

## BARKHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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**Minutes** of meeting of the Barkham Parish Council held on 14<sup>th</sup> April 2009  
in Barkham Village Hall at 8.30 p.m.

**Present:** Mrs P. Stubbs (in the Chair), Mr F. A. Scott, Dr. R. Loader, Mr. S. Goldring, Mr. R. Newman, Mr. D. Oxbrough, Mr. C. Heyliger, Miss L. Morris (Youth Worker from WBC), three members of the public and the Clerk.

**Apologies:** Mr L. Heath (on holiday)

### **Declarations of Interests**

Mrs P. Stubbs declared an interest in respect of planning application F/2009/0488

09/268 **Minutes** of meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2009 were approved and signed as a true record.

Meeting adjourned in order that any members of the public could address the Council on any matters or concerns relating to Barkham.

### **09/269 Report from the Villages Youth Project Worker – Louise Morris**

Report attached.

### **09/270 Planning**

F/2009/0488	50 Bearwood Road Proposed erection of single storey shop unit with two storey three bedroom dwelling plus detached four bed dwelling and garage, with creation of new access from The Lilacs and demolition of existing house and shop.	Delegated No Comment.
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Mrs Stubbs declared an interest and left the room.

The recommendation of the Planning Committee was that this planning application would appear to have addressed most of the issues which were raised in previous applications for the re development of this site and which were all subsequently refused by WBC and the Planning Inspector.

F/2009/0575	Meadowcroft, Wood Lane, Barkham Proposed change of use of barn to stables and variation of agricultural occupancy condition (Condition 3 of planning Permission 97/65655/F) to include equestrian use.	Delegated Opposed
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Clerk to write to WBC opposing this application. The site of Meadowcroft originally housed a mobile home which was replaced with a large house when the applicant wished to keep ostriches, this business soon proved not to be viable. At the time of that application, BPC questioned the viability of the enterprise and drew WBC's attention to the disparity between the size of the proposed house and the scale of the proposed business and it opposed that application on those grounds. Now the applicant wishes to keep liveryes. BPC sees this as a continuation of the creeping development and is opposed to it on these grounds too.

On examining the plans an email from the Planning Officer at WBC to the agent was noted which states "I can confirm that the planning authority would be happy to amend the occupancy condition to equestrian". It would appear from this email that WBC have in effect given approval before any consultation has been concluded.

Mrs Stubbs as Borough Councillor has decided to request that this application is Listed for consideration at the next Planning Meeting at WBC and will bring this matter to the attention of the Development Control Manager.

### **09/271 Site Allocation Core Strategy Meeting – Report from Mr Heath**

"The examination in public for the WBC CS began on 17 March and will finish on 23 April. Barkham Parish Council, along with the BVRA have submitted several papers and have appeared at two sessions that reviewed the Arborfield Garrison SDL and Transport. I will also be attending, along with David French of the BVRA, the session on 21 Apr, that will examine the Barkham Square proposal. As we are in effect supporting the Wokingham Borough Council position, we are not able to appear in our own right or to submit further evidence. However we have written our own paper on the subject and Wokingham Borough Council have thought well enough of it to attach it to their own submission. The Inspector's remit is to ensure that the Core Strategy is sound and that it complies with government policy. He has shown himself to be keen to understand the issues

and is willing to be flexible about procedures. Consequently I feel that he has taken full note of our comments and that we have had a fair hearing. The Inspector intends to finalise his report later in the summer. This report will be binding on the council who will be expected to adopt it in its entirety. Alternatively the council could choose not to adopt it, a course that would expose them to a range of uncertainties. I feel that a likely outcome will be that South of M4, North Wokingham and South Wokingham SDLs will be given the go ahead, roughly in their current form. As a consequence it is likely that a new Shinfield relief road will be built (A327/Hyde End Road roundabout Three Mile Cross /Junction 11). The town centre is also likely to gain new relief roads to the north (Bulldog Garage to Coppid Beech) and the south (Coppid Beech to Tesco). I feel that we have successfully demonstrated that Arborfield Garrison SDL is not sustainable in terms of its transport needs. I am hopeful that we may end up with a solution that the consortium is allowed to build only a relatively small number of houses or else they will have to commit to funding an Arborfield bypass. Along with the uncertainty regarding the release of land by the MOD, this could have the effect of delaying large scale development for several years. The other key issue of concern to Barkham residents is the future of the level crossing. While the core strategy probably will not determine exactly what happens, it is possible that a station relief road will be built linking Wellington Road to Reading Road, in the vicinity of St Paul's Church. Quite how Barkham Road will feed into this, or how adequate station car parking will be provided, is far from clear. A possible solution will be closure of the level crossing – the crossing will cease to be a realistic through route if the frequency of trains increases, due either to the introduction of Airtrack or other frequency increases. Traffic from Barkham Road would then have to access the town centre via Molly Millars Lane and the Tesco roundabout. Traffic continuing to Bracknell would turn east from the Tesco and head along the new southern relief road.”

