

Tidmarsh with Sulham Parish Council

Minutes of the annual meeting of Tidmarsh with Sulham Parish Council, on Wednesday 18th May, 2016 held at the Village Hall

Present:

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

In attendance:

District cllr Tim Metcalfe
Sarah Bosley (clerk)
3 members of the public

1. Election of chairman

Proposed by Cllr Elliot and seconded by Cllr Webb. It was resolved that Cllr Broun be elected as chairman of the parish council for the forthcoming year. He signed the declaration of office.

2. Election of vice chairman

Proposed by Cllr Elliot and seconded by Cllr Haggarty. It was resolved that Cllr Webb be elected as vice chairman of the parish council for the forthcoming year. He signed the declaration of office.

3. Election of committees

Proposed by Cllr Broun and seconded by Cllr Elliot. It was resolved that Cllr Pawson be elected as the chairman of the planning committee, assisted by Cllr Elliot. The Terms of Reference for the Planning Committee were accepted.

4. Accepted apologies

None

5. Declarations of Members' Interests for this meeting

None

6. Minutes from the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, March 16th, 2016 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the chairman.

7. Matters arising from the minutes

Item 94: The council is aware that Sulham Lane is an unofficial ‘bypass’, but would like to see the roads repaired or would like to receive money towards the repair of verges and junction improvements. Clerk to contact WBC.

Clerk to report sign missing from opposite Cllr Webb’s house.

Item 95: It was reported that a sign in the window of Pangbourne Library states that there will be an ongoing conversation regarding the future. Clerk to agenda for next meeting to collate a response and to get an update from Nicola Anderson.

Item 100: Cllr Webb updated councillors on the current status of the parish website. The clerk has bought the domain names from Go Daddy and Cllr Webb is currently arranging for it to be moved over.

8. District councillor’s report

District cllr Metcalfe reported:

- Devolution: WBC is short of cash and has huge budget issues. It must now save another £11m in the coming few years. One way to address this is to devolve some work down to the communities, and therefore the parish councils. I have warned in the past that this would happen and PCs may need to increase the precept to deal with this. Nick Carter visited the area last week and was discussing what PCs could do. Purley currently maintains its own footpaths and that could be expected of other parish councils shortly. The service centre for this area is Pangbourne, but a lot of its services are under threat, including buses, public toilets, children’s centre and library and it could be that neighbouring parishes may need to contribute to maintain these services.
- Boundary Commission review: WBC has 52 district councillors, which is based on an average number of residents per councillor. A review is now taking place to see if the wards are currently correct, given current budget pressures and population growth in certain areas.
- Lay-by renovation plans: When Nick Carter visited the area, the lay by was looked at. Mr Carter has gone back with extensive notes to see what he thinks could and should be done there. Mr Carter also noted there were a lot of potholes and poor road surfaces around the area. District Cllr Metcalfe reported that regular routine pothole inspections do take place.

9. Planning

Planning applications:

Application number	Location	Description	Decision
16/00653/COND 2	Ikea, Berkshire Retail Park	Approval of details	For information only

Planning decisions:

Application number	Location	Description	Decision
16/00562/COND 1	Blackbird Cottage, Tidmarsh	Approval of details	Granted
16/00240/HOUSE	3 Tidmarsh Barns	Single storey side extension	Granted
15/03426/ADV	Ikea, Pincents Lane	15 Fascia signs and 3 hanging signs; 13 signs and 3 sets of flags	Granted

It was noted that we are still awaiting notification of a decision on Keeper's Cottage. Eaglesfield – It was noted that the deadline is nearing. Clerk to check. Cllr Pearson noted that there were three containers at Sulham Farm and queried if they needed planning permission. Cllr Pawson will write to WBC to discuss further.

10. Use of S106 money – ideas for Sulham and Tidmarsh

Cllr Pawson noted that improving pedestrian safety had to ensure a strong case for having the footpath and Cllr Pearson noted that the S106 agreement was incredibly vague, which could allow use of the money for the works.

It was noted that ideas from the residents on what they would like to see the money used for would be a good idea.

Proposed by Cllr Webb and seconded by Cllr Elliot. It was resolved that the clerk will create a questionnaire to circulate to all residents to get an understanding of what they would like to see. No further decisions will be made on use of the money until residents have been consulted and the parish council hears back from Nick Carter on his thoughts for the lay-by.

11. Play equipment and S106 money - car park at Millennium Green

It was decided to defer this item until after the results of the public questionnaire had been collated. There will be no decision taken on the S106 spend until then.

12. Site of new bin in Tidmarsh

The clerk reported that WBC has said that it will not remove its old bin for the parish council to replace it with the new one, as it has a statutory duty to provide waste facilities.

Proposed by Cllr Broun and seconded by Cllr Webb. It was resolved that the parish council will gift the new bin to West Berkshire Council to replace the one it currently has in Tidmarsh. Clerk to arrange.

