BASILDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Basildon Parish Council held on the 13th September 2023 at the Village Hall in Upper Basildon.

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

Apologies: Mr Jones, Mr Couchman, Ms Cox

The following members of the public attended: Mrs Elliott

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 9th August having been circulated to members were declared correct and signed by the Chairman.

4 PLANNING

The Parish Council considered the following new applications:

23/01971 1 Park Farm Cottages – Extension

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

23/01858 Bramleys, Gardeners Lane – Alterations

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

23/01861 Half Hatch – replacement extension

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

Confirmed Decisions:

23/01472 – Crossways, Lower Basildon, Garage Conversion – PC No Objection, WBC Approved

23/01318 – Lower Basildon View, Garage and Fence – PC Objection, WBC Approved.

5 GENERAL ITEMS

The Clerk confirmed that the latest register of interests form has been shared with Councillors to complete and asked for those still to action to return them at the earliest convenience.

Street lighting for Wakemans was discussed with particular reference to timings, LED conversion and numbers in use. Councillor Chadwyck-Healey continues to discuss these areas with relevant parties and a further update will be published in the Country Neighbour.

The clerk updated the meeting on Basildon Badgers and their continued growth. The football club has been running for almost 9 years and has five league teams whilst allowing individuals and older age groups to participate in Saturday only training. The club has continued to offer season long subs for £10 and remains committed to recycling boots and kit in a bid to offer football as cheaply as possible. The clerk thanked the Parish Council for its previous support and requested a grant from the Council’s ‘clubs and societies’ budget to assist with footballs, goals and line paint purchases along with the part sponsorship of the Under 10’s team. The Chairman proposed a grant to cover three invoices at a cost of £831 and this was supported by the Parish Council (Councillor Greasley did not vote due to her involvement with the club).

The council expressed its support for this increasingly large organisation of children and parents and asked that, on behalf of the village, thanks were conveyed to all the adults who willingly give up time to support this venture.

The Chairman confirmed that a quote for £800 for hedge cutting at the Village Hall has been received. The Council reviewed it and agreed to proceed with the Chairman set to make the necessary arrangements.

The meeting considered its current membership of CPRE and decided not to renew.

District Councillor Coyle provided an update to the meeting on a number of areas:

Regarding rumours of a three weekly bin collection; it was confirmed that nothing has been discussed or agreed. Questions around recycling were asked by Councillor Barnes and it was confirmed that potential additional recycling was under discussion. Councillor Greasley offered to produce an updated list of recycling venues for publication in the Country Neighbour.

West Berkshire Council are welcoming members bids during September. The Chairman suggested the installation of bike repair stands at either one or two locations (depending on bid outcome) within the Parish and this will be taken away by West Berkshire Council for consideration.

No decision on the 143 bus service has been taken; should any significant changes be proposed this would be accompanied by a formal consultation.

The local primary school has raised safeguarding concerns regarding footpath 5 which runs through the school. A formal application to change the footpath is expected and once received will be available for feedback from all relevant parties in a bid to find an acceptable solution.

6 FOOTPATHS, HIGHWAYS AND OPEN SPACES

Footpath 7 (drift farm) has been cut back with footpaths 5 and 6 also being tidied. The A329 on the Streetley side of Lower Basildon has also received a cut back to reinstate the footpath.

The Chairman raised the issue of trees on the Village Green that are approaching end of life. The Chairman will contact Tim Martin for guidance on how best to proceed. Given that the trees have been a feature of the green for many years Councillor Parsons suggested that he post this information in the Country Neighbour and invite suggestions as to what they might be replaced with.

The Clerk will contact West Berkshire Council regarding an obstruction on footpath 11.

7 FINANCE

The following cheques were presented to the meeting:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Cheque No** | **Payee** | **Purpose** | **Nett** | **VAT** | **Total** |
| 103583 | R Greasley | Salary + expenses (£13.20) | 399.87 | 0.00 | 399.87 |
| 103584 | HMRC | Tax on salary | 266.80 | 0.00 | 266.80 |
| 103585 | Country Neighbour | Grant | 250.00 | 0.00 | 250.00 |
| 103586 | PCC Basildon | Post Office hire – 6 months | 1000.00 | 0.00 | 1000.00 |
| **103587** | **Tactical FM** | **Grass Cut (April)** | **60.00** | **0.00** | **60.00** |
| 103587 | Tactical FM | Grass Cutting (August) | 178.00 | 35.60 | 213.60 |
| 103587 | Tactical FM | Grass Cut (September) | 178.00 | 35.60 | 213.60 |
| **103587** | **Tactical FM** | **Hedge Cutting** | **300.00** | **60.00** | **360.00** |
| **103587** | **Tactical FM** | **Grass Cut (May)** | **123.00** | **24.60** | **147.60** |
| **103587** | **Tactical FM** | **Grass Cut (April Pt2)** | **123.00** | **24.60** | **147.60** |
| **103588** | **Tactical FM**  | **Grass Cut (July Pt1)** | **178.00** | **35.60** | **213.60** |
| **103588** | **Tactical FM**  | **Grass Cut (July Pt2)** | **178.00** | **35.60** | **213.60** |
| **103588** | **Tactical FM**  | **Grass Cut (July Pt3)** | **178.00** | **35.60** | **213.60** |

*Note: those marked in bold are re-issued cheques which have been requested by Tactical FM*

The Council accepted cheque numbers 103583 – 103588 and the clerk confirmed the direct debit for SSE.

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

The Clerk confirmed that a number of audit questions have been received and addressed during the first week of September.

8 CORRESPONDENCES

None were received.

9 OTHER BUSINESS

The meeting concluded at 8:45pm. The next meeting will be on the 11th October from 7:30pm.