Mr Heath and Mr French have attended many sessions of the WBC Core Strategy Allocation, their input and detailed reports have been highly valued by the Inspector who has personally invited them to attend the session on 9.4.09 about the issue of Transport. BPC wish to formally acknowledge how valuable their input has been, Mr French and Mr Heath have produced detailed reports which have been highly regarded by WBC and the Inspector. Their reports have been added as an Appendix together with the Village Design Statement to WBC's submission to the Inspector. BPC to formally write to Mr French and Mr Heath expressing their gratitude and appreciation.

#### 09/272 Highways

The Clerk reported that Mr Thompson from WBC (Highway Inspector) had confirmed that Bearwood Road had recently been inspected and works orders issued for resurfacing opposite Highlands Ave. Also the footpath will be repaired at the junction with Highlands Ave. and a bollard put in, this work should be completed by the end of April.

The Clerk reported that she had contacted Julia Tredwell at WBC with regard to the minor improvements to Barkham Street – the creation of a small section of pavement adjacent to the entrance to Church Lane and the moving of the bus stop on to this new paved area. WBC confirm that this is the next item on the list which will be carried across to the next financial year.

A meeting took place on 18.3.09 between Mr Hopper, the drainage Assistant from WBC and Mr Scott to discuss the Surface Water Management Plan, a map has been produced to show the main river watercourses (Environment Agency responsibility). WBC would appreciate any further information relating to previous flooding incidents and any input from local residents. WBC would also like to gain more information of the network of ditches which runs through Barkham which is a recommendation from the Pitt Report. Clerk to write an article for the next addition of the BVRA Newsletter requesting any residents to contact her if they have any information about flooding incidents or if they have any knowledge about the network of ditches throughout Barkham, the Clerk will collate this information and submit it to Mr Hopper at WBC.

Details of “Part Night Lighting Trial” have been received from WBC for comment from the Parish Councils. The plan is to establish which street lights can be turned off, areas where it is felt that it could have a detrimental impact to crime and safety if the lights were switched off will be taken into account. Street lighting is generally regarded as contributing to crime reduction and the general vitality and night time environment of towns and local communities. It provides a sense of security and aids persons with impaired vision. The Area Police Commander states that in other areas where there have been similar trials the crime rate has fallen. This will be carefully monitored in this trial by working with the police at the end of a 12 month trial. BPC were in favour of the scheme and suggested to WBC that if half the lights were turned off at night this would still provide adequate lighting. Along Langley Common Road the street lights are not spaced out to a standard and half the lighting would be sufficient.

The white lines in the middle of Bearwood Road have worn away (from the roundabout to the Post Office), Clerk to write to WBC requesting that they are repainted.

The footpath sign BA7 from Barkham Street by the White House has been damaged, Clerk to write to WBC requesting that it is repaired and the sign opposite School Road is covered in vegetation, Clerk to request the vegetation is cleared.

**09/273 Litter**

The problem of litter will be addressed on 26<sup>th</sup> April at the Parish Cleanup.

**09/274 The Annual Parish Clean Up**

To be held Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April to co-inside with the Borough wide campaign. Mr Hosgood is willing to lend BPC his trailer, Mr Oxbrough will collect the trailer and drive round picking up the sacks of rubbish, a skip will be placed in the village hall car park. Mr Heath will allocate locations that require clearing to volunteers, Mr Oxbrough and Mr Heyliger will try to walk the paths and find out which areas are most in need of clearing. Mrs Heath and Louise Goldring have kindly offered to provide the refreshments which will enable the Clerk to join the litter pickers.

**09/275 Finance**

BALC – annual subscription	178	£370.83
BALC – 2 Councillors to attend the planning training course	179	£50.00

Standing Order for Clerk's salary for April	£542.78
Standing Order to Royal Bor. Windsor – Pension Fund for Clerk for month of April (Employee & employer contribution)	£111.29

The standing orders for the Clerk's salary have been amended to take effect from 1.5.09, the Clerk's salary to be paid at SCP 26, the monthly standing order has been amended to £577.67 and the standing order in favour of the pension fund has been increased to £121.89 (the employers contribution has risen to 15% and the employee contribution remains at 5.5%. This was agreed in the Precept.

