

Tidmarsh with Sulham Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of Tidmarsh with Sulham Parish Council, Wednesday 21st March, 2012 in the village hall.

Present:

Councillor Mike Broun (chairman)
Councillor Steve Webb (vice-chairman)
Councillor Colin Pawson
Councillor Jon Chishick
Councillor Jonathan Pearson
Councillor Jim Hutchison

In attendance:

Sarah Bosley (clerk)
District Councillor Tim Metcalfe

66. Apologies:

None

67. Declarations of interest

Cllrs Broun and Pawson declared an interest in agenda item 13 – breaches of code of conduct

68. Minutes from last meeting

Minutes of 21st January 2012 agreed as a correct record and signed.

69. Matters arising

Item 68: Cllr Broun reported that he had spoken to the company concerning added security for any new picnic bench and a quote would be coming soon. Cllrs agreed in principle to replace it.

Item 68: Clerk reported that she had emailed an official request to WBC for a costing of emptying bins at MG. No response so far.

Item 71: Annual litter pick. Cllr Webb reported that it would take place on April 1, covering two areas.

Item 74: Clerk reported that she had spoken to Andrew Garratt and the gate would definitely be installed at the start of the village, but he could not say when. No red tarmac would be going down.

Item 74: Clerk reported that Andrew Garratt had said it was unlikely a weight limit could be put on the bridge. The sign, advising it was not suitable for HGVs, was sufficient, he said.

Item 79: Clerk reported she now has a copy of the electoral register.

70. Presentation on Superfast Broadband by Kevin Griffin, from WBC

Cllrs discussed Mr Griffin's presentation, which took place during the Annual Assembly, prior to this meeting.

Cllr Pearson said he would agree to support the project but if the area didn't receive the three upgraded cabinets stated he thinks some of the money should be held back.

Cllr Chishick said he understood Cllr Pearson's misgivings but added that the contribution was relatively small and if the project didn't go ahead no money would be paid anyway.

Cllr Hutchison said the council should support it.

Cllr Pawson added that he too thought the council should support the project.

It was agreed that the parish council would support the project but a caveat was to be included in the response to Mr Griffin, stating that if the superfast broadband wasn't rolled out to all the cabinets in the parish the council would rethink its support.

Cllr Pearson said he would write a technical article to be placed in the parish magazine to help people try to increase their broadband speeds in the interim. He will also include an article on the Superfast Broadband update and get these to Jenny Cope by April 15, 2012.

71. District councillor's report

District Cllr Betts gave a detailed report in the Annual Assembly prior to this meeting.

District Cllr Metcalfe added that the bridge over the railway in Padworth was due to be closed soon, due to maintenance works by Network Rail. He reported that the bridge, which had just been modified for the new waste site, would now be knocked down and rebuilt. Lorries going into the Veolia recycling centre would have to go through the village during the works.

72. Planning applications and decisions

Planning decisions:

Application number	Location	Description	Decision
Unknown	Maiden Farm	Change of use from agricultural to horse breeding	Approved
11/02429/House	Lawrence House, Tidmarsh, RG8 8ES	Erection of single storey timber and double glazed orangery	Approved

Planning applications:

Application number	Location	Description	Decision
12/00160/HOU SE	Ogmoor House, Tidmarsh, RG8 8ES	New garden hut	Council objects
12/00281/LBC2	Thatched Cottage, Sulham Lane, RG8 8DX	Replacement doors	No objections

11/02727/FULD	Eaglesfield Stables, RG8 8ES	Construction of permanent dwelling for equine worker	Council objects
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Cllr Pawson reported that he had attended a site visit in connection with the proposed Ikea development. He reported that a bridle path and cycle route had been added to the plans. District Cllr Metcalfe reported that the forthcoming meeting concerning the development will now be held at Little Heath School, due to the expected large crowds.

District Cllr Metcalfe also reported that site visits were due to be held on April 4th and he believed the Eaglesfield application could be on the list.

73. Highways, footpaths and traffic matters

Cllr Webb passed on an official vote of thanks from Sulham residents to councillors for the new 30mph limit. Cllr Pawson put it to councillors that an official letter of thanks should be passed to Andrew Garratt at WBC. Councillors agreed and clerk to write and send.

