

TIDMARSH WITH SULHAM PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting of the Tidmarsh with Sulham Parish Council was held at the Tidmarsh Village Hall on Wednesday 17th November 2004, commencing at 8.00 p.m.

Present: Mr. M. Broun (Chairman),
Mrs. M. Kennet, Mr. E. Ayerst,
Mr. J. Harland, Mr. C. Pawson Mr. R. Taylor.

Apologies: Mr. J. Chapman (District Councillor).

In Attendance: Mr. T. Metcalfe (District Councillor).
Clerk to the Parish Council
No Parishioners

32. Declarations of Interest

There were no items listed on the agenda that resulted in any Member declarations.

33. Minutes of the Last Meeting of the Parish Council

The minutes of the last meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 15th September 2004, having been circulated, were confirmed a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

34. Matters Arising on the Minutes

There were no matters arising on the minutes.

35. District Council Report

District Councillor Tim Metcalfe apologised for lack of resources on some services, the reason being put down to lack of finance. The much heralded Amey contract was now revealing a £4 m deficit, and was under review. Staff redundancies could not be ruled out.

The area planning committees were to be reduced from 3 to 2 with effect from 1st January 2005. Members would not be receiving weekly lists from now on, and there was a certain amount of confusion in regard to the way in which members would be able to refer planning applications to a committee hearing.

An Eastern Area Vision Task Group was being established in order to consider the current facilities and the needs and requirements of the parishes situated within the Reading constituency at the eastern end of the District. Mr. M. Broun was appointed to represent the Parish Council at a series of meetings to consider the various issues, with Mr. R. Taylor as the standing reserve.

36. Planning

The Chairman of the Planning Committee reviewed the applications that had been dealt with by the Planning Committee.

App. No.	Location and Proposal	Observation
04/02148	Green Gables, Tidmarsh Lane, Plant hire and haulage.	Objection. Previous strong complaints re use of land for hire and haulage reiterated
04/01892	Beedon Cottage, Sulham Lane, Single storey conservatory.	Objection. Conservatory too large and out of keeping with locality.
04/02090	Tidmarsh Barn, Tidmarsh Lane, Variation of Conditions.	Application deemed to be invalid.
04/02276	East Wing, Maidenhatch, Extension to kitchen area.	No objections.
04/02306	Maidenhatch Lodge, Maidenhatch, New conservatory.	No objections.

The application below was considered at the current meeting

04/01892	Beedon Cottage, Sulham Lane, Revised plans for conservatory.	No objections.
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Notice of appeals were received in regard to the following sites.

Mayden Farm Tidmarsh Lane. Temporary siting of mobile home with domestic workshop and office.

Green Gables, Tidmarsh Lane. Commercial building

The following decisions were received.

01/00500	Green Gables, Certificate of lawfulness	Approved
03/01439	Green Gables, Retention of commercial building.	Refusal
04/02127	Welford, Manor Farm Lane, house and garage.	Approval

37. Highways, Footpaths and Traffic

A reply had been received from Mrs. Sally Hannon, the Executive Member representing Highways on the West Berkshire District Council. The main reason for the refusal of the request for a 30 mph speed restriction through the village of Sulham had been that the stretch of road between Sulham Hill and the entrance to Sulham House was less than 200 meters in length and with no frontage development. It had been considered that the limit if imposed would be ignored and therefore could not be enforced! A further length of road from Sulham House to the existing 30 mph restriction on the A340 Tidmarsh Road had been considered, but it was alleged that the width and alignment of the road tended to reduce vehicle speed, and the Task Group (no doubt by this time thoroughly confused) decided to take no further action. No attempt was made to consider the length of road from the bottom of Sulham Hill along Sulham Lane towards the A329 in Pangbourne.

The above situation was discussed at some length, the conclusion being to **resolve** to request the Head of Highways and Engineering at West Berkshire District Council to reassess the request for a speed restriction through the village of Sulham and to liaise with the Parish Council on the precise lengths of road that should be included.

The schedule of work for the maintenance of the A340 through Tidmarsh was to be requested, as was information on the type of road surface that was alleged to be dangerous to horses.

38. Renaming of the Road from Tidmarsh Crossroads to Little Heath Road.

Consideration was given to the naming or renaming of the road which starts at the Tidmarsh crossroads and continues through to Little Heath Road. Following a review of the various issues involved in the renaming exercise it was **resolved** to request West Berkshire District Council to name the lengths of road as follows:

The length from the A340 crossroads to the junction with Sulham Lane and Sulham Hill to be named **Mill Lane.**

The length of road from the above junction to the junction with Little Heath Road to be named **Sulham Hill**.

39. Environment

It was reported that wild mink were now believed to be causing a problem with the natural wildlife along the length of the River Pang.

40. Crime and Disorder

The Clerk had attended the first meeting of the local Neighbourhood Action Group, and reviewed the proceedings. Local issues were discussed.

41. Finance

Resolved that the following item be authorised for payment, such sum to be debited to the Parish Council account.

Pang Valley Countryside Project Contribution under sect 137 (as amended) towards the local projects.	£100.00
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42. West Berkshire District Council Housing Strategy Consultation

The above consultation document was received and noted.

43. West Berkshire District Council Anti Social Behaviour Review

West Berkshire District Council had set up a Task Group to undertake the task of understanding Anti Social Behaviour within West Berkshire. The Parish Council had been requested to give details of local problems.

It was agreed that there were no issues of any consequence to report.

44. New Ethical Framework Regulations

It was noted that the Local Authorities(Code of Conduct) (Local Determination) (Amendment) Regulations and the Standards Board for England (Functions) Order 2004 were laid before Parliament on Thursday 14th October 2004, and would come into force on 4th November 2004.

The regulations provide for local authority monitoring officers to carry out investigations into alleged breaches by members of their code of conduct which have been referred to them by an ethical standards officer prior to his or her having carried out or concluded an investigation.

45. To Consider an Approach to Achieving Parish Improvements

Members gave consideration to improvements that could be introduced into the two parishes. An informal discussion raised issues in relation to section 106 planning gains allied to improvements in local transportation, sports and shopping accessibility.

It was agreed to link the subject to the Eastern Area Vision Task Group and to reserve further comment pending the first report of the Task Group.

46. Items for Information

District Councillor Tim Metcalfe drew attention to the West Berkshire District Council publication entitled West Berkshire News. The information leaflet was intended to be distributed throughout the District Council area. No one present had received a copy of any of the three issues so far printed.

The latest newsletter received from Inspector Andy Talbot, Thames Valley Police, was circulated.

The Draft Licensing Policy issued by West Berkshire District Council was tabled.

47. Conclusion

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.52 p.m.

Chairman
19th January 2005