

Tidmarsh with Sulham Parish Council

Minutes of the annual meeting of Tidmarsh with Sulham Parish Council, on Wednesday 17th May, 2017 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)
Jon Chishick

1. Election of chairman

Proposed by Cllr Elliot and seconded by Cllr Haggarty. It was resolved that Mike Broun be re-elected as chairman of the parish council for the coming year. He signed the declaration of office.

2. Election of vice chairman

Proposed by Cllr Pawson and seconded by Cllr Elliot. It was resolved that Steve Webb be re-elected as vice-chairman of the parish council for the coming year. He signed the declaration of office.

3. Election of finance and planning working groups and acceptance of terms of reference

Proposed by Cllr Webb and seconded by Cllr Elliot. It was resolved that all councillors were automatically members of both the finance and the planning working group. Cllr Pawson will continue to co-ordinate the planning. It was also resolved that Jon Chishick is co-opted on to the finance working group as a resident member. Cllr Elliot will take on the role of internal controller.

4. Accepted apologies

None

5. Declarations of Members' Interests for this meeting

Cllr Haggarty declared an interest in item 8 - planning

Cllr Broun declared an interest in item 8 – planning

6. Minutes from the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, March 15th, 2017, and of the planning meeting held on April 10th, 2017 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the chairman.

7. Matters arising from the minutes

It was noted that councillors were pleased to see the new noticeboards are now up.

8. Planning

Planning applications:

Application number	Location	Description	Decision
17/01013/CERTE	The Bungalow, Unit 3, Manor Farm Lane	One dwelling	Response attached to these minutes
17/01017/CERTE	The Bungalow, Unit 1, Manor Farm Lane	One dwelling	Response attached to these minutes
17/01018/CERTE	The Bungalow, Manor Farm Lane	One dwelling	Response attached to these minutes l
17/01054	Nunhide Farm	Steel portal framed straw barn	Permitted development – just for reference

Planning decisions:

Application number	Location	Description	Decision
15/03312/COND 8	Land at Berkshire Retail Park	Approval of details reserved by conditions in previous applications	Approved
17/00255/LBC	Box Cottage, Sulham Lane	Replacement windows	Approved
16/00236/FUL	Theale Pumping Station	Replacement generator compound	Withdrawn
16/03011/FUL	Theale Pumping Station	Replacement generator compound	Approved
16/00597/CERTE	D W Lusted, Mill Lane	Certificate of lawfulness	Split decision
17/00750/HOUSE	Keepers Cottage, Mill Lane	Removal of porch door and window inserted, new single storey extension, erection of car port, enlarge bedroom window	Refused
17/00782/HOUSE	Redbourne	Replacement garage and store	Approved
17/00408/CERTE	The Rancher	Certificate of lawfulness for residential garden	Approved
17/00967/AGRIC	Nunhide Farm, Nunhide Lane	Extension to portal frame barn	Withdrawn

9. District councillor report

District Councillor Tim Metcalfe reported the following:

- The death of Cllr Roger Croft left the district council shaken but Graham Jones has steadied the ship. He has now taken over the role of leader full time, with Hilary Cole as deputy.
- Council tax was raised by 4.99% this year – 3% of which was specifically for social care. WBC received more than 4,000 new requests for adult social care help in 2016. They are working hard with their partners to meet all genuine needs. The number of over 65s in West Berkshire has increase by 3% this year and now accounts for 24% of the West Berkshire population. Costs to the council are therefore steadily increasing. The cost of supporting a ‘client’ is £17,000 per year and £44,000 for those with special needs. The total cost is £38m, more than 30% of the total council spend.

The council has a statutory duty to provide the care to all those in need and this is therefore having a knock-on effect on other services.

- The 2017/18 budget includes a further £4.9m in savings. If the council could keep the business rates generated in the district it would be fine financially. There is some transitional funding, which has gone to help CAB, libraries and respite care.
- An internal reorganisation is happening within the council.
- All libraries have been saved, apart from Wash Common, which is now closed. All are going to be run mainly by community groups now.
- Boundary Commission – The council agreed that the best way forward was to decrease the number of councillors to 42. Wards will therefore be altered and this will mean a massive change for this area. Tidmarsh and Sulham will now fall under the Theale ward, not Pangbourne. It still must be officially ratified however.
- Padworth waste site – a parishioner threatened legal action against the council, mainly on traffic grounds. WBC is now looking at the application in detail and expects to resubmit the plans in October/November.
- Roads – There is 1,300km of roads in West Berkshire. The council has just signed off its three-year roads improvement plan. Due to the increased demand on social care budgets, the roads budget has been cut back. This means extending times between repainting white lines etc from 6 to 9 months. But he reassured parish councillors that any main junctions would still be repainted more regularly and when necessary.
- DPD – This was signed off last week. Now looking for the next round of applications for the years up to 2026.
- Parish councillors raised concerns over the perceived lack of enforcement at WBC. Tim Metcalfe noted that the department had been cut back from five to two members of staff. He noted that it would be necessary for PCs to start being the eyes and ears of enforcement in their parishes.
- He also noted that he had called in the Green Gables application but said it still went against the council’s planning policy, although Hilary Cole is now on the record as saying that she will be targeting brownfield sites in West Berkshire for planning.

