

Beenham Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Monday 4th December 2023 at 7pm in the Community Room, Beenham Primary School.

Present: Councillor Graham Bowsher, Chairman (GRB). Councillors Peter McEwen (PM), Alex Cother (AC), Dieter Hinke (DH), Graham Bragg (GB), Peter Hamblin (PH) and David Hancock (DWH).

In attendance: District Councillor Dominic Boeck (DB), The Clerk, Lauren West; 7 members of the public.

23/142 Public Forum

A Parishioner thanked Greyfield Wood and GRB for the installation of the Christmas tree.

A Parishioner brought to the attention of the Council that the path at the recreational ground was very muddy. PM confirmed that he had installed a drain a few years prior, and is concerned that this could now potentially be blocked due to the large amount of rainfall. GRB and PM confirmed they would look into this to check whether a blockage has occurred, update to be provided at the next meeting.

A Parishioner confirmed that the carol service will take place at the Church on Sunday 10th December at 6pm, they asked if a member of the Council would participate and share a reading, PM accepted.

A Parishioner verified that the router to enhance the mobile service for Vodafone customers is to be installed this week and is estimated to cover up to a 500m radius. At the present time this will only cover Vodafone customers, but a member of WBC has put forward the initiative to improve rural coverage overall. DB confirmed that this is a government initiative for the digital infrastructure group, with the objective to improve rural coverage.

A Parishioner brought to the attention of the Council a flooding issue on the footpath between the church and Wickens Corner, which is not draining away. PM stated this issue was reported and an email received to confirm WBC would send someone to look into the issue. DH will bring this matter up in the upcoming meeting, update to be provided at the next meeting.

A Parishioner stated that the pressure washing had taken place in Church Lane on the 16th November to rectify the flooding issue and thanked DH for dealing with this.

A Parishioner questioned whether the issues with the telephone box were being dealt with, GRB confirmed it was, update to be provided at the next meeting.

23/143 Apologies for absence

All Councillors in attendance of meeting.

23/144 Declaration of interests

No declaration of interests brought by the Council.

23/145 Minutes of the last meeting held Monday 6th November 2023

DWH stated that amendment needed to be made to the previous minutes under section 23/141 iv., incorrect spelling of name used for school representative and he also read out the statement provided by the school. GB confirmed he voted against section 23/132iv. To be amended in minutes and signed off at the next Council meeting.

23/146 Matters arising from minutes
RESOLVED No matters to discuss.

23/147 Councillors

i. To discuss Community Social Event initiative update

RESOLVED PH confirmed the initial meeting went ahead on the 22nd November with 10 Parishioners/ organisations in attendance. The meeting was thought to be very positive and successful. Within the meeting it was found that all parties were facing the same difficulties, with many events being held but attendee numbers low. PH confirmed that an open meeting will be held on the 2nd February 2024 for all villagers to attend in order to find ways to overcome the issues. PH stated he had also been in contact with the Primary School, Preschool and the Director of Greyfield Woods to gain their involvement also.

ii. To discuss The Six Bells turning into an ACV

RESOLVED A Parishioner confirmed the application had been submitted and further information was to be provided to WBC. GB questioned what impact would the sale of the pub have for the ACV. DH stated that it was his belief that if the pub went up for sale, then it may be too late to activate an AVC.

23/148 Meetings

i. To discuss the attendance of the District Parish Conference being held on Tuesday 30th January 2024 2pm-4.30pm

RESOLVED PH agreed to attend meeting.

23/149 Planning

i. Additional planning correspondence

a. Update on the proposal of Grundon Solar Farm

RESOLVED No update available on a potential application, to be discussed at meeting once planning application provided.

23/150 Considerations

i. To gain update on flooding issues in Church Lane

RESOLVED As confirmed in the Public Forum the pressure washing took place on the 16th November to rectify the issue.

23/151 Reports

i. District Councillor

DB confirmed that two executive meetings were held in November and another meeting is to be held in December. A full meeting is scheduled for the 19th December and believed to include details regarding the local plan, and to improve the flawed current local plan.

ii. Parish Councillors

AC stated that parking continues to be an issue in Aldermaston Wharf causing road sweepers to be unable to complete their allocated sweeping work. Also brought before the council the concern of the accumulation of scrap lorries being stored on the corner of Bucklebury and the opposing layby, DB confirmed he had been contacted by a colleague in regards to this issue, questioning whether it is legal to store vehicles on the land without the correct authority to do so.

GB shared his appreciation to WBC for completing the white lines at the roundabout at the top of the hill in the village and that the signage had been removed, DB confirmed Veolia complete the work on behalf of WBC.

