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MINUTES

GREENHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING IN ST MARYS CHURCH, GREENHAM. WEDNESDAY 8TH MARCH 2023 AT 7.30PM

Present:

Cllr. Chris Austin (Chair)
Cllr. Gary Puffett
Cllr. Alison Blackborow
Cllr. Adrian Abbs
Cllr. Martin Griffiths
Cllr. Billy Drummond
Cllr. Phil Barnett
Cllr. Martin Griffiths

Clerk: Mrs Kim Lloyd

In attendance: 1 member of the public.

The Clerk announced that the meeting is being recorded for minute purposes. The recording will be deleted once the minutes are approved.

1. Public Session

One member of the public was invited to speak to introduce himself. He had previously contacted the Parish Council to show interest in standing for Council in the May elections.

2. Apologies for Absence

Cllrs. Steve Jones and Julian Swift-Hook had sent their apologies.

3. Declarations of Interest, Statements of Position and Dispensations

Cllr. Phil Barnett is a member of West Berkshire Council (WBC) Newbury Town Council (NTC)

Cllr. Billy Drummond is a member of WBC, NTC, a Governor of St Barts School, a member of the Greenham Common Commissioner and Greenham Common Trust.

Cllr. Adrian Abbs is a member of WBC and is on the Western Area Planning Committee. Also a Chairman of the Greenham Common Planning Committee.

Cllr. Chris Austin is a member of Greenham and Crookham Commission.

{It was agreed to suspend the standing orders following item 3 to revert back to the public questions to allow the member of public to speak who had entered the room, the Standing orders were then reinstated for Item 4}

4. To Approve Minutes.

The minutes of the 8th of February 2023 meeting was approved. Cllr. Phil Barnett proposed, Cllr. Martin Griffiths seconded, and all agreed.

5. Chairman's Report

No report was raised.

6. Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported that 2600 leaflets that the Parish Council send out for the inclusion with the Council tax bills is being distributed, instead of the requested 3000. The Revenues and Benefits Manager at WBC does not know why this has happened.

The Clerk said the Parish Council phone needs replacing in the office, as works intermittently. The Clerk asked Council to consider a mobile phone as the Clerk works from home as well as in the office, it made sense for parishioners to be able to reach the Clerk when working from home. Cllr. Adrian Abbs said he would support the Clerk to source the appropriate mobile phone required.

ACTION: Cllr. Abbs /Clerk.

The noticeboard in the bus shelter in Tesco's is loose and needs tightening. Cllr. Abbs said he would look at this.

ACTION: Cllr. Abbs.

The Clerk mentioned that WBC have funds left over in their **Parish Plan Grant budget**. The Clerk said the funds can be used only for parish plans; community projects that have been recorded. Cllr. Adrian Abbs asked the Clerk to find out if the funds could be used for Neighbourhood Development Plan survey. (NDP)

ACTION Clerk

The Clerk said she is going on a free course with Connecting Communities in Berkshire (CCB) on 21/03 for social media for your community building – How to Maximize your impact!

The Clerk mentioned the new street naming for the land north of Pinchington Lane, which was emailed to Council before the meeting. If anyone would like to know the approved names, please get in touch with the Clerk.

The recently requested three grit bin locations was approved by WBC. The Clerk will obtain quotes for the bins with salt. The Clerk reminded Council that Willis and Ainsworth have a contract to check the current bins and replenish when required, the new bins will need to be added to the contract.

ACTION: Clerk

7. Finance

- a) The monthly payments and the;
- b) bank reconciliation statements to 1st February 2023 were approved. Cllr. Martin Griffiths proposed, Cllr. Phil Barnett seconded.

c) To consider new pieces of accessible play equipment.

Cllr. Billy Drummond asked for this to be moved to the April agenda.

d) To approve a donation towards a new bench situated on Stroud Green.

Cllr. Alison Blackborow spoke to Caroline Booth, Grounds Maintenance Officer at WBC regarding the Queen Elizabeth Memorial bench to be situated in Stroud Green. This bench has already been agreed by Parish Council previously, pending costs. Mrs Booth had sent two benches that would suit the green. The Clerk reported that Mrs Booth said

if Parish Council paid for the bench, WBC could pay for the installation. The question of who would take ownership needed to be confirmed. Majority of Councillors thought that the Parish Council should take ownership of the memorial bench as they manage all the other benches on the green. It was agreed to approve a budget of up to £1,000 (incl. the plaque) and the Clerk and Mrs Booth will co-ordinate on which bench and the installation. Cllr. Alison Blackborow proposed, Cllr. Billy Drummond seconded, three were for - and two against. **ACTION: Clerk**

e) To approve Metro bank mandate to remove previous Clerk to new Clerk

All in favour.