To date 841 books have been sold, an income of £4404.24, thus leaving 159 unsold, and the Council is now in credit to the amount of £438.57.

**09/276 Borough Councillor's Report**

Mrs Stubbs reported that WBC is at present tied up with the Core Strategy and the Inspector's Examination which is currently underway. She continues to help local residents with their problems who approach her in the Post Office, many are unsure which department of WBC to approach but Mrs Stubbs is always willing to assist whenever she can.

**09/277 Correspondence**

- a. P. King – letter of resignation. Clerk to write to Mr King thanking him for all his work for BPC.
- b. Keep Mobile – invitation to AGM to be held on 25.4.09. Mrs Stubbs to attend.
- c. Joint Strategic Planning Unit – Town and Country Planning (Local Development) Regulations 2008 Submission of the Joint Minerals and Waste Core Strategy. No response from BPC.
- d. WBC Proposed bus stop at Park Lane, close to Hogwood Industrial Estate, the 144 service provides a service to the stop which currently has a temporary flag on a grass verge, the proposal is to provide a full size bus stop and a tarmac hard standing to allow people to wait more comfortably at the stop. BPC agreed.
- e. WBC Mayor's Office – invitation to a Charity Dinner at the Leander Club in Henley on 8<sup>th</sup> May, tickets are priced at £50 each and the invitation is open to Chairmen, Councillors and staff. No one wished to attend.
- f. WBC Removal of Dog Waste Bins – all the dog waste bins are to be removed and replaced with ordinary bins, bagged dog waste can be disposed of in normal litter bins.
- g. WBC – invitation to attend an event to discuss Strategic Development Locations (where houses are to be built in the Wokingham Borough over the next 20 years). Clerk to ascertain when and where these meetings will be held.

**Distribution**

WBC Agenda for Meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee on 16.3.09.  
WBC Staff Bulletin Issue 5.  
WBC Planning Applications Input & Decisions Issued for the period 2.3.09 – 6.3.09.  
WBC Agenda for Meeting of the Finance, Overview & Scrutiny Panel on 19.3.09.  
WBC Agenda for Meeting of the Service Development Overview and Scrutiny Panel on 19.3.09.  
Wokingham Borough Official Guide.  
WBC Agenda for Meeting of the Licensing and Appeals Committee on 25.3.09.  
WBC Agenda for Meeting of the Personnel Board on 23.3.09.  
WBC Agenda for Meeting of the Special Council Executive Committee on 26.3.09.  
WBC Agenda for Meeting of the Executive on 26.3.09.  
WBC Agenda for Meeting of the Planning Committee 1.4.09.  
WBC Planning Applications Input & Decisions Issued for the period 16.3.09 – 20.3.09.  
The Omnibus Newsletter of Keep Mobile.  
WBC Staff Bulletin Issue 6.  
WBC Agenda for Meeting of the Service Development Overview and Scrutiny Panel.  
WBC Place & Neighbourhood Services Bulletin.  
WBC Agenda for Meeting of the Corporate Projects Overview and Scrutiny Panel 7.4.09.  
WBC Town and Parish News March 2009.  
WBC Planning Applications Input & Decisions Issued for the period 23.3.09 – 27.3.09.  
Arborfield News Issue 68.  
WBC Transformation Update Issue 1.  
WBC Agenda for Extraordinary Meeting of the Executive on 14.4.09.  
WBC Staff Bulletin Issue 7.  
WBC Planning Applications Input & Decisions Issued for the period 30.3.09 – 3.4.09.  
WBC Agenda for A Joint Meeting of the Finance and Service Development Overview and Scrutiny Panels on 20.4.09.

**09/278 Councillors Forum**

Mr Scott thanked BPC for nominating him and his wife to attend the Royal Garden Party but unfortunately he had been unsuccessful in the draw.

The E Bulletin from WBC advising of road closures etc. is currently circulated in the Distribution File, in future the Clerk will arrange for it to be sent out directly to Councillors as by the time it is circulated the information is no longer useful.

Meeting closed at 8.30 p.m. .

Next meeting of full Council will be held on 12<sup>th</sup> May at 8 p.m.

Next meeting of Planning Committee will be held on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2009 at 7.30 p.m.