PH confirmed the edging on the corner of Back Lane/Stoneyfield had been partially repaired.

PM stated that the licensing statement provided by Beenham Parish Council had been submitted by the Clerk in email to the licensing department, but the Council did not appear on the agenda to speak regarding their concerns. Clerk to further contact Licensing department to ensure previously submitted statement is included in the agenda. Also shared that in the last meeting the land in Beenham Grange was to be discussed with the planning department to enquire regarding the planning permission obtained. DH to follow up with the planning department, update to be provided at the next meeting. PM also questioned whether when repairs are completed in regards to the water pipe issues, would the Council ensure the verges would be put back in place. GRB confirmed this is a highways issue, when the work is completed, if this is found to not be satisfactory WBC should be contacted, update to be provided at the next meeting.

DH confirmed that Chowdry Farm had conditional planning permission and a survey has been requested in regards to draining issues, full planning permission had not been provided yet, DH to bring update to the next meeting.

DWH stated he had checked through the previous neighbourhood plan and he wasn't certain if this was required. It had been observed that Beenham had 11 sites identified and potentially 2 sites for commercial development. GRB confirmed this had been checked a couple of years prior. DWH stated he had consulted other Parishes to see the value this added. Also believed the increase of the CIL payment received would increase from 15% to 25%. DH stated Beenham did not have any homes allocated in the plan also the cost for the plan to be put in place was very high. Also stated he believed the Village would benefit from a village plan and not a neighbourhood plan. PH stated he thought the village could benefit from social housing with GRB confirming this was put through previously but never continued.

GRB stated he would like to thank everyone for their involvement on the Christmas tree switch on. PM thanked GRB for all his help with this event.

- iii. **Clerk**
RESOLVED Clerk confirmed there were no issues to raise.

- iv. **Correspondence**
RESOLVED No correspondence to discuss.

23/152 Aldermaston Wharf

- i. **To further discuss parking issues in Mallards Way and Heron Way**
No update provided.

23/153 Parish Council Assets and projects

- i. **Telephone box library - To discuss update on safety of the telephone box library**
GRB to provide update at next meeting.

23/154 Financial matters

- i. **To agree the Receipts & Payments report**
RESOLVED No objections.
- ii. **To discuss transferring of savings account to higher interest rate bank account**
RESOLVED Agreed to open 30 day savings account with a 2.6% interest rate.
- iii. **To discuss transfer of fund to saving account**
RESOLVED DWH proposed to transfer £10,000.00 into new high interest rate savings account, seconded by DH, all Councillors were in favour.
- iv. **To start discussions on next year's budget**
Clerk to send last years budget to all Councillors, to further discuss in next meeting.
PH suggested that the community initiative might require funding. All Councillors to send ideas to Clerk for the next year's budget before the next meeting.
- v. **To pay the invoice from Beenham Primary School for shared use costs April 2022 – March 2023 in the sum of £3193.39**
RESOLVED GB advised he was still waiting to receive revised invoice after discussions with Beenham Primary School. GB proposed to pay the revised invoice cost of £3167.43, DWH seconded proposal, all Councillors were in favour.
DH stated WBC were now looking at the legal obligations to pay the school directly and this had been passed to their legal department. GRB stated if there were any problems discussions could take place for the school to transfer to WBC.

School thanked DB for chasing the fire doors and confirmed WBC were meant to provide an update by 24th November.

Full Council

4th December 2023

Parish Clerk – clerk@beenham-pc.gov.uk

226

i. **Statement of Receipts and Payments**

Receipts for November 2023

Community lettings	Community Room	1	£714.00
Community lettings	School Hall	2	£86.25
Total receipts			£800.25

Direct Debits and pre agreed payments

NA

Cheque & BACS Payments to be agreed in December 2023

Marion James	0004	BACS	£50.00
Clerk	Refund	BACS	£32.99
Clerk office allowance	Month 09	BACS	£26.00
Clerk's salary	Month 09	BACS	£445.64
HMRC	Month 09	BACS	£181.40
Clerk	Refund	BACS	£11.00
Subtotal			£747.03

Standing orders December 2023

Cleaner's Salary	Month 08	SO	£279.70
Subtotal			£279.70

Total payments	£1026.73
-----------------------	-----------------

Resolved that the payments listed above would be authorised and the online banking payments would be authorised by Councillors. **GRB, AC and PM.**

Close of meeting

It was noted that the next meeting of the Council would be held at 7pm, on 8th January 2024. There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.35pm.

Signed _____

Date _____