

Tidmarsh with Sulham Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of Tidmarsh with Sulham Parish Council, Wednesday 15th January, 2014 in the village hall.

Present:

Councillor Mike Broun
Councillor Steve Webb
Councillor Colin Pawson
Councillor Jon Chishick
Councillor Jonathan Pearson
Councillor John Haggarty

In attendance:

Sarah Bosley (clerk)
1 member of the public

58. Accepted apologies

District cllr Tim Metcalfe

59. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Haggarty declared an interest in Item 7

60. Minutes from the previous meeting

The minutes from the meeting held on 20th November, 2013 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the chairman.

61. Matters arising from the minutes

Item 53: There has been no meeting of the Pangbourne and District Neighbourhood Action Group since the last meeting but if anyone has any thoughts on what they would like the NAG to cover please let Cllr Haggarty know.

62. District councillor's report

District Cllr Metcalfe was not present.

63. Planning

Planning decisions:

Application number	Location	Description	Decision
13/02505/HOUSE	Willow brook, Manor Farm Lane, RG8 8EX	Construction of double garage	Withdrawn
13/02703/CERTP	1 Tidmarsh Court, Tidmarsh Lane, RG8 8HE	Demolition of existing extension and construction of an orangery	Withdrawn
13/02693/LBC	Meadow View Cottage, Sulham, RG8 8EG	Conversion, extension and replacement of existing buildings to form two dwellings	Approved

64. Highways and Footpaths

Clerk reported that she still had not had a response from Andrew Garrett regarding Cllr Chishick's request for more signs on the entrance to the village.

Cllr Haggarty reported, in his role at Sulham Estates, that rising bollards system has been installed on Nunhide Lane. WBC originally agreed, but now the Rights of Way officers have complained. The bollards block cars, but are wide enough for legal vehicles to travel through and can be lowered by emergency vehicles and those with authority. Well illuminated at night and have a safety device fitted to prevent accidents. A lot of signs have also been put up regarding the bollards. A serious assault took place down there last year and now Sulham Estates feel the bollards are necessary, on what is a private road. Cllr Haggarty asked the council if they supported the installation and whether they could write in support to WBC.

Proposed by Cllr Pawson and seconded by Cllr Webb. It was resolved that the council supported the installation of the bollards and were satisfied the safety measures and signage in place were sufficient to warn people. The clerk is to write a letter of support for Sulham Estates.

A number of footpaths in the area are currently closed due to flooding.

It was reported that there are a number of overhanging branches on the bridges over the Pang by the Mill. Clerk to contact Streetcare to see if they can be removed as they are dangerously overhanging and have broken a number of wing mirrors.

65. Flooding and river levels

Cllr Pawson and Sima Elliot attended a meeting organised by WBC and the EA. The Pang Valley Flood Risk Management Plan is being compiled and the next meeting is on January 28th. Cllr Pawson and Sima Elliot will attend. A lengthy discussion on flooding in the area took place, with particular reference to the sluice gates in Tidmarsh and who is responsible for them.

Proposed by Cllr Pawson and seconded by Cllr Webb. It was resolved to arrange a meeting, after January 28th, with representatives from WBC, the EA and BBOWT, to work out a way to alleviate the problem in the future.

66. Bus shelter

Proposed by Cllr Pawson and seconded by Cllr Broun. It was resolved to buy a new bus shelter with S106 money, which has already been okayed by WBC. Cllr Broun to research more shelters and all councillors to bring ideas to the next meeting.

67. AWE Liaison Group

Cllr Chishick reported that there had been an attempt to reduce the number of parishes represented. The Nuclear Information Service (NIS) had said it does not think the group is performing the way it should and a review was therefore undertaken. It was decided to look at the possibility of reducing the number of parishes on the group and involve more MPs. Cllr Chishick objected to this, along with a number of other representatives, and it appears they may have convinced AWE that they need to remain on the group.

68. Accounts

Receipts put forward for payment were proposed by cllr Broun and seconded by cllr Webb.

Payments made:

Payee	Description	Amount
Aon Ltd	Lawn mower annual insurance (289)	£305.28
Sarah Bosley	Salary for January and February and a tax rebate of £208 (290)	£624
Sarah Bosley	Office allowance for January and February (291)	£40

It was resolved that the above invoices be approved for payment.

Proposed by Cllr Chishick and seconded by Cllr Webb. It was resolved to keep the annual precept to £7,700 this year, as per the draft figures presented to the councillors at the November meeting.

It was noted that the clerk has never been paid an office allowance, which she is entitled to, as she works from home. Proposed by Cllr Broun and seconded by Cllr Webb. It was resolved to pay the clerk an allowance of £20 per month.

The clerk reported the council had just received a VAT refund of £2,285.76.

The clerk also reported that WBC had agreed that it was an error on their part in the last instalment of the precept and will be refunding the money (£28) to the parish council.

69. Clerk's Report

- It was noted that a new storage bin is needed for the play equipment.
- Councillors are invited to attend a Strategic Land Availability Assessment, to discuss sites in the area in Calcot in February.
- Clerk made councillors aware of an email from Richard Benyon MP, regarding use of the Sustainable Communities Act to help the local community.

70. Close of meeting

Chairman closed the meeting at 9.50pm. The next meeting is on 22nd January, 2014.

Date

Signed