

BASILDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Basildon Parish Council held on the 12th February at the Village Hall in Upper Basildon.

Present: Mr Parsons (Chair), District Councillor Ms L Coyle, Ms Barnes, Mrs Greasley, Mr Couchman, Mr Chadwyck-Healey, Mrs Kilgour, Mr Gidden, Mr Greasley (Clerk).

Apologies: Ms Cox

OPEN FORUM

No items were raised.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None were raised.

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on the 8th January having been circulated to members required an amendment to the other business section before being declared correct and signed by the Chairman.

PLANNING

The meeting reviewed the following applications:

25/00163 Pond Cottage, replacement windows

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

25/00127 7 Wakemans, garage replacement (garden room)

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

25/00058 Hurstmere, garage conversion and extension

The Parish Council objected by majority based on the following:

The plans are inconsistent in their representation of the dormer windows in the roof of the garage conversion. Some have windows on the drive side only, others appear to show them facing into the neighbouring property. This needs to be clarified.

25/00167 Maple Corner, garage conversion

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

25/001813 Beckfords – extension

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

Confirmed Decisions

24/02673 Arcady House, Bethesda St – Extension – WBC Approved, PC No Objection

24/02417 Tomb Farm, Replacement shipping containers – Withdrawn, PC No Objection

24/02376 Willow Rise, Park Wall Lane – extension – WBC Approved, PC No Objection

GENERAL ITEMS

The Clerk informed the meeting that a grant request has been received from Pangbourne Toilets and confirmed that in previous years £520 had been awarded. The Council voted unanimously to continue this and the Clerk will make the necessary arrangements.

Councillor Chadwyck-Healey gave an update on the Parish parks. It was noted that the Wakemans park has recently received a small amount of graffiti and the Council agreed with Councillor Chadwyck-Healey's suggestion to wait for the Rospa report for 2025 to be issued before booking in a team to clean up the park and perform any maintenance required.

The Chairman updated the meeting on the bike repair station for the village green. West Berkshire Council will cover 50% of the cost and the Parish Council voted in favour of this now proceeding to installation with the Chairman set to contact the supplier and book them in. Councillor Couchman confirmed that the space next to the old curtain shop in Lower Basildon is still a possible location for a second bike repair station subject to this first installation being completed and its impact reviewed.

Both Councillor Barnes and District Councillor Coyle offered updates on both village speed limits and the speed awareness group. District Councillor Coyle has asked the Councils speed review panel to consider a 30mph limit inside the boundary of Upper Basildon (including the Kiln Hill area) following West Berks Highways review and rejection of the proposal. Highways have agreed to improve the 30mph signage currently in use, mainly by improving visibility of the signs for motorists and they'll action this shortly.

Councillor Barnes informed the meeting that speed monitoring is now taking place across the Parish and requested funding for signage to promote this with new signage added to those already in place at the various entrances to both villages. This was supported by the Parish Council with Councillor Barnes to contact both the Clerk and Chairman with details of what is required.

DISTRICT COUNCILOR UPDATES

The District Councillor continues to work on local issues and highlighted the following to the meeting:

Speed enforcement / limits – this is covered under general items (immediately above).

Bradfield College building works – it's been confirmed that the road going towards the crossroads in Bradfield will not be closed all of the time but will be inaccessible to traffic from w/c 24/2 between 8am and 5pm. Outside of these hours a single carriageway will be in operation with traffic directed via 4 way traffic lights.

Updates on various planning enforcement issues across the Parish were provided.

A high level update on the council budget was outlined. Key points of note were that the Downland Sports Centre in Compton will receive further investment, the mobile library service will be removed (with pop up libraries under discussion) and Council owned streetlights will be set to a dimmer setting to save energy between 10pm and 6pm rather than a full turn off after midnight as previously planned.

FOOTPATHS, HIGHWAYS AND OPEN SPACES

The Clerk noted that the Aldworth Road had received a roadside (gully) tidy with mud moved to the verge at various points. A local resident has flagged this to Highways as being an undesirable solution and requested that the District Councillor be informed. This was done at the meeting.

FINANCE - UPDATES

The following cheques were presented to the meeting:

Cheque No	Payee	Purpose	Nett	VAT	Total
103682	R Greasley	Salary	400.00	0.00	400.00
103683	West Berkshire Council	Salt bin refill	129.79	25/96	155.75
103684	Tactical FM	Grass Cut – Charge split over 12 months	346.20	0.00	346.20
103685	Vision ICT	Support	65.00	13.00	78.00

The Council accepted cheque numbers 103682 to 103685 and the clerk confirmed the direct debit to HMRC and SSE.

OTHER BUSINESS

The meeting concluded at 8:30pm. The next meeting will be on the 12th March