BASILDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Basildon Parish Council held online on the 10th November 2021

Present: Mr Parsons (Chair), Ms Barnes, Mrs Greasley, Ms Cox, Mr Couchman, Ms Larkin, Mr Jones

Apologies: Councillor Law, Mr Chadwyck-Healey

Minutes: Mr Greasley (clerk)

19 members of the public attended to discuss local issues and various planning applications.

1 OPEN FORUM

A potential breach of planning was raised to the meeting and it was confirmed that West Berkshire Council had been contacted by both the clerk and member of the public. The clerk confirmed that he will write to Alan Law to make him aware and ask for assistance in moving the investigation forward.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Mrs Greasley confirmed an interest in the school application with Ms Cox also having an interest in the Dewerstone proposal for a new garden room. Neither Councillor voted or contributed to the relevant discussion as a result.

3 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on the 5th October having been circulated to members were declared correct and signed by the Chairman.

4 PLANNING

The Parish Council considered the following new applications:

21/02450 Basildon Primary School: Re-use of pond area to make new play area.

The Parish Council reviewed the application and by majority objected on the grounds that the proposal will have a negative environmental impact. It was felt that in replacing the current ‘wild’ area with something that did nothing positive for the local environment was a backwards step.

21/02337 Tomb Farm (Royal Berkshire Shooting School): Scaffold tower replacement with tubular shooting tower.

The Parish Council reviewed the application and objected on the grounds of height with the proposal being significantly higher than the existing tower.

21/02597 The Red House, Reading Rd, Lower Basildon: Parking space with access to A329

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

21/02583 Quince House, Beckfords: Extend Garage with new pitched roof

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

21/02555 Otford House, Nr Beckfords: Alterations / extension

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

21/02642 Dewerstone, Bethesda St: New garden room

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

Confirmed Decisions:

21/02224 Beech House - Annex, WBC Approved, BPC Approved

21/02052 Blandys Well, Blandys Lane – Extension, WBC Approved, BPC Approved

21/02220 1 Kiln Corner Cottages – Outbuilding, WBC Approved, BPC Approved

21/00527 Old Pig Sty, Blandys Lane – revised access, WBC Refused, BPC Objection

5 REVIEW OF OPEN ACTIONS

The gate at the Village Hall has been fixed with the invoice received and included on this months payment run.

Recycling at the Village Hall was discussed. Councillor Larkin will order two teracycle boxes which will then be situated in the porch area by the entrance. Additionally, a note will be put in the Country Neighbour advising of local recycling services and the availability of this additional recycling.

Representatives of the local church have contacted the Parish Council regarding a new defibulator and funding to help with its procurement and installation at the church in Upper Basildon. The Parish Council agreed to part fund the initiative (a sizeable amount has already been raised) as required and Councillor Larkin will confirm this amount at the next meeting.

Recent changes to access rights at Tookie Wood (owned by Beale Park) were discussed with a number of local residents present to voice their concerns. The Chairman noted that the Parish Council earlier this year had offered to pay to repair steps to the wood with Beale Park then locking a relevant gate to restrict entry shortly afterwards. Councillor Barnes confirmed that permitted access signs around the Park have been removed and replaced with ‘keep out’ notices and that a request by residents to meet Beale Park representatives had (to date) failed to receive a response. The Parish Council will write separately to Beale Park and request a meeting to address the issue and explore possible compromises.

6 FOOTPATHS, HIGHWAYS AND OPEN SPACES

No issues were reported with footpaths, however the village green bin was reported as being full and this has been raised to West Berkshire Council. Concerns around Tookie Wood and related access are covered in section 5 of these minutes.

7 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT

The District Councillor continues to work on local issues.

8 FINANCE

The following cheques were presented to the meeting:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Cheque No | Payee | Purpose | Nett | VAT | Total |
| 103453 | R Greasley | Salary | 361.18 | 0.00 | 361.18 |
| 103454 | HMRC | Tax on salary | 241.20 | 0.00 | 241.20 |
| 103455 | Scofell | Grass Cutting | 409.63 | 81.93 | 491.56 |
| 103456 | PCC Basildon | Post Office Hire Q3 | 400.00 | 0.00 | 400.00 |
| 103457 | West Berks Council | Litter bin emptying | 86.63 | 0.00 | 86.63 |
| 103458 | Michael Cairns | Tree Work | 900.00 | 0.00 | 900.00 |
| 103459 | Opio | VH Gate fix | 627.00 | 0.00 | 627.00 |
| 103460 | CPRE | Membership | 36.00 | 0.00 | 36.00 |
| 103461 | PCC Basildon | Post Office Hire Q4 | 400.00 | 0.00 | 400.00 |

The Council accepted cheque numbers 103453 – 103461 and the ongoing Standing Order to cover litter picking was confirmed. The Direct debit to SSE was also confirmed as received and acceptable.

Cheques versus bank statements were confirmed as correct and matching as required.

9 CORRESPONDANCE

No correspondence was received

10 OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

The meeting concluded at 9:30pm