

Tidmarsh with Sulham Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of Tidmarsh with Sulham Parish Council, Wednesday 18th January 2012 in the village hall.

Present:

Councillor Mike Broun (chairman)
Councillor Steve Webb (vice-chairman)
Councillor Colin Pawson
Councillor Jon Chishick

In attendance:

Sarah Bosley (clerk)
District Councillor Tim Metcalfe

65. Apologies:

Councillor Colin Pawson – due to recent surgery
Councillor Jonathan Pearson – no reason given – apologies not accepted

66. Declarations of interest

None.

67. Minutes from last meeting

Minutes of 16th November 2011 agreed as a correct record and signed.

68. Matters arising

Item 53: Still no response on the emptying of the bins at the Millennium Green, as Cllr Broun currently doing it. Clerk to chase.

Item 54: Cllr Broun reported that the picnic bench he had previously seen was in fact a specially designed bench for disabled users and would cost £500. He suggested replacing the stolen one with an identical one, at a cost of £200, and councillors agreed. Cllr Broun said he would discuss making it more secure with the supplier.

Item 54: Cllr Broun reported that he had discussed the car park at the Millennium Green with Brian Murby and councillors would have to make a decision on what to do soon.

69. S106 projects

There was nothing to report, apart from the picnic bench update, above.

70. Parish plan matters

Nothing to report.

71. Annual litter pick

Clerk to contact John Heggarty to discuss.

72. District Councillor's report

District Cllr Metcalfe was joined by resident Jason Alexandar to bring the Superfast Broadband Berkshire project to the attention of councillors. The project should help increase broadband speeds for residents, but the parish council is expected to contribute towards the cost. Mr Alexandar said he believed the cost was around £2 per household.

He added that the speeds were becoming an issue and it was up to the parish council and the villagers to do something about it.

Councillors agreed it sounded a good project, but that they knew nothing about it.

Clerk to speak to WBC to find out more. In the meantime council to register its interest on the project's website.

District councillor Metcalfe reported that district councillors had, against officers' recommendations, unanimously agreed to pass plans to convert the old fire station in Englefield into a pre-school.

He also reported that Ikea had submitted revised plans. A special meeting will be held in Calcot on April 4, 2012. The new plans decrease the height of the store by five metres and the height of the car park by two metres. The colour of the building on the AONB side will be changed to grey shades and Nunhide Lane is no longer part of the application. The store will create 300 jobs.

District councillor Metcalfe also reported that a 30mph speed limit on Sulham Lane should be imposed by early March if there are no objections during the three week consultation.

He reported again that WBC is having to make severe cut backs, including to the support it gives charities. He added that senior management posts had been cut this year and that services would eventually be dissolved to parish councils. Cllr Chishick asked if there was a list of these services, but district councillor Metcalfe said it was not something that was likely to affect the parish in the coming year. He said the parish council should have received a letter stating that footpaths may become the responsibility of the parish council. No letter had been received. District councillor Metcalfe said he would keep the parish council informed of any developments.

He reported that Padworth recycling site is blaming planning rules and conditions for the reduced service there, adding that Veolia had expected 150 cars using the site every day, but there are fewer than 50. The site was supposed to cut the cost WBC was paying to Reading council for the use of its site, but residents still have to go to Reading, district councillor Metcalfe said. He said that an emergency meeting had taken place and negotiations were ongoing.

73. Planning matters

There were no updates to report.

74. Highways, Footpaths and Traffic Matters

District councillor Metcalfe reported that some parishes were concerned with highways issues in relation to the Ikea plans.

Cllr Broun reported from cllr Pawson that the mobile home at Eaglesfield should have been removed by the end of 2011. A previous letter from Graham Tandy stated that Mr Tandy would be making

sure the unit was off the site by the end of last year. Councillors agreed that cllr Pawson should take up the issue.

Concerns were again raised over the goings on at Keepers Cottage. Clerk/cllr Pawson to contact and discuss with WBC.

Clerk to chase WBC over previous questions on the gate at the start of the village and trying to get a weight limit on the bridge.

District councillor Metcalfe reported that the Pangbourne toll bridge repairs had been delayed. Now to close for rebuild and strengthening in autumn 2013.

75. Pangbourne and District Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG)

The next meeting is on February 1. District councillor Metcalfe said he would raise the issue of fly tipping.

76. Environmental Matters

It was reported that the Environment Agency now expects everyone to register their septic tanks, contrary to MP Richard Benyon previously saying it was voluntary. The EA has said it is concerned about pollution and may, in the future, inspect tanks.

77. AWE update

Cllr Chishick reported that he had attended the last meeting, but a decision on the Pangbourne pipeline was not given. He reported that he had been given a tour of the pipeline within AWE and it appeared to be in good condition.

AWE will be making the decision public within the next year, he added. The next meeting is in March.

78. Cheques signed:

Payee	Description	Amount
Sarah Bosley	Wages for January (cheque no 232)	£208.00
Sarah Bosley	Reimbursement for paying insurance premium for lawn mower (cheque no 231)	£265.00
DVLA	Fine for non-insurance of lawn mower (cheque no 230)	£50.00

After discussion, the council agreed to raise the parish council precept to £7,700. This takes into account any increases in insurance premiums and any of the work, mentioned previously by district councillor Metcalfe, falling to the parish council.

79. Other matters

Cllr Broun asked councillors to consider sending a letter of support to the owners of the Greyhound public house, if the landlord begins to struggle. Councillors decided they would say they support the

public house as a village amenity and want to keep it, but could not give personal support to the landlord.

Cllr Broun asked for a discussion on ‘breaches of code of conduct’ to be added to the next agenda.

Councillors asked clerk to obtain a copy of the electoral register for the parish.

80. Close of meeting

Chairman closed the meeting at 10.40pm.

The next meeting is on 21st March, 2012.

Date

Signed