

## BASILDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Basildon Parish Council held at the Village Hall  
Upper Basildon on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2016

Present: Mr Robert Greasley (Chairman), Mr Geoffrey Couchman, Miss Elaine Cox, Mrs Helen Longworth, Mr Tim Martin and Mr Ian Parsons

The District Councillor was unable to be present

In attendance: Mr Douglas Bending

Cllrs Barnes, O'Brien and Weekes apologised for absence.

### 1. OPEN FORUM

There were no visitors and consequently no Open Forum

### 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

### 3. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 10th December 2015 having been circulated to Members were declared correct and were signed by the Chairman.

### 4. PLANNING

Applications dealt with by circulation amongst Councillors and ratified at this meeting

15/03320 - Land North of Pangbourne Hill (Pangbourne Parish)

Although Council objected to a previous scheme on this site on the grounds that at that time the proposal appeared to be contrary to policy in proposing building outside the settlement boundary this argument fails in the light of the wording of the recent DPD on site allocations and consequently the council can see no grounds for objecting in principle. As previously, Council is of the view that objections on specific local matters are a matter for Pangbourne rather than Basildon Parish Council.

15/03336 Boat Club, Reading Road Removal of condition concerning BREEAM  
Council took the view that this is a technical question to be resolved solely by WBC.

New applications to be considered at the meeting

15/03168 Knappswood Farm, Pangbourne Road Demolition of houses and barn and construction of new house

Council objected on the following grounds:

1. Although in principle redevelopment of existing buildings in the countryside is allowable this proposal fails to comply fully with item (d) of the last paragraph of saved policy ENV20, which states "will contribute towards a balanced local community in terms of the provision of homes, jobs and services". This proposal would replace three small dwellings of a kind in short supply in Basildon by a large single house of which there is already an oversupply for local needs and demolition of the existing barn would involve closure of an equestrian-based business.
2. Other local policies also require a mix of housing types and maintenance of local businesses in country areas.
3. Although the position about the extent of current domestic curtilage is not clear it is the case that an existing barn must by definition be sited on agricultural/paddock land so that the overall proposal would at the very least involve some intrusion of domestic curtilage into such land. This sort of intrusion is discouraged by saved policy ENV22 (and also by the relevant wording in the Site Allocation DPD) and Council takes the view that should the application be

approved the domestic curtilage should be restricted to what is necessary and reasonable in relation to the proposed new house, leaving the remainder of the land on which the barn sits to be classified as agricultural in common with the surrounding paddock areas.

15/03363 – Harlyn, Pangbourne Road Extensions

Council had no objections subject to views of neighbours being taken into account and any paving in the parking area being gravel or of other permeable material.

WBC is also considering the following applications where the Parish Council is not a statutory consultee:

15/03299	Bush House, The Village	Approval of brick sample.
15/03368	Old Rectory, Lower Basildon	Work to Magnolia and Apple trees.
15/03511	Hampstead House, Blandys Lane	Work to Lime tree.
16/00009	Park View, Bethesda Street	Removal of Acacia tree.

Confirmed decisions by WBC (PC recommendation in brackets)

15/02066	Boat Club, Reading Road, LB-Discharge of Conditions-Approved-(No objections)
15/02825	Kiln Bolton House, Kiln Corner, UB-Fence-Approved-(No objections)
15/02837	Emerys Down House, Aldworth Road, UB-Extensions-Approved-(No objections)
15/02896	4 Captains Gorse, UB-Extension-Approved-(No objections)
15/02950	Field View, Bethesda Street, UB-Extensions-Approved-(No objections)
15/03028	Caravel, Bethesda Street, UB-Permitted Development Certificate-Refused-(No view)
15/03061	Emerys Down House, Aldworth Road, UB-Gates etc-Approved-(No objections)
15/03368	Old Rectory, LB-Work to Magnolia and Apple trees-Approved-(No view)
15/03511	Hampstead House, Blandys Lane, UB-Work to Lime tree-Approved-(No view)
16/00009	Park View, Bethesda Street, UB-Fell acacia and replace-Approved-(No view)

Other matters

WB has issued a group Tree Protection Order which will have the effect of suspending work to trees in the area immediately South of Kiln Ride.

5. PARISH PLAN

Some amendments have been suggested to the draft questionnaire and these will be considered in February.

6. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

The Clerk will provide WBC with information about the specifications of the new litter bins so that they can arrange to include clearing them in their overall contract.

For all other matters arising see the Chairman's action list dated 13<sup>th</sup> January 2016 (attached as Annex A).

7. FOOTPATHS, HIGHWAYS AND OPEN SPACES

a. WBC Highways have submitted a plan for surfacing work on Footpath 5 to WBC Footpath Section for comment, after which it will be sent to the Parish Council for formal approval with a view to the work being carried out in Summer 2016. At this stage Council felt that the path should be 1.5 metres rather than 2.0 metres wide but this will be dealt with when the plans are submitted for approval.

