

Tidmarsh with Sulham Parish Council

Minutes of the ordinary meeting of Tidmarsh with Sulham Parish Council, on Wednesday, 15th March, 2017 held at the Village Hall

Present:

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

In attendance:

District Cllr Tim Metcalfe
Sarah Bosley (clerk)
Jon Chishick – AWE Liaison
1 member of the public

96. Accepted apologies

None

97. Declarations of Members' Interests for this meeting

None

98. Minutes from the previous meeting

The minutes of the ordinary parish council meeting held on Wednesday, 18th January, 2017 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the chairman.

99. Matters arising from the minutes

Item 82: The clerk has been in discussions with WBC regarding the new bin and its key. The contractors have asked that it stay in place as it is different from the one they usually use and advised that a spare should probably be made and kept by the PC. They also noted that the bin isn't that full when emptied.

Item 82: It was reported that the gulley is no longer full of gravel on Sulham Lane. Contractors spent a day jetting the pipe recently too. The phone box is still in place there but the phone itself is no longer working.

100. District councillor's report

District Cllr Tim Metcalfe reported the following:

- WBC is currently in a state of turmoil due to the terrible accident of the leader, Roger Croft, in which his wife sadly died. Graham Jones has stepped in to the role temporarily.

- Currently adult social care takes up one third of the whole budget, but it is expected to increase to at least half in the near future.
- Boundary changes will see the current 52 councillors cut to 42, leaving 3,000 voters per councillor. Tidmarsh and Sulham will be joining Englefield in moving to the Theale ward and the current councillor is Lib Dem Alan Macro. Tim's ward will become Purley and Pangbourne ward. This is expected to be agreed at an extraordinary meeting next Thursday. Tim noted that he foresees some disenfranchisement of residents, particularly in Sulham due to the changes. He noted it is a long process that will come in for the next election, but residents who would like to object should come along to the meeting next week or send written representations to WBC.
- The waste site changes at Padworth were due before the planning committee but a resident raised issues and it has been put back. It is expected now around 'September time'. Tim noted that he is receiving a lot of complaints about the waste situation.
- Tim has been in contact with Veolia regarding fly-tipping and asked for the figures for the past five years. He has been told there has been no extra fly-tipping recently.
- He also noted that WBC considered holding a referendum to increase council tax by more than 2% but decided the costs involved made it a futile exercise. They have increased in by 4.9% (including 3% for adult social care, as allowed by Government) and hope that they will manage on that. He noted that if the government did allow the council to keep the business rates, as promised, then the council would be financially okay.

101. Planning

Planning applications:

Application number	Location	Description	Decision
17/00142/FUL	Eaglesfield Stables	Removal of condition 11 of 13/00456/FUL	Object on the same grounds as the parish council objected to application 13/00456/FUL *
17/00515/FULD	Eaglesfield Stables	Removal of condition 2 of 13/00456/FUL and 10 additions/extensions	Object on the same grounds as the parish council objected to application 13/00456/FUL *
17/00255/LBC2	Box Cottage, Sulham Lane	Replacement windows	No objections subject to approval of conservation officer
17/00290/HOUSE	Old School House, Sulham Hill	Construction of a conservatory	No objections
16/03613/OUTMAJ	Whitehart Meadow, High Street, Theale	Outline application for 130 homes – adjacent parish	No objections

Planning decisions:

Application number	Location	Description	Decision
16/03461/COND 1	Chestnuts House, Mill Lane	Approval of details reserved by conditions 3 and 7 of 16/01999/FUL	Approved
16/02695/MDOP O	Mayden Farm, Tidmarsh Lane	Modification of obligation of approved application 12/02469/FUL	Approved

* Cllr Pawson noted that he had written to WBC for clarification on what the changes meant but has not yet received a reply. The parish council will be objecting again and asking that the original application be looked at again. Animal welfare was noted as paramount in the original application but nothing has been carried out for four years so the PC feels the justification no longer exists. The justification was called in to question at the time of the original application and the PC still stands by that assertion.

It was noted that no decision had still been taken on the D W Lusted application for a certificate of lawfulness.

102. Library update – including parish payment

Since the previous meeting WBC has supplied figures for the number of residents in Tidmarsh and Sulham who use the library service. The councillors have reviewed these figures but have decided that they will still not be giving the district council any contribution.

103. Election of S106 committee to deal with questionnaire responses

It was resolved that cllr Pearson will take the completed questionnaires home with him and look through them all before circulating to the rest of the council.

104. Parish Council website

The clerk reported that she had been informed by BALC that the pc website was not compliant with the current Transparency Code. She informed councillors that there was funding available to have a new compliant site built for the PC. Cllr Webb noted that he would like to keep just the one website and said that he would ensure the current one is kept compliant with the Transparency Code in the future.

