

Tidmarsh with Sulham Parish Council

Minutes of an ordinary meeting of Tidmarsh with Sulham Parish Council, on Wednesday 13th January, 2016 held at Sulham Farm, Sulham (late venue change due to clash in village hall – notices directing public to new venue were posted on the evening at the hall)

Present:

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

In attendance:

District cllr Tim Metcalfe
Sarah Bosley (clerk)
Jon Chishick

68. Accepted apologies

Councillor Sima Elliot

69. Declarations of Members' Interests for this meeting

None

70. Minutes from the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, November 18th, 2015 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the chairman.

71. Matters arising from the minutes

Item 53: Cllr Pawson will walk the Parish Walk and check all gates and posts before arranging for a quote for them to be fixed.

Item 56: The clerk reported that she has been in contact with WBC regarding the white lines on Sulham Hill as requested by Cllr Elliot. WBC said no white line work was carried out at this time of year due to road surface condition and indicated it would consider them for next year's works list.

Item 56: Cllr Haggarty noted the footpath alongside Sulham Estate land has a flooded gulley. Cllr Haggarty will discuss with Sally Jennings.

Tarmac on Sulham Hill has been repaired but the drains are still full and three drains on Tidmarsh Lane are also blocked. They appeared to be white-marked at the moment. Cllrs are concerned about flooding around The Greyhound. Clerk to write to Highways to establish if there is a gulley clearing schedule. The PC needs an updated one from the 2009 schedule they have.

Cllr Haggarty is still waiting for Clive Fisher to provide a report on the hedge cutting on the Millennium Green.

Item 58: Cllr Broun will discuss a new community noticeboard by the new bus shelter with Harry Stebbings, who made the two parish council noticeboards.

Cllr Broun reported that he has had a large oak sign made for the Millennium Green at a cost of just £200. He will speak to the Barn Partnership to order two posts to hold it. Cllr Broun has tried to

improve the parish council noticeboards in the way suggested by the Barn Partnership, but it hasn't worked, so he will look for an alternative.

Cllr Webb noted that he has cleaned the doors on the Sulham noticeboard but it is not in a good condition either.

72. Uses of S106 money from Ikea development, including highways and footpath work in Sulham – detailed reports

Clerk updated councillors on the S106 money for Ikea. She was recently contacted by Jacky Major at Tilehurst Parish Council, who notified her that the S106 money had been allocated and she had noticed that Tidmarsh with Sulham PC had been missed off and the third of the money that should have been allocated to it has been allocated to WBC. When challenged by Jacky, WBC said that Tidmarsh was unable to spend S106 money. The clerk has contacted WBC and told them that the PC is now spending its S106 money and has recently been discussing a number of projects that would require money.

District Cllr Metcalfe noted that he has spoken to WBC regarding Ikea S106 too and informed them that Tidmarsh had projects for WBC to consider. He reported that he believed Ikea would be happy to put money in to the local community and the Dovecote is something that the manager would be happy to discuss.

Two proposals for the use of the S106 money were put forward. One by cllr Pawson and one by Cllr Pearson.

Cllr Pawson put forward the following:

Works to improve the layby at Sulham in a three part plan (more details attached at the end of these minutes):

- 1) Priority would be for a footpath on Sulham Hill as the parish council believes there will be increased traffic down that road due to Ikea and if houses further up the road are built. The area is used by walkers from Nunhide Lane, the church and on the parish walk and there is currently no pavement at all. Plan could be to put a footpath on the verge so would need a handrail and scalping, or plan b could be for a proper pavement with kerb.
- 2) Next would be to widen the layby, to keep it as wide as it is at its current widest point. Do not want it to be a formalised surface.
- 3) Finally, improve the access from the layby to Moor Copse footpath. The post box will need moving and ask for the BT box to be replaced by one with a canopy.

Cllr Pearson put forward the proposal of realigning the junction at Sulham Lane and Mill Lane, as discussed and costed a number of years ago by the parish council.

He noted that it was very dangerous for walkers and drivers.

Cllr Pearson has also asked for a survey on Sulham Hill prior to Ikea and then after it opens so we can compare the traffic flow.

Proposal in the past was costed at £56,000. Cllr Pearson to look for the costings and drawings from before and forward to the clerk. Cllr Pearson asked if the PC could ask WBC and Ikea for S106 Highways money.

