

BARKHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of meeting of the Barkham Parish Council held on 10th January 2017
in Barkham Village Hall at 8.00 p.m.

Present: Mrs P. Stubbs (in the Chair), Mr F. A. Scott, Mr L. Heath, Mr. D. Oxbrough, Mr. C. Heyliger, Mr K. Lane, Mr G. Dexter, Mr A. Crook, Mr J. Kaiser (Borough Councillor) and the Clerk.

Apologies: Mr R. Rowe (birthday celebration) and Dr. R. Loader (unwell)

Declarations of Interests

Mr Oxbrough declared an interest with regard to the letter from the Wokingham Veteran Tree Assoc.
Mr Heath declared an interest with regard to the letter from WBC regarding assets at Elizabeth Park Open Space.

17/648 **Minutes** of meeting held on 13th December 2016 were approved and signed as a true record.

17/649 Planning

The planning application that was referred to the full Council was:-

162881	Former Hazebrouck Barracks, Princess Marina Drive & Langley Common Road Full application for temporary planning permission for the use of land for filming, incorporating temporary change of use of existing former barracks buildings from Use Class Sue Generis to Use Class B1, and the use of the site and hard standing for parking and storage with associated access.	Proposed To Comment
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Clerk to reply stating that the traffic survey was conducted on a Sunday at 10.00 a.m. which was a ridiculous time to conduct a survey, and hence in the report it states that the traffic flow was low! No commercial traffic from Staysure Tyres would be on the road on a Sunday which is opposite the entrance. The current speed limit of 40 mph is currently under review, no mention is made to this. It also states that there is no record of any accidents at this location, when as the gate entrance is currently shut is hardly surprising. A proper assessment needs to be carried out on a week day during working hours. Also on reading the bus service table it states that there is a service every 20 minutes when it is actually an hourly service into Wokingham. The Travel Plan Statement shows 2 Appendixes A & B, A is the Site Layout and B the Travel Plan Statement neither of these documents are present.

The response to the application should also include reference to Langley House. Although Langley House has now been taken outside the red line of the planning application site, this application will influence the bringing forward of Zone Z for development and hence decisions on the future of Langley House. It is therefore reasonable that the undertaking "to produce a high level Planned Maintenance Programme for Langley Common Farmhouse to schedule out any necessary preventative works over the coming years" should be made a condition of this application within a stated timescale. The purpose of this "high level Maintenance Plan" should be to ensure that when decisions are made re the future of this building, the state of the building does not exclude options. In addition, Clerk to contact Sammie Bryans at Crest to ascertain what Crest's short term and long term plans are for this property, fear is that it will fall into disrepair and eventually be demolished as it is cut off from the SDL. Clerk to request a viewing of both sets of stables and Langley Common House.

17/650 Highways

A number of highway issues were raised:

Two very noisy man hole covers outside 255 and 279 Barkham Road require adjusting as it is disturbing residents late at night.

Barkham Road and Bearwood Road will have traffic lights and a contra flow in place for 13 weeks while essential gas works are carried out. At the same time Barkham Ride will have traffic disruptions while water main works are undertaken. Clerk to query the necessity of working on all three roads at the same time. Mr Kaiser will investigate and find out if these works are emergency or essential as the timing of the proposed works could have been better planned.

The drains from The Bull pub down to Barkham Brook are again all blocked, plus one on Barkham Street. The sucker lorry came out on Friday 6th January and the blocked drains were marked with blue paint, Clerk to find out when these will be cleared. The problem is that the gutters have not been swept in months and months and are now full of leaves, in some places trees are now growing in the debris. It is common sense that the gutters require urgent sweeping or the next heavy rain will simply wash the debris down into the drains and block them again. Clerk to write a strong letter to WBC requesting urgent action.

Barkham Ride/Barkham Street, the white lines on the edges of this road require repainting, the mist clings to the fields and at night time it can very difficult to see where the road is. Clerk to request they are repainted.

