BASILDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Basildon Parish Council held on the 16th November 2022 at the Village Hall in Upper Basildon.

Present: Mr Parsons (Chairman), Ms Barnes, Mr Chadwyck-Healey, Mrs Greasley, Ms Cox

Apologies: Councillor Law, Councillors Couchman and Jones.

Minutes: Mr Greasley (clerk)

The following members of the public attended the meeting:

Mr Gender-Sherry, Ms Keysen, Mr Edwards, Mrs Jones

1 OPEN FORUM

The following items were covered at the open forum:

A frequently blocked drain at the top of Emery Acres was raised. The Chairman will contact Councillor Law regarding a more permanent fix. Additonally, drainage in Lower Basildon was discussed and the Chairman confirmed that Alan Law had been made aware.

An update regarding vehicle speed enforcement was requested. The Chairman provided an update which is included in section 5 of these minutes.

School Parking was discussed; the Chairman updated residents on conversations with the school and neighbourhood action group / local police. The consensus was that nothing further could be done by the Parish Council presently with little change to driving habits likely unless the school implement a different pick up and drop off scheme or Police resources increase sufficiently to allow regular patrols and enforcement of general parking standards.

Hedge cutting by the Aldworth Road and Maple Lane junction was discussed. The Clerk outlined that West Berkshire Council have confirmed ownership of the verge and will therefore be responsible for the cut back.

The Clerk raised a planning matter and will discuss this with West Berkshire Council.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were raised.

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:

22/02393 7 Wakemans - Replacement Double Garage

The Parish Council reviewed the application and objected by majority on the grounds of its proximity to the main road and its overall size which Councillors felt would have an impact on the immediate surroundings.

22/02336 Apton, Ashampstead Road – Replacement House

The Parish Council reviewed the application and had no objections subject to the views of neighbours. The Council requests that any lighting conforms to West Berkshire Councils dark skies policy.

22/02520 Land adjacent Knappswood Cottage – New Detached House

The Parish Council reviewed the application and objected on the grounds that the proposal will sit outside of the settlement boundary.

22/02582 Sims House – Replacement Garage

The Parish Council reviewed the application and had no objections subject to the views of neighbours although it noted that the plans provided did not appear to accurately reflect the location of the proposed new garage. Additionally, the Parish Council believes that the roof windows shown should be frosted to maintain neighbours privacy and the building should be classed as ancillary to the main house and for the use of residents only.

22/02504 Basildon Service Station – New Signage

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

22/02632 Flint House, Blandys Lane – New Garage / Conversion of old to habitable living.

The Parish Council reviewed the application and objected on the following grounds:

The proposed garage appears, in Councillors opinion, to be too large for the plot on which it will reside. Additionally, the Parish Council notes that should permission be given then access to the site will need to be carefully managed given the shared driveway that exists.

Confirmed Decisions:

22/01794 West Berks Shooting School – Alterations – WBC Approved, PC No Objections.

5 General items

The Triangle noticeboard area has been scheduled for a tidy up in the next few weeks following a request from residents.

The following was received from Councillor Jones regarding traffic management in the Parish:

One of our Parish Councillors has been liaising with the Senior Road Safety Officer at West Berkshire Council. They conducted a speed survey over two weeks which indicated that vehicles were not significantly exceeding the 85th percentile in relation to the existing speed limits. This therefore leads to a different approach.

Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) - can be loaned to parish councillors to gather speed data. We have now had a Parish Councillor trained to be a designated user of the West Berkshire Council portal. We can therefore borrow SIDs to monitor speeds within the Parish and this data is then shared with the Council. This only works if there is a dedicated team of residents who would like to be trained, deploy and then manage the SIDs on a regular basis. We are therefore asking for volunteers to undertake these tasks. Full training will be given and volunteers are asked to email the Clerk to register their interest.

Councillor Cox provided an update on the work carried out by the local Goring Gap Environmental Group which includes Lower Basildon in its areas covered. The group run a number of environment based initiatives and would welcome volunteers to help drive these. Councillor Cox will write to the Country Neighbour to ensure the request reaches a wider audience and the Parish Council will use social media to promote.

The issues around street lighting were discussed. Councillor Chadwyck-Healey agreed to investigate the costs currently paid to light sections of the Parish and whether options exist for reducing their operating window or removing them from service. Once gathered, this will be sent to impacted residents to consider.

The Chairman updated on the meeting on the website which now needs to be updated to ensure it will be compliant going forward. The Chairman confirmed that discussions with Vision ICT had been held and Councillors approved a budget of up to £1500 to cover any work. The Chairman will meet the local web administrator as part of the next steps.

6 FOOTPATHS, HIGHWAYS AND OPEN SPACES

No issues were reported with footpaths. It was noted that the grass at the recreation ground was growing quickly following recent warm weather and the clerk will arrange for an out of contract cut to be performed by Scofell.

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** |
| 103525 | R Greasley | Salary | 368.83 | 0.00 | 368.83 |
| 103526 | HMRC | Tax on salary | 245.60 | 0.00 | 245.60 |
| 103527 | Scofell | Grass cutting | 406.19 | 81.24 | 487.43 |
| 103528 | I Parsons | Speed limit labels | 99.00 | 0.00 | 99.00 |
| 103529 | D Jones | Reimbursement of ‘Tommy’ statue | 200.00 | 0.00 | 200.00 |
| 103530 | Royal British Legion | Wreath and donation | 150.00 | 0.00 | 150.00 |
| 103531 | R Greasley | Stamps | 10.20 | 0.00 | 10.20 |
| 103532 | PCC Basildon | Post Office hire Q4 | 400.00 | 0.00 | 400.00 |
| 103533 | Scofell | Re-issue of cheque for October | 406.19 | 81.24 | 487.43 |

The Council accepted cheque numbers 103525 – 103533 and the ongoing Standing Order to cover litter picking was confirmed. The Direct debit to SSE was also confirmed.

Cheques versus bank statements were confirmed as correct by the Clerk.

The clerk confirmed that a cheque for Scofell had been re-issued as it appears to have been lost in the post since sign of last month.

9 CORRESPONDANCE

None has been received.

10 OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business and the meeting concluded at 9:10pm