District Cllr Metcalfe noted that the S106 money must be used for what it was allocated to and in this case that is open spaces. He doesn't think that the junction realignment would be covered by the S106 agreement, but believes the footpath project would be.

It was noted that Sulham was always listed on the original planning documents.

Cllr Pearson requested that the PC goes back to WBC to ask for money for the whole scheme, both his and Cllr Pawson's ideas.

The PC's main concern is safety after the increase in traffic, which is expected after Ikea opens. The PC does not believe the country lanes can take that increase in traffic.

District Cllr Metcalfe suggested that the PC contacts WBC to put the junction realignment project on to the list for S106 money for the development at Sulham Hill.

Proposed by Cllr Broun and seconded by Cllr Webb. It was voted on and all, except councillor Pearson, voted to put forward Cllr Pawson's proposal and then discuss the junction realignment at a later date.

Cllr Pearson noted that he agrees with the scheme but doesn't accept the drawings put forward to the PC tonight.

74. District councillor's report

District cllr Metcalfe reported:

- Pangbourne PC has met to discuss the closure of the public toilets. It has agreed to close the one at the main carpark but will keep the ones by the river open all year.
- At WBC there will be a recognised £20m shortfall this year. For 2016-17 they need to now save £20m. It is expected that council tax will rise by 4% - 2% for social care and 2% for all other services. Around ½ to 2/3 of the budget goes on social care, which is ring-fenced and cannot be cut. That means £16.8m in cuts needs to be found in just 1/3 of the budget, which will see expenditure cut by virtually half. Our local MPs have been lobbying for local councils. Some costs will inevitably have to go up and certain jobs will be dissolved to the PCs, for example roadside cutting and footpaths.

75. Planning

Planning applications:

Application number	Location	Description	Decision
15/03320/OUTM AJ	Land adjacent to Pangbourne Hill – consulted as a neighbouring parish	Resubmitted plans - Hybrid planning application for 35 dwellings and combined public amenity space / play area with all matters reserved; plus the principal means of pedestrian and vehicular access off Pangbourne Hill, a new footway, engineering and landscaping works along the Pangbourne Hill frontage, and car	Resubmit previous objections as they remain

		park to serve Pangbourne Cemetery	
15/03312/COND 8	Land at The Berkshire Retail Park, Pincents Lane	Approval of details	No objections
15/03428/ADV	Ikea, Pincents Lane	Navigation tower	Strongly object. Full comments attached.

Planning decisions:

Application number	Location	Description	Decision
15/02772/FUL	Blackbird Cottage, Tidmarsh	Demolition of 3-bed bungalow and replace with 5-bed two-storey dwelling, with detached garage and new north facing boundary wall	Granted

15/00344/HOUSE: Longbridge House – One storey garage, comprising two closed bays and one open bay, a garden machinery store and small granny annexe with roof light and French doors – An appeal has been lodged

Clerk reported she had received an update from WBC on Keepers Cottage. The owners are expected to submit an application for a Certificate of Lawfulness for the business use and the buildings to the rear in the next week to 10 days.

76. Highways and footpaths matters, including white lines on Mill Lane and Sulham Hill

Cllr Haggarty reported that there is a new contact at BBOWT for Moor Copse nature reserve. Part of the parish walk goes through there – from Sulham Estates over Sulham brook – and it is very overgrown and needs cutting back. George Davidson has the contact and Cllr Haggarty will ask him to report the overgrown brambles.

Jon Chishick reported that he had deployed the SID device in the village at the beginning of the month. He said it noticeably slowed the traffic in most locations and appeared more effective than a ‘30mph’ sign as it actually flashes the speed the car is doing. All cars coming down Sulham Hill were doing high 30s, but did slow down, unlike when the SID was outside the village hall. Here, vehicles didn’t slow down as they seemed to know the speed camera was a bit further up. The results will be collated by WBC and sent to the PC in a spreadsheet.

Cllr Broun thanked Jon for his work with the SID. It was noted that Jon’s badge incorrectly says Tidmarsh with Sulhamstead – clerk to contact Cheryl at WBC to get a new one issued.

It was noted that a Porsche crashed through Cllr Elliot’s hedge this month.