It was reported that one of the ‘Max speed 20mph’ signs is missing from Moor Copse corner. Clerk to contact WBC to see if it can be replaced.

Cllr Pearson raised the issue of recovering costs for replacing damaged road signs when they are involved in a road accident. District Cllr Metcalfe reported that whenever possible WBC does recover costs incurred.

Cllr Pawson said he believed it was the statutory duty of the council to maintain footpaths and then reclaim the money from the landowner, so the parish council should have a budget associated with this.

District Cllr Metcalfe reported that the Government’s incentive to stop council’s increasing council tax did not cover the costs involved and therefore savings had to be made elsewhere. With the increasingly aging population came greater costs and therefore the district council would have to pass some duties onto parish councils.

The council resolved to postpone electing a footpaths officer until they know more about the duties they may be required to undertake.

A footpaths officer will be attending the next Eastern Area Vision meeting.

Cllr Chishick reported that his wife had caught her foot in vegetation attached to the Tithe Barn and although she was okay, it could have been serious. Cllr Broun said he would go and talk to the householder and remind them of their duty to maintain it.

The issue of works being undertaken at Mill Lane junction was raised. District Cllr Metcalfe said he believed it was BT and that the company should have let WBC know of any proposed works, but utilities companies do have a right to get to their infrastructure should they need to carry out works.

74. Pangbourne and District Neighbourhood Action Group

It was reported that the February meeting was attended by Helen Clarke, waste manager at WBC, as well as John Haggarty. Notes were handed out on how to deal with fly-tipping.

Cllr Hutchison reported that Mr Haggarty had had 50 tyres dumped on his land, just days after the meeting and that nobody appeared to know whose responsibility it was to deal with fly-tipping.

Cllr Hutchison also reported that the 30mph speed limit on Sulham Lane was discussed and it appeared that traffic coming down the hill was slowing down now. The next meeting will be on March 28 and Cllr Hutchison will ask for speed checks in Sulham Lane and Sulham Hill.

Cllr Pearson reported that he had a speed check in his property and he will download the data to see if the speed limit change is working.

It was also reported that the street lights are being turned off on the road up to Purley between 11pm and 6am.

75. Environmental matters

Cllr Webb raised the issue of a local history board, registering points of interest in the parish, citing the parish magazine's 'Notes from the Sul' by Richard Thomas. It was suggested that Sulham Lay-by may be a good place for such a board.

Councillors agreed it was a good idea and Cllr Webb is to look into it further.

Cllr Hutchison raised concerns over water levels on the Sul and Pang, with Cllr Pawson reporting that the mill stream had dried up for the first time since he had lived here and suggested taking MP Richard Benyon up on his offer of coming to talk to the council. Resolved that it was worrying but not to contact Mr Benyon at this stage.

Cllr Pearson suggested finding a map of where extractions are taking place.

Cllr Pawson reported that it had been suggested to him that some of S106 money could be spent on a new village hall, as the current one is very old and has an asbestos roof, so will cost a lot of money to take down. Cllr Hutchison suggested writing to WBC regarding the allocation of the S106 money for the proposed Ikea development. Clerk to send letter.

Cllr Broun reported that it will cost £70 for both notice boards in the parish to be repainted. Council resolved to have the work carried out.

76. AWE Liaison Group report

Cllr Chishick reported that the next meeting will take place on June 20th and that a decision on the Pangbourne pipeline was still not known.

77. Financial matters

Payments made:

Payee	Description	Amount
BALC	Annual subscription	£85.92
Sarah Bosley	Stationery (cheque no 234)	£20.66

The clerk told councillors that they had received £249 in S106 contributions from planning application number 10/01152/FULD – change of use from equestrian to residential to provide bedsit

at Oaklands Farm, Mill Lane, Tidmarsh. The monies must be used towards improvements to the village green. Councillors agreed that the clerk, Sarah Bosley, was authorised to sign the required letters, concerning the receipt of the S106 monies, and return them to West Berkshire Council.

78. Breaches of Code of Conduct

A full and frank discussion took place regarding an incident last May.

The matter was deemed, by all parties, to be resolved.

79. Any other business

None

80. Close of meeting

Chairman closed the meeting at 11pm.

The next meeting is on 16th May, 2012.

Date

Signed