105. Playground inspections

Cllr Elliot noted that during her recent inspections of the play area she had noticed that the benches had some small splinters and that they needed cleaning down. It was noted by Cllr Broun that this had been discussed at the Millennium Green AGM which was held before the PC meeting tonight and Brian Murby, the groundsman for the MG, also thought they needed a water-based sealant on

them. It was also noted that in the MG AGM the idea of planting flowers around the bottom of the benches had been mentioned, as well as the need for a new bin.

Proposed by Cllr Broun and seconded by Cllr Elliot. It was resolved that Brian Murby cleans up the benches and that a new bin and flowers are also purchased in the autumn.

106. Highways and footpath matters

It was reported that the gates are still currently off of the footpaths, but Cllr Broun noted that this was due to be fixed by Arrow Fencing this week. They will also install the new noticeboards too.

Cllr Pawson also noted that a number of the signs on the footpath network also need replacing and he will look in to this.

It was reported that WBC contractors had been out cutting the footpaths back today.

Cllr Pearson reported that he had had a meeting with Gigaclear, who will be carrying out work on the roads when they begin installing broadband in the area. They have promised to try to not use temporary traffic lights on smaller tracks and lanes if possible when doing the work. He also noted that they will be stopping at the bridge as they will not be going where BT is going, but this will mean that everyone in Tidmarsh and Sulham will have the option to move to Gigaclear. The work was supposed to be done by mid-March.

The clerk reported that she had been contacted by WBC who will be removing a mirror from the end of Manor Farm Lane in the next 28 days. It will be held at Chieveley and the resident who owns it can pay to pick it up from there should they wish.

It was also noted that for the third time Thames Water have had 3-way temporary traffic lights in place but no work taking place on the highway. This causes a lot of problems on Sulham Lane and the Purley to Pangbourne road.

107. Environmental matters

Cllr Haggarty reported about a fallen tree on Sulham Lane. He said the Forestry Commission had spoken to him and assured him it was just unlucky that the tree had fallen before it was taken down. All the poplars there had been due to come down as they have come to the end of their lives, but as some were on the pipeline they had to be taken down from the top down, not felled. This was therefore due to be done at a later date, leaving the remaining trees very exposed to the elements, hence why it fell down.

Proposed by Cllr Pearson and seconded by Cllr Webb. It was resolved that the parish council complains to the Forestry Commission and asks for an assurance that all trees that are dangerous will be taken down urgently.

Cllr Haggarty also noted that light traps have been put up again. They are trapping insects to check they have recovered after the oak moth spraying last year. They will be carrying out a full survey this year to check there are no moths but no nests have been found.

108. Pangbourne and District Neighbourhood Action Group report

Chris Vidler, from WBC highways, attended the last meeting to discuss issues, such as speeding. The only one of concern to the PC was how dangerous it is walking from Pangbourne to Tidmarsh. Chris Vidler will now go away and see if there was any way to have a central refuge in the carriageway

there to make it safer to cross. He will also make other suggestions to improve safety along that stretch.

Speed monitoring is now being done all along the A340, with talk of extending the 30 mph all the way from Tidmarsh to Pangbourne.

It was noted that the vegetation is overgrown along that pavement too making it more dangerous to pass.

109. AWE Liaison Group report

Jon Chishick reported that there was a meeting on March 8th. AWE spoke about its apprenticeship scheme, which it is very proud of. Also to note was that around 400 people from the Unite union were on strike recently over pensions. A deal has been reached with one union, but Unite are still not happy. The next meeting is on June 6th.

110. Pension update

No update.

111. Financial Matters

Proposed by Cllr Webb and seconded by Cllr Broun. It was resolved to ask David Weller to carry out the internal audit for 2016-17.

The clerk informed councillors that the Millennium Green Trust must now keep its accounts separate from the parish council, as was previously done. Proposed by Cllr Webb and seconded by Cllr Elliot. It was resolved to give the Trust a grant of £1,800 per year. This will be paid to the Trust once it has sorted out the problems with its bank account.

Proposed by Cllr Broun and seconded by Cllr Elliot. It was resolved to make the following payments:

Payments made:

Payee	Description	Total amount	VAT
BALC	Good Councillor Guide books x 7 (477)	£18.90	£0
Brian Murby	MG upkeep payment 4 of 4 (479)	£270	£0
Cheque number 480	Parish council administration	£272	£0
Sarah Bosley	Mileage to course (481)	£15.21	£0
Cheque number 482	Parish council administration	£236	£0

112. Clerk's Report

The clerk reported the following:

- She also circulated correspondence on the Pangbourne and District Volunteer Centre AGM minutes and nominations for the WBC Governance and Ethics Committee.

113. Close of meeting

The chairman closed the meeting at 10.20pm. The next meeting is the annual meeting on May 18th, 2017.

Date

Signed