77. Environmental matters

Cllr Haggarty reported a large incident of fly-tipping down Nunhide Lane just before Christmas. He caught the people in action and gave a number plate to police, who in turn have passed it to the EA and WBC. More than a skipful of debris was dumped in a field belonging to Sulham Estates, who has had to pay for its removal as WBC won't deal with it when it is on private land.

78. Role of the parish council and its relationship with WBC – Cllr Pearson

It was agreed to defer this to a later date due to the meeting over-running because of the Ikea S106 discussions.

79. Pangbourne and District Neighbourhood Action Group report

The next meeting is on Monday.

80. AWE Liaison Group report

Jon Chishick attended a meeting in December and there was no new news to report. The next meeting is on March 23rd.

81. Accounts, including final precept decision

Receipts put forward for payment were proposed by cllr Broun and seconded by cllr Webb. It was resolved to make the following payments.

Payments made:

Payee	Description	Amount
Brian Murby	MG upkeep payment 3 of 4 (431)	£260
Mike Broun	MG sign (432)	£200
Allianz	MG mower insurance (433)	£315.36
Sarah Bosley	Salary and allowance – January (434)	£232
Sarah Bosley	Salary, allowance and mileage – February (435)	£232

Proposed by Cllr Webb and seconded by Cllr Broun. It was resolved to increase the precept, as discussed at the November meeting, to £8,000.

82. Clerk's Report

The clerk reported:

- The clerk informed councillors the Audit Procurement opt out deadline has been extended until 31st March, so it will be agreed at the next meeting.
- Clerk gave a brief update on pensions. To agenda next time for longer discussion and decision.
- BALC subs will increase next year to fund a full-time officer.

- The clerk reported that she needs to have an eye operation in the coming weeks so there will be a period of time without cover for the PC but she hopes to work it around meetings.

83. Close of meeting

Chairman closed the meeting at 10.28pm. The next meeting is on March 16th, 2016.

Date

Signed

Tidmarsh with Sulham Parish Council

Proposal for the use of Developer Contributions (S106) arising from the Development of the IKEA Store in the Parish of Sulham.

Summary

This proposal is directed at improving pedestrian safety in the area of the junction of Sulham Lane and Sulham Hill/Mill Lane where two footpaths and a bridleway meet ie a public open space.

Background

At the foot of Sulham Hill and directly opposite Sulham Lane is a layby: it is unsurfaced with no clearly defined boundary, giving the impression of an erosion of the verge rather than an intentional feature. The southern edge is bounded by a post and wire fence; the western end by a BT phone kiosk, a Royal Mail post box and a letter bag container beyond which is a stile accessing the Parish Path, a footpath: the eastern end is a broad verge heavily overgrown extending to Nunhide Lane, a bridleway, opposite which is the continuation of the Parish Path, a footpath to the north.

Use

All these paths are used regularly by both parishioners and visitors; walkers often parking their car in the layby before setting out on the circular Parish Path or on a route from Nunhide Lane. In leaving the layby in either direction it is necessary to walk in the road, either to avoid the BT /RM furniture or, more seriously given the speed of traffic down Sulham Hill even though within a 30mph zone, lack of access on the verge.

Proposal

The proposal is in three parts –

1. The creation of a footpath, as shown on the attached plan, connecting the eastern end of the layby with Nunhide Lane, allowing safer access (including for wheelchair users) not only to the Lane and the Parish Path but for parishioners in Sulham Lane attending St Nicholas church.
2. Improvements to the layby aimed at increasing the safe area available for parking, and to include
 - a. increasing the width of the layby regularised to its widest point (the landowner, Sulham Estates, are willing to accommodate this);
 - b. re-surfacing;
 - c. a clear delineation of the layby itself and individual parking areas.
3. Access improvements at the western end to include
 - a. negotiation with BT for either removal of the phone kiosk (now considered obsolete) or replacement of the kiosk with a canopy-style “walk-through” design;
 - b. negotiation with RM for the removal of the letter bag container (the one in Tidmarsh has been removed already); relocation of the collection box into the improved layby to allow safer use by posters and the RM
 - c. creation of a “footpath” from the layby to the stile at this section of the Parish Path.

Costing

No budgetary costings have yet been sought pending agreement in principle to the project. If this is forthcoming, the intention is to proceed, with advice if necessary from WBC/Countryside Services and other appropriate departments, to prepare a proposal suitable to be put out to tender.