed that no planning application requesting change has yet been either submitted or validated to the best of the Parish Council’s knowledge and therefore there are no grounds for further discussion. If or when this changes the Parish Council will review any application and comment further.

9 OTHER BUSINESS

The meeting concluded at 8:30pm. The next meeting will be on the 13th December from 7:30pm.