ACTION: Clerk

8. To approve Greenham Parish Council Meeting dates 2023 -24

The Councillors discussed whether to move the meeting day, but it was decided to remain on a second Wednesday of every month.

9. To discuss Community Engagement with Greenham and Crookham Common Golf Course

Cllrs. Alison Blackborow and Phil Barnett attended a meeting with the Golf Course committee regarding the golf committee proposals wanting to become more engaged with the parish. It was a well-turned-out event, and they were very positive in engaging with the community. Some examples were to offer groundsman to support some areas in Greenham. If anyone could think of ways in how Greenham could take up their offer to engage more, please bring to a future meeting. Cllrs. Barnett and Blackborow did inform the committee that they would not be in a position to agree anything until they had discussed it at a Parish Council meeting and that any proposals would have to be beneficial to both parties and the community at large.

10. To consider Councillors representing Greenham Parish Council at BALC meetings

Cllr. Phil Barnett was co-opted on to BALC (Berkshire Association of Local Council) Executive several years ago from Greenham and took on the role of being on for Newbury Town Council. He is now the only representative on BALC in West Berkshire. The Clerk will ask other Councillors she knows on Parish Councils to find out if someone else could support by being a representative in West Berkshire. **ACTION: Clerk**

11. Planning

- a) The Parish Council had no objections to all the planning applications. The Newbury Racecourse Carnival appeal was for information only. See Appendix 1 for the list of planning applications considered at this meeting.

b) To consider noise pollution at the Racecourse Christmas Carnival

The appeal is allowed for the Christmas Carnival, and it was felt by Council that the Carnival will happen again. Cllr. Adrian Abbs suggested that Parish Council write a letter to WBC asking that should a carnival go ahead again, what enforcement is being prepared for the event. The prevention towards noise pollution needs to be investigated. Cllr. Gary Puffett said he is still waiting on a reply for previous information from the Newbury Racecourse committee. Cllr. Phil Barnett said he was copied into one of the replies and not sure if Cllr. Puffett had received this. The latest correspondence did indicate that the organisers expected a larger capacity of numbers during the event.

The Parish Council did object to the event to protect the residents from noise levels but

cannot do anything to stop it happening again. The Parish Council will try and ensure that WBC investigate enforcement preparation on noise pollution before the event goes ahead. It was asked to copy in the Chief Executive of WBC when sending the letter.

ACTION: Clerk

c) To consider the ongoing use of the Diamond Playing field building

See below

d) To consider the replacement of the Diamond Playing field building

Cllr. Adrian Abbs reported that following a meeting in WBC, it was said that £120,000 is being budgeted for a refurbishment of the current building. Cllr. Chris Austin asked why this fund couldn't be used towards the new build that the Parish Council are investigating.

Cllr. Alison Blackborow reported that they need repairs carried out now and was informed that the building cannot be used due to the electrics. Cllr. Martin Griffiths felt they needed support now in the repairs so they can use the building but agreed that the money needs to be spent appropriately. The Clerk asked how much is needed for the new build, which was indicated to be around a million. Following a debate, the Clerk was asked to contact Mr Paul Hendry, Countryside Manager at WBC to find out what specific areas are looking at being funded in the current building and to let WBC know that Greenham Parish Council are investigating a project to provide better facilities.

ACTION: Clerk

12. Environment

a) To consider Greenham in Bloom Survey results

Cllr. Adrian Abbs provided the results of the survey being only 6 responses and felt sadly this was nonstarter for now.

Cllr. Martin Griffiths said sometimes surveys are not the best way to gather interest and knocking on residents' doors gains more feedback.

b) To consider the PROW access to the common

BBOWT (Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust) close off some areas on the common to the public for ground nesting birds, Council is investigating if this should continue. One of the thoughts from Council was that perhaps the closure goes on too long into the season, where no birds would be found to be nesting.

Cllr. Martin Griffiths said there appears to be a general lack of compassion about it from parishioners. Cllr. Adrian Abbs reported that regarding the recent survey advertised on the Greenham website ([link here](#)) that overall, 42 % wanted more access. Cllr. Adrian Abbs said the survey showed a minority favour to investigate opening the closed areas.

Cllr. Alison Blackborow thought the Council needs to be considerate with nature and there is a conflict.