13. Highways and footpath matters

Cllr Pawson said he would like to see a Tidmarsh sign and cautionary notices informing drivers that pedestrians and horses are in the road on Tidmarsh Lane as it is incredibly dangerous. WBC Highways have previously noted that it is unsafe to walk on the road, but it is necessary for some people and it is also part of the Berkshire Cycle Route. The parish council has concerns about safety in that area, particularly if children have to walk along there to get to the school bus. Cllr Pawson will put together a proposal to present to WBC.

Cllr Webb noted that there was the same problem on Mill Lane/Sulham Hill and asked that any measures taken on Tidmarsh Lane were also put in place on Mill Lane and Sulham Hill. He also suggested reducing the speed limit.

The clerk reported that she has received an email from a resident noting that many footpaths in the villages are overgrown and proving impassable for the more elderly members of a walking group. Stiles were noted as a particular problem. Cllr Pawson reported that many of the footpaths highlighted were on Mike Smith's land and all stiles had been kept as they were necessary for the safety of cattle.

Cllr Pawson will recreate a gate audit and note any works that need doing, including replacing signs. Clerk to contact Sallie Jennings at WBC to ask her about the stiles and to ask her to write to Mr Smith with regards to the overgrown footpaths highlighted.

Cllr Haggarty reported that Sallie Jennings had recently been out to the area and WBC was now arranging to do some work on the footpaths in the villages. Sulham Estates will replace the barbed wire fence after the works have been completed. He also noted that one of the gate posts on the footpath in question had rotted off and needed replacing as a matter of public safety.

14. PC concerns over lack of notification of closure of Sulham Lane

Clerk to write to WBC to ask why there were no letters to residents informing them of the closures, which led to knock on issues such as rubbish not being collecting on the correct day.

15. Environmental matters

Cllr Elliot reported a big litter problem on Mill Lane. Clerk to report to WBC, along with the overgrown vegetation covering the chevrons on Mill Lane and Sulham Hill.

It was noted that the white lines on Sulham Lane have been painted and the Slow sign replaced.

Cllr Haggarty reported that a couple of the trees on the MG have died and will need replacing in the winter.

16. Pangbourne and District Neighbourhood Action Group report

Cllr Haggarty reported that he will now be forwarding the minutes of the NAG meetings to all parish councillors for their information.

17. AWE Liaison Group report

The last meeting was on March 23rd, where there was nothing new to report. The next meeting will be on June 22nd.

Proposed by Cllr Broun and seconded by Cllr Webb. It was resolved that Jon Chishick continues as the parish representative on the AWE Liaison Group for the coming year.

18. Internal Audit Report

The clerk reported that the internal audit had been carried out by David Weller. There were no issues to raise. A copy of the report has been circulated to all parish councillors.

19. Code of Conduct/Assets Register/Risk Assessment review

Proposed by Cllr Webb and seconded by Cllr Pawson. It was resolved to accept the updated Code of Conduct, Assets Register and Risk Assessment with the only amendment being the addition of the new bus shelter and storage box to the Assets Register.

20. Financial Matters including the approval and signing of the annual accounts and external audit forms

Proposed by Cllr Pawson and seconded by Cllr Webb. It was resolved that the chairman and the clerk/RFO sign the completed annual return forms.

Proposed by Cllr Haggarty and seconded by Cllr Elliot. It was resolved that the annual accounts were accepted and signed by the chairman and the clerk/RFO.

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

Payments made:

Payee	Description	Total amount	VAT
WBC	Annual dog bin empty charge (444)	£156.19	£0
BALC	Annual affiliation (445)	£125	£0
Zurich Municipal	Insurance premium (446)	£467.64	£0
Rospa	Annual playground inspection (447)	£79.80	£13.30
Sarah Bosley	Salary and allowance for May (448)	£236	£0
Sarah Bosley	Salary and allowance for June (449)	£236	£0
Sarah Bosley	Reimbursement for new sports kit (451)	£175.79	£29.30
David Weller	Internal Audit (452)	£40	£0
Mike Broun	Reimbursement for paint for noticeboards (453)	£41.97	£6.99
Sarah Bosley	Reimbursement for web domains (454)	£15.98	£0

The clerk reported that she had found two occasions in the past financial year when cheques were debited for the incorrect amount. She has raised the issue with Lloyds Bank and they will be rectifying the problems.

21. Clerk's Report

EV-ent leaflets were distributed to parish councillors.

Cllr Broun reported that the noticeboards had been ordered. He will check on a delivery date.

The clerk reported that she has ordered the new sports kit to go in to the box on the MG. Delivery has been delayed as it was out of stock, but it will be sent to her before the next meeting.

22. Close of meeting

Chairman closed the meeting at 9.55pm. The next meeting is on July 20th, 2016.

Date

Signed