

Tidmarsh with Sulham Parish Council

Minutes of an ordinary meeting of Tidmarsh with Sulham Parish Council, on Wednesday 21st January, 2015 in the village hall.

Present:

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

In attendance:

Sarah Bosley (clerk)
Four members of the public

58. Accepted apologies

District cllr Tim Metcalfe

59. Declarations of Interest

None

60. Minutes from the previous meeting

The minutes from the meeting held on November 19th, 2014, were agreed as a correct record and signed by the chairman. The minutes of a planning meeting, held on January 9th, 2015, were also agreed as a correct record and signed by the chairman.

61. Matters arising from the minutes

Item 51: Clerk to chase WBC re white lines outside Sima Elliot's house and the widening of the footpath by the Tithe Barn.

Item 52: Cllr Haggarty reported that the wildflower meadow has been cut.

62. Planning

Planning applications:

Application number	Location	Description	Decision
14/03433/FUL	Blackbird Cottage, Tidmarsh	Demolish existing single-storey 3-bed home and replace with 2-storey 5-bed property	Object on the grounds of flood risk, that it is an over-development of the site. Also received parishioner objections from neighbours.

14/03371/MDOPO	Mayden Farm, Tidmarsh Lane	Removal of some land that constitutes the site	No objections
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63. District councillor's report

District councillor Metcalfe was not present but offered the following email update:

He chased the EA over the flooding issue raised by resident Dorothy Pickering. They have made an investigation and decided that no further action is to be taken and say they say that this was made clear in a letter to the resident.

There will be an election next week following the death of David Betts.

WBC is challenging the Government with two "judicial reviews" as the budget is severely challenged.

Cllr Pearson had previously asked district cllr Metcalfe to give an overview of what contingency is in place if the Council Offices in Newbury were completely destroyed, as happened in South Oxfordshire.

District Cllr Metcalfe said he has asked for an official answer and has already received an initial response. He will update when he knows more.

64. Flood update

Proposed by cllr Broun and seconded by cllr Pawson. It was resolved to give a donation, as requested, to the Pang Valley Flood Forum, for £250 towards the cost of the flood alleviation works. Pangbourne PC has also agreed to provide the same amount. The forum has been awarded a grant towards the costs of the initial work too, which has been paid into Tidmarsh PC bank account as the forum has no bank account of its own.

Kay Lacey updated the clerk on the progress of works. She reported that Stuart Clark from WBC is now leading the work to rebuild the bank and to rebuild the sluice on the BBOWT reserve, having come up with a revised, and cheaper, plan. BBOWT has agreed to pay the majority of the costs, which are expected to be in the region of £5,000 +VAT. Work is expected to start around April, when the ground is not so boggy.

It was also reported that the wheel at the Mill is now being worked regularly by the new owners and therefore the silt and reeds that previously blocked the mill stream have gone. Cllr Pawson reported that his bottom paddock has recently flooded but dried up very quickly, which are all positive signs.

Cllr Webb reported that the level of the Sul was going up however and the bottom part of his garden has flooded. It was noted that a 'stop board' has been put in the mill stream to divert water into Purley lake. Geroge Davidson will look into it.

We have had concerns from a parishioner saying that land she understood to be agricultural land, is now being used as garden without obtaining a 'change of use'.

65. Parish plan documents and storage

Proposed by cllr Broun and seconded by cllr Webb. It was resolved to dispose of the parish plan questionnaires that are currently taking up a lot of storage space in the hall. Clerk to check how we can dispose of them correctly.

66. Forthcoming parish council meeting dates

Proposed by cllr Haggarty and seconded by cllr Broun. It was resolved to change the annual assembly of the parish council to May and the AGM of the Millennium Green Trust to March.

67. Highways and footpaths

Proposed by Cllr Pawson and seconded by Cllr Webb. It was resolved that Arrow Fencing be contacted to quote for assessing, supplying and installing posts that are rotting on the gates and stiles of the parish walk.

Cllr Webb reported that a footpath he uses regularly is a narrow, shallow track that is flooded regularly. Very dangerous to walkers. Cllr Webb to provide exact location to clerk, who will contact WBC.

Cllr Haggarty reported problems with the footpath signs at the top of the silo field, from the top of Sulham Lane. Walkers are straying from the footpath and vandalising any signs put up to try to keep them on track. The clerk reminded councillors there was S106 money available for open spaces should more signs or work on footpaths be needed.

It was reported that the reflective sign on the north side of the road, on Tidmarsh Lane, just past 'Summerbelt' has been knocked over. Also the Tidmarsh sign at the south end of the village has been hit and bent. Clerk to report to WBC.

The footpath from Tidmarsh to Pangbourn has been cleared and is now much safer for walkers.

Cllr Haggarty reported that the rising bollards on Nunhide Lane have been objected to by WBC. Cllr Haggarty is trying to move forward with it now.

68. Environmental Matters, including footpaths

Clerk to order the new storage bin for the Millennium Green and have it delivered to Cllr Pawson until it can be installed.

69. Pangbourne and District Neighbourhood Action Group

The next meeting is on Monday.

70. AWE Liaison Group

Cllr Chishick attended a meeting in December. There was nothing of concern to report and there is no update on the Pangbourne pipeline.

71. Financial matters

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

Payments made:

Payee	Description	Amount
AON Insurance	Lawn mower annual insurance premium (327)	£305.28
Brian Murby	Millennium Green upkeep (328)	£250.00
Sarah Bosley	Salary and allowance for January, including mileage (329)	£284.00
Sarah Bosley	Salary and allowance for February (330)	£236
West Berkshire Council	Annual emptying of bins and dog bins (331)	£156.19

Proposed by Cllr Webb and seconded by Cllr Pawson. It was resolved to keep the precept the same as last year, at £7,700.

Two parishioners attended the meeting to discuss the finances of the parish magazine. Their report is attached. Councillors assured them they were still keen to have a parish magazine and would support it but would not underwrite 100% of the costs. See attached sheet.

72. Clerk's Report

The clerk reported that the annual Rospa inspection of the playground has been booked and will take place sometime in March or April.

73. Close of meeting

Chairman closed the meeting at 9.36pm. The next meeting is on 20th May, 2015.

Date

Signed