

Tidmarsh with Sulham Parish Council

Minutes of an ordinary meeting of Tidmarsh with Sulham Parish Council, on Wednesday 16th September, 2015 in the village hall.

Present:

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

In attendance:

Sarah Bosley (clerk)
Gill Comley, Volunteer Centre West Berkshire

36. Accepted apologies

Councillor Sima Elliot
District cllr Tim Metcalfe

37. Declarations of Members' Interests for this meeting

None

38. Minutes from the previous meeting

The minutes from the meeting held on July 15th, 2015 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the chairman.

39. Matters arising from the minutes

Item 23: Dog walkers are complaining about the gate off Sulham Lane, where the footpath joins. It is very heavy to open now. Cllr Pawson has been chasing Arrow Fencing and is waiting for them to call back. It also needs replacing on the opposite side, where all the wood has rotted away. Must ensure the replacement wood is treated to give it maximum protection.

Item 23: Clerk reported that the damaged phone box in Sulham has been reported and BT has said it will deal with it, but cannot remove it. Cllr Haggarty noted that the phone box in Tidmarsh was removed, so why won't they remove the one in Sulham? Clerk to contact BT again.

Item 28: Gill Comley came along to the meeting and gave a more detailed presentation of the Village Agent scheme. Training would be around two days, usually a week apart. Volunteers are asked to give two or three hours per week. Councillors agreed to spread the word and see if they could find a volunteer.

Item 27: Cllr Broun gave an update on the bus shelter works. The Barn Partnership hope to start work next Tuesday. The clerk reported that we should be able to get the date on the works licence changed by WBC as soon as we have confirmation from the Barn Partnership of a start date. If there is a charge, the Barn Partnership will meet it.

Item 26: Cllr Elliot's concerns about activity on Sulham Hill was brought up by Cllr Haggarty at the last NAG meeting. The PCSO in attendance said there had been no other reports of problems in the

area but they would now stop there regularly to check. Cllr Broun noted an inappropriate incident he had been informed of at the Moor Copse car park and Cllr Haggarty will report it back to the NAG. Item 29: It was noted that the white lines had now been painted at Moor Copse Corner and were appearing to slow cars down. The fingerpost at Maidenhatch and the bent sign to the south of the village had also been replaced. Clerk to contact WBC to ask for another speed survey at Moor Copse Corner.

Item 23: Superfast Broadband: Cllr Pearson reported that he had heard back from the SFB team regarding cabinet P10. He reported that a survey was needed to see where gas mains were before BT could decide if the work could be completed. You cannot find out speeds until the cabinet is live. Gigaclear is being cautious about giving too many details at present. Cllr Pearson is not happy with the response being given by SFB and Gigaclear. P10 should serve about a third of the village. The remainder, as well as Sulham, should be covered by Gigaclear.

40. District councillor's report

Not present

41. Planning

Planning applications:

Application number	Location	Description	Decision
15/02170/CERTP	Chestnuts House, Mill Lane	Replacement doors and windows, removal of asbestos roofing	No objections
15/01719/FULD	The Mill House, Mill Lane	Variation of condition 2 of 13/00685/FULD	No comment needed

Planning decisions:

Application number	Location	Description	Decision
15/00344//HOUS E	Longbridge House, Tidmarsh	One storey garage, garden machinery store and granny annexe	Refused
15/01277/FUL	Sawyers Wood, Tidmarsh Lane	Construction of new outdoor riding arena, stables and new access track	Granted

Concerns were again raised about Knabs Lodge and the clerk reported that there had been a number of communications with the residents regarding retrospective applications. One had been put it but was invalid for a number of reasons. WBC is expecting correctly completed applications very soon.

Clerk updated that she had been in contact with the enforcement officer at WBC dealing with Keepers Cottage and he confirmed he is investigating a new access.

42. Possible positions for use of the Speed Indicator Device

Proposed by Cllr Webb and seconded by Cllr Broun. It was resolved to ask WBC to investigate the possibility of using the SID device at the following locations:

Strachey Close, A340

A340 outside the Grange

A340 outside the village hall

The lay-by in Sulham

43. Role of the parish council and its relationship with WBC

Cllr Pearson agreed to attend the Parish Liaison meeting to voice his concerns over the efficiency of the district council and report back to the parish council.

44. Highways and footpaths matters

From outside of the village hall, along to the old rectory the hedges are very overgrown. Clerk to write to the Old Rectory to ask them to cut it back.

Cllr Haggarty noted that after the first heavy rain of the year there was flooding everywhere. To ask George Davidson to speak to Stuart Clerk at WBC again to see if the road could be surveyed again, just before the Sul bridge in Sulham. Both drains at the bottom of Sulham Hill appear to be full of gravel. Clerk to report to WBC.

He also reported that signs are repeatedly being stolen on private land adjacent to the footpath. There are also problems with a man practising golf in the field too.

45. Environmental matters

Cllr Haggarty reported that in the past the EA has cleared the ditch at the bottom of Sulham Lane, after Home Farm. This year, however, they have just sprayed it with herbicide and so although all of the weeds etc have died, the debris is all still in the ditch. Councillors raised concerned about the use of the herbicide there and the build-up of the detritus.

Cllr Pawson reported that there was a tree down as you come back along Sulham Hill, which is in the stream. Forrestry Commission land.

Cllr Haggarty reported that Natural England had been out to check on coppicing work done in the woods at Home Farm. They were pleased with how well it had revived and are using it as an advert for how well things are working.

Cllr Pawson reported that the wildflower garden needs cutting back soon. He will arrange a working party to do the work. He also noted that the garden had won an award from the Berkshire Gardens Trust and he and cllr Haggarty will be going along to the presentation evening on October 8th.

Clerk reported that The Barn Partnership had been out and fixed the rotting post on the lychgate.

Clerk reported that George Davidson had emailed her with a brief flood update: The PVFF is still progressing with the EA for the work in BBOWT and hope to have it concluded soon. George Davidson will soon be starting the annual maintenance sweep of ditches in the village to ensure he is on top of everything before any adverse weather. He will give a detailed update at the next meeting if councillors wish. Proposed by cllr Broun and seconded by cllr Haggarty. It was resolved to start the next meeting at 7.30pm to allow for time for George Davidson to give an update on the Pang Valley Flood Forum work.

46. Pangbourne and District Neighbourhood Action Group report

Cllr Haggarty reported that there has been a change around of the PCSOs in this area and that there are now an additional two, part time PCSOs. The NAG has been looking at the speed limit on Purley Rise.

47. 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
John Butler	Materials for phone box (360)	£87.09
Zurich	MG annual insurance (421)	£278.60
Brian Murby	MG upkeep – payment 2 (422)	£260.00
Sarah Bosley	Salary, allowance and mileage for September (423)	£284.80
Sarah Bosley	Salary and allowance for October (424)	£232.00

Proposed by cllr Pawson and seconded by Cllr Webb. It was resolved to accept and approve the annual return. The clerk has displayed the relevant notices in the notice boards.

48. Clerk's Report

The clerk reported:

- Jon Chishick informed us that the latest AWE Liaison meeting was rescheduled for September 29th so he will attend.
- Councillors were shown options for a new bin to go next to the bus shelter once it is complete. With the new shelter and the refurbished phone box the old plastic bin looks out of place and councillors will consider replacing it. Decision deferred.

49. Close of meeting

Chairman closed the meeting at 9.58pm. The next meeting is on November 18th, 2015.

Date

Signed