10. Approve internal audit report – comments on points raised

The clerk reported that David Weller had carried out the internal audit for this year. There were no issues to report. A copy of the internal audit report has been circulated to all councillors. Proposed by Cllr Elliot and seconded by Cllr Webb. It was resolved that the council accepts the internal audit report.

11. Approve and sign annual accounts

Proposed by Cllr Haggarty and seconded by Cllr Elliot. It was resolved that the council accepts the annual accounts and they are signed by the chairman.

12. Approve and sign Section 1: The Annual Governance statement of the annual return

Proposed by Cllr Webb and seconded by Cllr Elliot. It was resolved that the council approves, and the chairman signs, Section 1: The Annual Governance statement of the annual return.

13. Approve and sign Section 2: The Accounting Statements of the annual return

Proposed by Cllr Webb and seconded by Cllr Haggarty. It was resolved that the council approves, and the chairman signs, Section 2: The Accounting Statements of the annual return.

14. Exercise of public rights – notification of display of notice dates

Proposed by Cllr Haggarty and seconded by Cllr Webb. It was resolved that the clerk displays the notice of audit on both the noticeboards and the website during the relevant dates, which are 21st June, 2017 – 1st August, 2017.

15. Code of Conduct/Assets Register/Risk Assessment reviews

Proposed by Cllr Haggarty and seconded by Cllr Elliot. It was resolved to accept the Code of Conduct, Assets Register and Risk Assessments. After review it was noted there were only changes to the Assets Register, which now includes the new noticeboards.

16. Devolution – parish portal

The clerk hopes to attend a meeting at WBC and will report back afterwards.

17. Gigaclear and Superfast Broadband update

Martin Vile, from Gigaclear, joined the meeting and reported the following:

- They are due to start the dig in July.
- They are contractually obliged to get the project finished by December 2017. Every pot in the build should be live within four months.
- He held a public drop in at The Greyhound tonight and meet around 12 people. He plans to hold another session there next Wednesday and hopes to arrange a public meeting in the village hall next month.
- He noted that he had, so far, had a good response from residents.

- Cllr Haggarty raised concerns about the dig itself and how that will be managed. He was assured that the contractors work under strict guidelines and will reinstate roads and verges with a three-year guarantee. Houses on Sulham Lane will be leafleted before the work begins and will be informed of the measures that will be in place. They may need to use temporary traffic lights but very rarely close a whole road.

The contractors doing all the work in Berkshire are MJK. Cllr Pearson noted that he has seen them working elsewhere in West Berkshire and their making good work is of a very high standard.

- He discussed the possibility of a free pot for the village hall to allow superfast broadband there and said he will come back to the council with a final response.

18. Highways and footpaths matters, including speeding on Mill Lane

Cllr Broun noted that expensive cars are being driven at high speed along the A340 regularly. It was noted that councillors believe this to be when Bentley are possibly moving cars from the storage barn to the showroom.

19. Environmental matters

Cllr Haggarty reported that it appears that cyclists have made a lot of paths in Sulham Woods and have been holding competitions. It is not their property so the Forestry Commission and WBC footpaths teams have been contacted.

It was noted that the phone is now disconnected in the Sulham phone box, but the box itself is still there. Clerk to email BT to ask for it to be removed.

It was noted that dogs are still being taken onto the Millennium Green. It was resolved that Cllr Broun will source another No Dogs sign and put it up.

Cllr Haggarty reported that work will begin again in the woods to check for Oak Processionary Moths. Traps are being put out, but so far there doesn't seem to be many moths.

20. Pangbourne and District Neighbourhood Action Group report

There was a meeting on April 10th but nothing relevant to Tidmarsh was discussed. There was talk about speeding in Purley and Pangbourne and concerns over work being undertaken at Spring Farm. There were also concerns raised about anti-social behaviour in Pangbourne.

21. AWE Liaison Group

Jon Chishick reported that the next meeting is on June 7th. He will not be able to attend but will receive the minutes after the meeting.

22. Pension update

The clerk noted that all the relevant paperwork had been completed and as soon as the council's staging date arrives (July this year) she will complete the online declaration.

23. Financial matters

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

Payee	Description	Total amount	VAT
Rospa	Playground inspection (485)	£79.80	£13.50
Arrow Fencing	Fitting signs (486)	£234	£39
Arrow Fencing	Work on the footpath network (487)	£228	£38
Cheque 488	VOID		
Harry Stebbings	Noticeboard keys and fittings (489)	£15	£0
Zurich	Annual insurance renewal (490)	£485.18	£0
David Weller	Internal audit (491)	£40	£0
Brian Murby	MG maintenance 1 of 4 (492)	£280	£0
Cheque number 493	Council administration	£236	£0
Cheque number 494	Council administration	£272	£0

24. Clerk's Report

The clerk reported the following:

- The WBC switchboard number has now changed to 01635 551111.
- The Thames Valley PCC has recently launched a website that acts as a directory to help victims of crime find support. It is www.victims-first.org.uk
- The traffic mirror at Manor Farm Lane, which the PC was previously notified about by WBC and told would be removed, will not be taken down as it has been established that it is on private land.
- The ROSPA inspection took place and one item of the play equipment was noted as broken. The clerk immediately called Cllr Broun who roped it off that day and has since fixed the problem.

25. Close of meeting

Chairman closed the meeting at 10.05pm. The next meeting is on July 19th, 2017.

Date

Signed