Footpaths

Mr Oxbridge and Mr Heath have been working on two walks around Barkham, these will be waymarked for residents to follow with ease and the map to be put on the web site.

1. Circular walk around The Coombes
2. Linear walk from Barkham Road to Rooks Nest Wood (this to be named Barkham Way)

QR Codes (Quick Response) will be available to download on to a mobile phone in order to follow the route.

These footpaths will also be marked onto the Welcome Map which is currently under construction.

17/651 Litter

The date of the Parish Clean Up will be Sunday 2nd April.

Two fly tipping dumps have been made in Commonfield Lane, unusually these have not been collected by WBC. Clerk to remind them, carpets and the remains of a cannabis farm have been dumped in the two laybys.

17/652 Finance and to agree the Precept for 2017.2018

Barkham Village Hall – hire of hall Sept – December	204	£115.00
J. Neuhofer Staples Order (ink cartridges and envelopes)	205	£78.28 (£65.23 exc VAT)

Standing Order for Clerk's salary for January	£736.60
Standing Order to Royal Bor. Windsor – Pension Fund for Clerk for month of January (Employee & employer contribution)	£182.62

Precept

The expenditure for the year was discussed and agreed. A Precept of £46,342 for 2017/2018 was formally adopted. A vote to accept the expenditure for the year took place, all Councillors voted in favour. Details are documented in Appendix A.

17/653 To Discuss the Parish Office at the Community Centre

Mrs Stubbs reported that she now had keys to the Community Centre main door and to the office. Mr and Mrs Heyliger and Mrs Stubbs had a made a start on painting the walls of the office which are currently bright blue to magnolia. Mr Heyliger to instruct a locksmith to install keypads to the two doors of the office, then the room will be secure for the storage of Parish papers. At present there are 2 desks in the conference room and one desk and two chairs in the office, plus a filing cabinet. Mr Lane can supply four additional chairs. Signage will be required in order that residents can find the Parish office, a sign for the outside and one for the office door, this to be made when a phone has been installed, the phone number and opening times to be displayed. Mr Kaiser intends to hold a surgery once a month on a Saturday morning 10.00 – 12.00, plus the presence of a councillor. Mr Kaiser will commence in the Spring when he has advertised it in the BVRA Newsletter. BPC will be able to store maps and booklets and sell the Barkham History Book from the office. It would be sensible to man the office when activities are going on such as the Mums and Toddlers in the morning and hence our presence will become known. The Neighbourhood Plan activities can be held here too and the documentation stored at the office. The Army Commander intends to visit the Community Centre at the end of January, therefore it will be ideal if we can show our presence. Clerk to ask Crest if a phone and Broadband can be installed.

17/654 To Discuss Future Working with Thames Valley Police – Mr Dexter

Mr Dexter reported that he had considered the merits of SID (Speed Indication Device) and the VAS (Vehicle Activated Sign) and posed numerous questions that require answering before BPC can proceed. Clerk to write to Inspector Alistair Lloyd at TV Police.

1. We understand there may be changes whereby police letters can be issued when an SID is operated by trained, non-police personnel. Is this correct?
2. We also understand that as SIDs need to be operated by an attendant, they tend to be used in lower speed zones for safety considerations. Do you agree?
3. It appears we have to decide to maximise deterrent or evidence collecting. Is there any other conclusion or option?
4. Would it be possible for you or someone in your team to review the 'hot spots' with us and advise the way forward.

We await a reply from Inspector Lloyd and will progress accordingly.

The Neighbourhood Alerts have been very useful and informative alerting residents to scams that are prevalent in the area.

17/655 Local Plan Update – Mr Heath

Mr Heath reported that the comments on the proposed Reserve Sites was submitted to WBC by 20th December. There are a few sites just beyond our Parish boundary that may require comment on with regard to settlement separation areas. These to be addressed. Also a couple more sites have been submitted:-

- Land behind 29 Bearwood Road
- Land between Bridge Cottages and School Road (a gas pipe line runs across this site)

Comments are required by 20th January.

