

# Tidmarsh with Sulham Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of Tidmarsh with Sulham Parish Council, Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September, 2013 in the village hall.

## **Present:**

Councillor Steve Webb (chairman)  
Councillor Jon Chishick  
Councillor Jonathan Pearson  
Councillor John Haggarty

## **In attendance:**

Sarah Bosley (clerk)  
District Councillor Tim Metcalfe

## **29. Accepted apologies**

Cllr Mike Broun, Cllr Colin Pawson and district cllr David Betts.

## **30. Declarations of Interest**

Cllr John Haggarty declared an interest in Item 6 – planning.

## **31. Minutes from the previous meeting**

The minutes from the meeting held on July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2013 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the chairman.

## **32. Matters arising from the minutes**

Item 19 – Pangbourne bridge closed on October 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Item 21 – Clerk reported that a pdf on how to report potholes and the criteria for them being filled in is on the West Berkshire Council website.

Item 22 – Clerk reported she was in talks with the Forestry Commission regarding extending Sulham car park. Cllr Haggarty said he had also spoken with them and they were looking into it, but it seemed unlikely at present.

## **33. District councillor's report**

District Cllr Metcalfe reported the following:

- He discussed in detail the traffic issues that had affected Sulham in particular at the weekend. The problems are detailed below under item 35 Highways and Footpaths.
- WBC is currently working on the budget for next year and big cuts still need to be made.
- District Cllr David Betts is doing much better.

## 34. Planning

### Planning decisions:

Application number	Location	Description	Decision
13/01145/HOUSE 13/01146/LBC2	Longbridge House, Tidmarsh, RG8 8ER	Alterations and extension to house and construction of three bay garage with ancillary accommodation	Approved

### Planning applications:

Application number	Location	Description	Decision
13/02248/HOUSE	3 Tidmarsh Barns, Tidmarsh Lane,	Construction of a single storey extension	No objections

A lively discussion took place regarding the proposals sent to the parish council by Sulham Estates to convert Nutley's Yard to residential usage, following a fire at Meadow View in May 2012. The Estate plans to submit a formal planning application to WBC soon. Councillors were, in principle, largely in support and made the following comments:

- It could be sold as affordable housing, which is a good thing.
- It would tidy up the area.
- Building over the existing footprint and not increasing the size in principle seems acceptable.

## 35. Highways and Footpaths

Councillors all reported serious traffic problems, particularly in Sulham at the weekend. Cllr Haggarty had contact Pam Bale, portfolio holder for transport at WBC, at the time. It was due to diversions following roadworks and closures in Pangbourne, which are due to take place again and there are concerns that the same problems will occur.

Proposed by Cllr Webb and seconded by Cllr Haggarty. It was resolved that the clerk would contact WBC to voice the council's concerns about it all, highlighting that grass verges have been destroyed and a number of new pot holes created.

Clerk to contact Andrew Garratt for an update on the possibility of signs on the east and west approach to the village and to ask about the possibility of a solar powered 'slow' or '30' sign in the village.

Speed checks took place outside the property of Sima Elliot. Cllr Pearson will chase for the results.

Cllr Webb reported that parishioners had been mentioning over-hanging vegetation at Kingfisher Reach. Clerk to write to them to ask if they can cut it back.

Vegetation is also covering the solar-powered speed sign. Clerk to contact WBC to ask if it can be cut back.

### **36. Environmental Matters**

Sima Elliot reported back on the flooding meeting she and cllr Pawson had attended with WBC. She said that they would like the parish councils to be more involved and take on some of the cost and responsibility.

Stuart Clark, the officer present, had stated that there is no obligation for owners to clear their ditches or water courses. There is a lot of work going on, by the Environment Agency and WBC, looking into the best course of action and it may be that money needs to be put onto the precept to pay for it.

Clerk reported that she had contacted WBC regarding the bins being emptied on the Millennium Green and the dog bins not being emptied. WBC is looking into having the bins emptied and said the dog bins are definitely on the list so should have been emptied. They will chase.

Proposed by Cllr Webb and seconded by Cllr Chishick. It was resolved that the clerk also contact Biffa at Reading to get a cost on emptying the bins on the Millennium Green.

### **37. Millennium Green update**

An email from Cllr Pawson was read out updating everyone on the progress of the Wild Flower Garden. The site has been marked out and sprayed by William Iliffe, of Ecological Weeding Techniques.

The site will now be taped off and an explanatory notice put up. After any secondary germination has been dealt with the area will be harrowed ready for the turf to be laid on Saturday 19th October.

### **38. Pangbourne and District Neighbourhood Action Group**

Cllr Haggarty reported that there had been a talk on the Safer Communities Partnership. Cllr Haggarty mentioned speeding issues to the group and cllr Webb reported that he had recently seen the speed cameras in the village on two occasions.

Steps are being taken to combat the problems around Moor Copse.

### **39. AWE Liaison Group**

Cllr Chishick attended a meeting at AWE today. He reported:

\* AWE was in trouble with the EA because the levels of radioactive material in the Aldermaston stream had risen slightly. But the levels were still only about a 200<sup>th</sup> of the World Health Organisation's safe level for drinking water.

\* The Pangbourne Pipeline – AWE now know the method they will use to take out the pipeline. A survey due to be carried out along the whole pipeline and then a consultation committee will be formed.

### **40. Accounts**

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

## Payments made:

Payee	Description	Amount
Sarah Bosley	Salary for September (271)	£166.40
Brian Murby	Millennium Green upkeep (273)	£250
Zurich Insurance	Millennium Green annual premium (274)	£252.57
Parish magazine	Annual contribution (275)	£750
HMRC	Quarterly tax (276)	£124.80

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

The village magazine asked for an increased grant this year. Proposed by Cllr Chishick and seconded by Cllr Webb. It was resolved to give the magazine £750 again. Without understanding the long term strategy it was not possible to give any more.

### 41. Clerk's Report

- Clerk had contacted John Handy, who carried out the tree works on the Millennium Green, and he confirmed that it had been decided with the parish council, to leave the stumps in as they are expensive to remove and it would be of no great benefit to remove them. The mistletoe was not easy to see while the trees were in full bloom and would have been a big job, so as it wasn't on Arthur Cullen's schedule this was also left. Can be done if necessary, but it is not currently causing any immediate harm.
- Free health checks available for anyone aged 40-74-years. Contact your GP.
- There is a Building Stronger Communities Conference at Newbury College on September 28<sup>th</sup>, from 10am-3pm.
- The District Parish Conference will take place on October 8<sup>th</sup>, from 6.30pm in the Council Chamber, Newbury.

### 42. Close of meeting

Chairman closed the meeting at 10.20pm. The next meeting is on 20<sup>th</sup> November, 2013.

**Date**

**Signed**