

Tidmarsh with Sulham Parish Council

Minutes of an ordinary meeting of Tidmarsh with Sulham Parish Council, on Wednesday 18th November, 2015 in the village hall.

Present:

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

In attendance:

District cllr Tim Metcalfe
Sarah Bosley (clerk)
George Davidson – Tidmarsh flood warden

50. Accepted apologies

None

51. Declarations of Members' Interests for this meeting

Cllr Haggarty declared an interest in Item 7 - Planning. All councillors declared an interest in Item 17 – precept, and signed the relevant Application for a Grant of a Dispensation forms.

52. Minutes from the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, September 16, 2015 and of the Planning meeting held on Friday, October 30, 2015 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the chairman.

53. Matters arising from the minutes

Item 39: Cllr Pawson has spoken to Arrow Fencing regarding the replacement of gate posts on the footpaths. The quote to fix the two gates is £220 + VAT. Proposed by Cllr Webb and seconded by Cllr Broun. It was resolved that Cllr Pawson walks the Parish Path to check all signs, fences and gates and instructs Arrow Fencing to replace them as previously discussed.

Item 44: The drains appear to still be full of gravel. Clerk to report again.

Item 44: Overgrown hedges outside of the village hall to the Old Rectory – the field concerned has recently been sold. Cllr Broun to see if he can find out the name of the new owners, so the clerk can contact them to ask for it to be cut back.

54. Pang Valley Flood Forum report – George Davidson

George Davidson attended the meeting to report back to the councillors on the work being undertaken by the Pang Valley Flood Forum. He circulated an update, which is attached at the end of these minutes.

Cllr Pawson noted that while it is good news that water levels are low, that can also cause some problems, particularly on the Mill Stream, where silt builds up and allows reeds to grow, which Cllr Pawson had removed last year.

George Davidson reported that he has asked the Environment Agency to walk the length of the Pang, to check it all, as there are a lot of weeds in some parts.

He will also discuss the use of swirling boards with the EA and mention to Kay Lacey too.

He asked the parish council if it was happy for him to apply for an SSEB grant, which is used to make communities flood resistant. Proposed by cllr Pawson and seconded by cllr Webb. It was resolved that George Davidson applies for the grant and asks for it to be put into the PC bank account as the PVFF does not have an account.

55. District councillor's report

Cllr Metcalfe reported:

- The DPD has been one of the most controversial items that has come before the council in some time. The budget is also another unpopular and controversial matter being currently dealt with.
- Even more housing will be needed in the future so another DPD will be needed soon.
- Any concerns the PC has about specific applications can be brought up when the specific planning application is actually put in. Cllr Pawson noted concerns about any future objections of these applications on, for example, traffic grounds. District cllr Metcalfe said there was no guarantee the developments identified would actually fulfil criteria needed to gain planning permission; it was just identifying the potential for housing in a specific area. He noted that any issues must be highlighted to ensure the S106 money went to mitigate the concerns of local residents.
- He also noted that parishes will need to be more proactive in the next DPD.
- Cllr Haggarty asked about the Pincents Hill housing proposals and district cllr Metcalfe reported that they had been put on hold due to concerns about building on the top half of the area. No decision will be made until Ikea is built and the road situation is looked at in detail.
- Cllr Pawson asked why Pincents Lane could not be opened. District cllr Metcalfe noted that it could become a rat run with no passing points. It was noted that any future CIL or S106 payments could be used to improve Pincents Lane and open it up.

56. Planning

Planning applications:

Application number	Location	Description	Decision
15/02772/FUL	Blackbird Cottage	Demolition of existing 3-bed, single storey house and replace with 5-bed double storey house, with detached double garage	Object

Planning decisions:

Application number	Location	Description	Decision
15/01719/FULD	The Mill House, Mill Lane	Variation of condition set out in 13/00685/FULD	Granted
15/02356/HOUSE	Knabs Lodge, Mill Lane	Variation of condition set out in 14/01464/HOUSE	Granted
15/02170/CERTP	Chestnuts House, Mill Lane	Replacement door and windows and removal of asbestos roofing and exterior to be clad in black weatherboarding	Withdrawn

Cllr Pawson reported that the application for Malpas Farm was resubmitted due to an error on the application form. The PC had no objections before and still has no objections.

Eaglesfield: The clerk was asked to check the date that the three years is up on the application and to confirm the continued viability of the business as it is noted that there doesn't seem to be any business activity there at present.

Keeper's Cottage: Clerk reported that she had been in contact with Lee Goodall, the enforcement officer who reported that he had visited the site and met with the owners and is now conducting a full planning history appraisal, which may take some time. He noted that the business activity appeared to have been going on for more than 10 years. Councillors disagreed with this and asked the clerk to contact Lee Goodall to note that the current owners only moved in a few years ago. Also note that there is an office on site, as well as the daily lorry movements.

WBC consultation on proposed Housing Site Allocation Development Plan: Proposed by Cllr Pawson and seconded by Cllr Webb. It was resolved to reiterate the initial objections submitted by the PC and further add that the PC would be looking for the implementation of a north/south route as cited in the Eastern Area Vision document.

