

Tidmarsh with Sulham Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of Tidmarsh with Sulham Parish Council, Wednesday 20th November, 2013 in the village hall.

Present:

Councillor Mike Broun
Councillor Steve Webb
Councillor Colin Pawson
Councillor Jon Chishick
Councillor Jonathan Pearson
Councillor John Haggarty

In attendance:

Sarah Bosley (clerk)
3 members of the public

43. Accepted apologies

District cllr Tim Metcalfe

44. Declarations of Interest

None

45. Minutes from the previous meeting

The minutes from the meeting held on September 18th, 2013 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the chairman.

46. Matters arising from the minutes

Item 35: There was not as much traffic for the second weekend of Pangbourne road closures. The potholes created on the first weekend are still there however. Clerk to write to WBC. Concerns now that people are aware of the route and may use it more frequently to avoid Pangbourne.

Item 35: The solar panel is still covered. Clerk has contact WBC already. Clerk to contact WBC again and ask what is to be done about foliage covering signs.

Item 36: The dog bins are now being emptied. Clerk reported that the rubbish bin on the MG should be being emptied now too.

47. District councillor's report

District Cllr Metcalfe was not present but emailed in advance, a link to the proposed cuts planned by WBC.

Cllr Chishick would like to see the public toilets in Pangbourne remain open and asked the clerk to write to Pangbourne Parish Council to see what they planned to do.

He was also concerned about the cutting of Pangbourne Library opening hours.

The other cuts that will affect Tidmarsh and Sulham include those relating to roads, signs and vegetation, which will all be reduced.

48. Planning

Planning decisions:

Application number	Location	Description	Decision
13/02248/HOUSE	3 Tidmarsh Barns, Tidmarsh Lane, RG8 8DA	Single storey side extension	Approved
13/00685/FULD	The Mill House, Mill Lane, RG8 8EB	Construction of a 4-bedroom house and carport	Approved

Planning applications:

Application number	Location	Description	Decision
13/02505/HOUSE	Willowbrook, Manor Farm Lane, Tidmarsh	Construction of a double garage	No objections

The clerk was asked to write to the conservation officer for guidance on the rationale behind the colour and amount of lighting allowed on properties in the village, in particular The Thatched Cottage.

49. Bus route subsidy

WBC is currently consulting on plans to reduce the costs of buses in the area. There are a number of proposals, including asking parish councils for subsidies or cutting services. The service through Tidmarsh on a Friday has been highlighted as one possibly under threat. Two members of the public attended, mainly on behalf of their elderly neighbours who are very concerned about the potential loss of this service.

Councillors vehemently object to the removal of 100% of the village's bus service, which is what this amounts to. They are concerned that cuts are hitting rural communities hard.

Proposed by Cllr Chishick and seconded by cllr Pearson. It was resolved that the clerk writes to WBC and informs them that the parish council is concerned about the loss of the service. They would, however, support plans to cut that particular service if others were diverted through the village instead.

50. Environmental Matters

Cllr Haggarty reported that he had met with the Forestry Commission for an update on Oak Processionary moth. It looks like none have been found, but they will continue to monitor the area over the coming weeks and will probably respray next year just to make sure. There will be another meeting in the new year.

Consultation for flood risk meeting has been postponed until the new year.

Cllr Haggarty will be attending the restoring the Sul meeting too.

It was suggested that flooding be put on the agenda for the annual meeting next year, particularly as it is something that could affect a lot of parishioners and the costs for alleviating the problems may eventually fall to the parish.

51. Superfast Broadband update

Cllr Pearson reported on his work to establish the best way forward for the village with regards to Superfast Broadband.

The clerk showed councillors a letter from WBC, with an update on the Superfast Berkshire project. It now specifies the number of properties in the area that will benefit from Superfast Broadband.

This will include 2 basic upgrades and 89 superfast upgrades.

Proposed by cllr Broun and seconded by cllr Pearson. It was resolved that the clerk will write to WBC to inform them that the parish council still did not feel it could contribute because the benefit to the village was minimal. Should this change, they would be happy to contribute.

52. SSE and other utilities

Cllr Pearson reported that he had been in contact with SSE after the storm and they had offered to come along and talk at a parish council meeting. Proposed by Cllr Pearson and seconded by Cllr Webb. It was resolved that cllr Pearson invites them to a meeting early next year.

53. Pangbourne and District Neighbourhood Action Group

Cllr Haggarty reported that the group was trying to redraw its terms of reference. He also took the parish council's speeding concerns to the meeting. Following the last parish council meeting, it was reported that the speed indicators had been around the village for about two weeks.

There were two more accidents on Sulham Hill in October. Cllr Haggarty asked for speed checks along there, but was told the road was too dangerous.

Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service is doing free safety checks for the vulnerable and elderly.

Whitchurch bridge works are already one month behind.

54. AWE Liaison Group

The next meeting is on December 10th, 2013.

55. Accounts

Receipts put forward for payment were proposed by cllr Broun and seconded by cllr Webb.

Payments made:

Payee	Description	Amount
William Iliffe	Ground prep for wild flower	£300

	turf (277)	
BALC	Course fees (278)	£40
Wildflower Turf Ltd	Wildflower turf (279)	£7,440
Sarah Bosley	Salary for November (280)	£166.40
Brian Murby	Quarterly maintenance of MG (281)	£250
Mazars	External audit (282)	£120
Sarah Bosley	Salary for December (283)	£166.40
Sarah Bosley	Tax code adjustment (284)	£83.20
Alan Maskell	Notice board maintenance (285)	£90
Brian Murby	Wildflower meadow preparation (286)	£120
Tidmarsh Village Hall	Annual hall hire (287)	£90
BALC	VAT element of course fee (288)	£8

It was resolved that the above invoices be approved for payment.

The annual return was presented to the councillors. There were no comments to note.

Proposed by Cllr Broun and seconded by cllr Webb. It was resolved to accept the annual return report. The clerk has displayed the relevant notices on the parish noticeboard so parishioners can view it should they wish.

Clerk presented the draft precept to the councillors to consider too. Clerk to invite Jenny Cope, from the parish magazine, to a future meeting.

56. Clerk's Report

- PCC meeting on Wednesday December 18th at 7pm in Newbury Town Hall
- District Parish Conference is on March 25th, 2014 at WBC, from 6pm.
- Clerk told councillors about a number of points raised at a recent course she attended, including keeping meetings to just two hours and that clerks are entitled to an office allowance for working at home.

57. Close of meeting

Chairman closed the meeting at 10.30pm. The next meeting is on 22nd January, 2014.

Date

Signed