Cllr. Gary Puffett said that we all went to protect the open spaces, but we don't have any definite data to confirm that the protected areas are working towards endangered species. It would be good if the Parish Council could see the data from BBOWT to demonstrate the reasons if the areas closed is making a difference.

Cllr. Chris Austin agreed, and said the Chairman not being present may have already done this, but Council agreed for the Clerk to write to BBOWT to request a report on

how effective it was last season, i.e., how many ground nesting birds were there last year and how many were successfully fledged. The Council felt sure this was information that BBOWT used to publish but have not seen any recently. It was concluded that over 50% of respondents did not call for a change to the common walking zones, as the survey showed a large minority favour to investigate opening the closed zones but felt that the BBOWT data would help with the debate when discussing this again in the future.

ACTION: Clerk

c) To provide an update to the damaged trees and tree guards on Pigeon Farm

Cllrs. Alison Blackborow and Ken Neal replaced three trees and added seven tree guards to all the others in Pigeon Farm recreation field. West Berkshire Council provided the tree guards, but extra materials were required to fix the guards. Cllr. Ken Neal brought these and will submit his expenses next month. Cllr. Alison Blackborow said that parishioners appeared generally pleased with the outcome and did engage with the Councillors while the work was being done. **The Parish Council on behalf of Greenham Thanked Cllrs. Alison Blackborow and Ken Neal for their hard work and time on this project.**

d) Update on enhancement and trees and bench for the grounds at The Contol Tower

Cllr. Alison Blackborow had investigated the trees for the Greenham Control Tower (GCT) garden and met with Mr Nigel Manley, GCT Trustee to liaise with him on the planting schedule. It is hoped to be finished in a couple of weeks, and it should look very nice.

13. Health and Safety

Cllr. Gary Puffett reported that fire exit doors are open and reminded Council to be careful of the trailing heater cable when they left. The solar lights are now in situ outside which should help when leaving.

14. Other items for information or for possible inclusion on a future Agenda

Cllr. Adrian Abbs reported that he believed that the Newbury Racecourse may now get official Council representative in their own ward. The Clerk will let Council know when/if she receives this notification. Also, the representation in Sandleford could change, which currently stands at three.

Cllr. Billy Drummond reported to WBC that some saplings around a tree, on queen's street, outside the Racecourse were vandalised. He also asked for a salt bin in Capability Way to be added on the next agenda. He also said that it looks like the bowling club will be used for the polling station for the May election.

Cllr. Alison Blackborow said there is a great British Litter Pick on 1st April. Everyone is welcome to join and they will be meeting at The Willows Primary School. The litter equipment has been ordered.

The Clerk was asked to speak to Caroline Booth (Grounds Maintenance) at WBC regarding the requested dual waste bin, at the top of Greenham Road as WBC said they would replace the one there with a dual waste bin. **ACTION: Clerk**

Meeting Closed at 21.10.

DRAFT

Appendix 1

1	18 Burys Bank Road Greenham Thatcham RG19 8BY	Rear extension and energy efficiency alterations including insulated render and cladding, new windows, and PV panels	23/00303/HOUSE The Parish Council had No Objections
2	Pizza Hut (UK) Ltd Newbury Retail Park Pinchington Lane Newbury RG14 7HU TH UK and Ireland Ltd	Application for Consent to Display an Advertisement(s): Display of 1 no. internally illuminated totem sign; 1 no. internally illuminated height limiter sign; 8 no. internally illuminated information signs; 9 no. fascia signs.	23/00381/ADV No Objections
3	Land Between Units 3-6 and Unit 7 The Votec Centre Hambridge Lane Newbury	Section 73: Variation of Conditions 4 (Approved Plans), 12 (bin collection point) and 13 (cycle storage) of previously approved application 18/02435/OUTD: Outline application for development of 9 residential apartments. Matters to be considered: Access, Appearance, Layout and Scale	23/00154/OUT No Objections
4	Dairy Quest Ltd Express Way Newbury West Berkshire RG14 5TJ	Change of Use from dairy distribution center to use class B8 with associated trade counter.	23/00391/FUL No Objections
5	FOR INFORMATION ONLY. Appeal Newbury Racecourse Christmas Carnival	Appeal allowed for the development proposed for the Christmas Carnival (with attractions, market stalls, big-top, fairgrounds rides, Christmas tree, maze, ice rink and santa's grotto. Associated cut and fill works are also proposed to level the centre of the Racecourse.	APP/W0340/W/22/3291908