17/656 Neighbourhood Plan – Mr Heath

Mr Heath reported that the Neighbourhood Plan was progressing well, with 500+ responses having been received to the survey. This was most encouraging, resulting in approximately 10% of the population responding. The surveys now need to be analysed, Mr Rowe to plot the results on a spread sheet. A brief summary of the results:-

Q1 Overwhelming support for proposition that rural setting makes A & B a good place to live.

Q3 Journey to work destinations are scattered widely with none of the identified areas much above 10% of the total.

Q5 Main commuting mode is car (unsurprisingly) with very low use of bus for this purpose.

Q19 Inconclusive response on where WBC should locate new housing. Results seem to be skewed by where people currently live!

Q20 Traffic congestion the main challenge, followed by protection of open spaces and absorbing development.

A distribution list of 300 people has now been gathered and an email will go out shortly encouraging people to join the focus groups. Two thirds of the grant has now been spent, if the remaining third cannot be utilised by year end it will have to be returned and a further grant applied for.

A recent meeting with Ian Bellinger at WBC proved most helpful, he pointed the group in the direction of the Ascot Neighbourhood Plan which was adopted in 2014, and this could be a useful template. Mr Heath hoped to get a draft out in the next few months.

17/657 To receive the BALC report – Dr Loader

No report had been received.

17/658 Borough Councillor's Report – Mr Kaiser

Mr Kaiser reported that he will be shown the draft plans for the improvements to Barkham Bridge on 12.1.17 at WBC. He thought the work would be scheduled for 2018, he hoped the plans would show a second bridge, this would be preferable as it would leave the footbridge in place and could be built without disrupting traffic. This will of course be subject to a planning application and full consultation. He will report back at the February meeting.

Mr Kaiser also stated that the full report on the Coombes School would be presented to WBC Children's Services as to why this popular school had failed the OFSTED Inspection. The school will now have to become an Academy and an education provider will need to be appointed. A new head teacher has been put in place. Mr Kaiser suggested that Mrs Stubbs introduce herself to the headmaster at Bohunt School. The Clerk to write a letter to introduce Mrs Stubbs.

10.00 p.m. All agreed to continue the meeting.

17/659 Correspondence

- a. Wokingham Veteran Tree Association – request for £50 towards the work of the Veteran Tree Association and towards the cost of the publication of a report. All agreed that this very worthy project justified a donation of £100.
- b. WBC – Alex Deans, Highways. Invitation to Workshop Transport Vision to 2036 on Wednesday 25th January 7.00 – 8.00 p.m. at WBC. Mr Lane and Mrs Stubbs to attend.
- c. WBC Dee Madox-Hinton. WBC Owned Assets. WBC have been developing a database of WBC owned assets and have carried out reviews of these. Assets within Barkham Parish are listed below plus proposed options:
 1. Asset 2726 Elizabeth Park Open Space, Sandy Lane
Review/Transfer – Potential Community Asset transfer to be explored. This comprises of a central medium sized, cut grass area, with a small play area. The areas to both the east and west is heavily wooded with footpaths. A possible residential development opportunity which may be accessed from the footpath.
 2. Asset 2788 Whitebeam Close Open Space, Whitebeam Close
Transfer – Potential Community Asset Transfer to be explored.
 3. Asset 2902 Land Adjoining 293 Barkham Road, Barkham Road
Retain – not suitable to develop independently.

Clerk to invite her to attend the Parish Council meeting on 14th February to discuss further.

17/660 Councillors Forum

Mr Oxbrough explained that the defibrillator had now been installed to the outside of the village hall. A training session will be held on Thursday 26th January at 8.00 p.m. before the Village Hall AGM. All councillors and Users of the hall are encouraged to attend the training.

Mr Lane reported that the Welcome Map was progressing well, Emma Holland is adding two walking routes. Mr Lane will circulate a draft map shortly.

Meeting closed at 10.20 p.m.

Next meeting of full Council will be held on 14th February 2017 at 8.00 p.m.

Next meeting of Planning Committee will be held on 24th January 2017 at 7.30 p.m.