WBC stated it would be possible to include the proposal for work on the verge of the Aldworth Road (School Lane to Footpath 3) provisionally in the 2016/17 programme.

There is still an outstanding matter of whether any progress can be made for improving unsatisfactory road junctions including that at the junction of Park Wall Lane and the A329.

The Clerk will ask WBC Highways for information about ownership of the land at the junction of Hook End Lane and the A329.

The Chairman will discuss with the Head Teacher of the Primary School what might be possible for improving the ramp at the point where Footpath 5 joins the school. If a suitable scheme can be agreed it should be seen as a priority candidate for funding from the small capital works provision in the budget.

b. There is still a good deal of uncertainty about the future of the 143 bus service and the Council has set its budget for 2016/17 in a way which would permit it to provide some funding towards a subsidy should this be necessary. The Clerk will contact Mr Law to establish whether any definite information is available. Basildon residents are organizing a petition objecting cuts which would affect this bus service and the Council will provide publicity for this on its notice boards and web site.

c. Council confirmed that the proposed notice board at Wakemans should be two-bay since this would allow enough space for information displays as well as ordinary notices. The Clerk will set out a full specification before ordering a board from Greenbarnes. This board will be funded from S106 but the budget for 2016/17 includes provision for a replacement board to be sited at The Triangle and this will be dealt with at the same time.

## 8. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

The District Councillor was unable to be present but reported that he was actively engaged in planning matters at WBC including the Site Allocations DPD.

## 9. FINANCE

Cheques for payment

Ch	PAYEE	PURPOSE	NETT	VAT	TOTAL
					AMNT
			£	£	£
SO	C Lines	Litter picking Jan 16	27.00	0.00	27.00
103032	DW Bending	Salary and expenses Dec	652.30	2.04	654.34
103033	Basildon PCC	Room hire	400.00	0.00	400.00
103034	BALC	Course fee	40.00	8.00	48.00
103035	J O'Brien	Domain renewal	10.99	2.20	13.19
103036	I Parsons	Materials for bin base	31.00	0.00	31.00

Council RESOLVED that cheques numbered 103032 to 103036 and one standing order all as listed above be confirmed for payment.

b. Council is required to assess the Clerk's performance in the current year and his salary once a year and this will be done at the meeting in February 2016.

c. The Clerk presented figures for the financial report as at the third quarter of financial year 2015/16 (attached as Annex B) and for the precept and budget for financial year 2016/17 for discussion.

Council agreed to adopt the financial report as a fair and reasonable assessment of its position but noted that the ordinary reserve was expected to rise to over £20,000 by the end of the financial year and that little progress had been made towards spending the S106 and Parish Plan reserves.

In considering the level at which the budget and precept for 2016/17 should be set it would be necessary to take account of these matters as well as the considerable uncertainties about many other matters including the broadband programme, expenditure in connection with local transport and what priorities ought to be given to various capital projects which are in contemplation.

Council decided that given the extent of uncertainty it should take the following actions:

1. The precept should be maintained at the current figure of £27,000. This would remove the figure of £2,000 which is included within it as a contribution towards the broadband programme since it seems most likely that this will not now be required but add the same sum as a possible recurrent contribution towards transport costs.
2. To set the budget at £30,000, which would allow some of the smaller capital (non-recurrent) projects to go ahead. The Clerk will amend the draft budget to bring it into line with the target figure of £30,000 (attached as Annex C) and this will be considered for approval or further amendment at the February meeting of the Council.
3. To carry out the definition and costing of all potential capital and recurrent projects and to set priorities based on the best information available.

4. To review the financial position later in the year, when this information is available and at least some of the uncertainties have been resolved, with a view to implementing as many schemes as possible.

Council resolved to adopt the precept in the sum of £27,000 and the budget in the sum of £30,000 as set out in Annex C (the latter figure being subject to further consideration at the next Councilmeeting).

10. CORRESPONDENCE

- a. A copy of Upstream for Winter 2015 was passed to Cllr Partridge
- b. Council noted a briefing note from the Railway Action Group (RAG) which sets out the current position as regards the unsightly pylons and other structures erected by Network Rail along the route where electrification is in progress. The chairman will attend a meeting convened by RAG.
- c. A report has been received from the local Citizens Advice Bureau but in accordance with its usual practice Council declined to make a requested contribution.

11. AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING

Further consideration of budget details: Surfacing to Footpaths; Parish Plan; Revised Village Design Statement; S106 projects including outdoor gym equipment; Projects at the Primary School: Village Green; Clerk's performance of duties and his salary.

The meeting closed at 9.25 p.m.

Next meeting TUESDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> February 2016