56. Highways and footpaths matters, including white lines on Mill Lane and Sulham Hill

Cllr Elliot reported that the white lines on Mill Lane have made a difference to traffic speeds and asked if they could be put all the way up Sulham Hill to try to help slow the traffic. District cllr Metcalfe noted that the white line budget has been cut by 60%. The clerk to ask WBC and to also report the overgrown hedges blocking the chevrons.

Jon Chishick gave an overview of the process for using the SID and noted that all the areas highlighted at the last meeting had now been approved as sites by WBC. Proposed by cllr Elliot and seconded by cllr Haggarty. It was resolved that Jon Chishick contacts WBC and arranges to have the SID device from January 5th and uses it at all agreed sites. Sulham lay-by site to be done early morning.

57. Replacement and repair of benches on the Millennium Green

Cllr Elliot reported that she had noticed some of the benches on the MG had small splinters on them. Cllr Broun to inspect and ask Brian Murby to lightly sand in order to remove them.

58. Replacement of litter bin by the bus shelter

Proposed by cllr Pawson and seconded by cllr Broun. It was resolved to order a Slimline Derby Black Steel bin to replace the old red one near the bus shelter. Clerk to check with WBC that they will still be able to empty it.

It was also noted that a replacement community noticeboard is needed near the bus shelter now the old one has been removed. Cllr Broun to discuss with Harry Stebbings to see if one could be made of a similar style to the Parish Council noticeboard in that area.

59. New play equipment for the Millennium Green storage box

It was noted that the lid of the new storage box does not stay down properly. Clerk to ask if this is usual.

Clerk to contact WBC to see if any 'keep fit' schemes offer play equipment to go in the box. Need to try to get some new items before next spring.

60. Future use of S106 money

Cllr Haggarty put forward the ideas of resurrecting the plans for the lay-by at Sulham and for the footpath connecting the lay-by to Nunhide Lane.

Proposed by Cllr Pawson and seconded by Cllr Haggarty. It was resolved to get a detailed design drawn up and put out to local contractors for three quotes. The ideas have been broken down into three sections. The PC would like to focus on the footpath first as it is a matter of pedestrian safety due to the increased traffic coming along that road now. The PC must also approach WBC Highways Department to ask for a topographical study on the area.

Cllr Pawson to create a draft design proposal. Also circulate to Stewart Sowden at WBC with regards to getting S106 money to help with the costs.

61. Report from Parish Liaison meeting – Cllr Pearson

Cllr Pearson was not present at the meeting.

62. Environmental matters

Cllr Broun reported that Brian Murby had done a good job on the wildflower meadow at the MG, but that it now needs raking.

Cllr Haggarty presented councillors with the award that he recently picked up for the wildflower meadow.

He also reported that he had spoken to Greg Leeke with regards to the annual cutting of the hedges and he will come out to look at it as soon as possible and suggest actions.

Cllr Haggarty also noted that the trees on the MG need mulching and he reminded councillors that new trees are needed to replace the felled ones on the green. Cllr Haggarty to arrange for the mulching.

Cllr Broun reported that he has been asked several times why the car park at the front of the MG is not opened up to the public. Cllr Pawson noted that he believed the current car park was significantly larger than was detailed in the Trust Deeds anyway, but he would go away and check the deeds.

63. Pangbourne and District Neighbourhood Action Group report

District Cllr Metcalfe reported that Cllr Elliot's concerns about Moor Copse had been brought up at the recent NAG meeting. He noted that the NAG had written to the local police to express its disappointment that no officers attended the meeting.

64. AWE Liaison Group report

Jon Chishick attended a meeting on 29th November. He reported that an EA report said that they were happy that nothing was being done about the Pangbourne pipeline in the short term – which appears to be around 15 years – as it is not a problem and it isn't cost effective to do anything. The next meeting is on December 2nd. He also reported that he attended AWE today to meet the new MD, who started last year.

65. Accounts

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

Payments made:

Payee	Description	Amount
The Barn Partnership	Replacement bus shelter (425)	£8,317.20
Mazars	External audit (426)	£150.00
BALC	Councillors' course (427)	£96.00
Sarah Bosley	Salary and allowance – November (428)	£231.90
Sarah Bosley	Salary, allowance and mileage – December (429)	£263.90
John Haggarty	Frame for MG award	£14.00

Councillors looked at the parish council finances and discussed the future costs that could be incurred by the PC, from WBC. Proposed by Cllr Broun and seconded by Cllr Webb. It was resolved to increase the precept to £8,000.

66. Clerk's Report

The clerk reported:

- Cllr Pawson and Cllr Elliot are booked on to a planning course on November 24th.
- The WBC budget consultation runs until December 14th, 2015.

- There could be changes to the upkeep of salt bins from next year and PCs could become responsible for the ones in their parish. There is just one in Tidmarsh. It would cost £213 per new bin and £63 per refill of salt, from 2016-17.
- The clerk showed councillors the salt and snow clearance plans for the coming winter, which includes the A340 and some Sulham routes as a secondary, single salt route.

67. Close of meeting

Chairman closed the meeting at 10pm. The next meeting is on January 20th, 2015.

Date

Signed