

BARKHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Page 10/755

Minutes of meeting of the Barkham Parish Council held on 13th April 2010
in Barkham Village Hall at 7.30 p.m.

Present: Mrs P. Stubbs (in the Chair), Mr F. A. Scott, Dr. R. Loader, Mr L. Heath, Mr. S. Goldring, Mr F. Postlethwaite, Mr. D. Oxbrough, Mr. C. Heyliger, Mr G. Burges, Mr A. Tiplady (Parish Liaison Officer WBC), three members of the public and the Clerk.

Apologies: Mrs C. Dando (family commitments)

Declarations of Interests

None

10/431 **Minutes** of meeting held on 9th March 2010 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.

Mr Tiplady updated the Council on the progress of the Playbuilders Scheme. The Junipers park will come under phase 2, and by the end of April the first stage of the consultation will commence. Barkham will have £45K to spend to improve the facilities for the age group 8 – 13, if these funds are not utilised they will be given to another parish. There will be 2 large scale events plus localised events inviting young people to come and give WBC their ideas. BPC requested that Mr Tiplady provide BPC with a list of parks which have already been completed plus a note of how much money has been invested in order that Councillors can visit the parks for ideas. Installation of equipment should take place by the winter of 2010.

10/432 Report from the Villages Youth Project Worker – Louise Morris

Louise Morris presented her report at the Parish Assembly.

10/433 Planning

The two applications of relevance to the full Council are:-

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| F/2009/2672 | The Gables, Barkham Street Retrospective application for replacement of existing fence. | Refused |
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Reasons: The fence by virtue of its siting, height and inappropriate materials is considered to be a visually inappropriate feature which has an imposing and unacceptable impact on the character of the road/area. This is particularly sensitive as the site is located within designated countryside and Areas of Special Character. The Clerk has contacted John Steepe the Enforcement Officer at WBC who states that the owners are at present in dialogue with Mr Howard the Planner who dealt with the matter as to how they can resolve the problem without the owner appealing the decision and the Council Taking / Considering Enforcement Action. If a compromise is not reached Mr Steepe will be preparing papers for the consideration of taking the appropriate action which could well include Enforcement Action.

Clerk to write to WBC Highways stating that the fence is encroaching on to the public highway (the footpath is not in their area of ownership). Copy of letter to John Steepe the Enforcement Officer at WBC.

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| F/2009/2554 | Land adjacent to 212 Bearwood Road Proposed change of use of land for the stationing of caravans for the residential purposes for 8 gypsy pitches together with the formation of additional hard standing and utility / dayrooms ancillary to that use. | Refused |
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Reasons:

1. The proposal fails to make satisfactory provision of adequate services, amenities and infrastructure needs and consequently would have an unacceptable adverse impact upon the amenities of the area.
2. The proposal fails to provide sufficient information on the provision of utilities and waste services. As such it cannot be demonstrated that the proposal would not harm the amenities of the local area.
3. The proposal fails to provide an adequate assessment and mitigation strategy on the impact of native reptiles which are a legally protected species.

4. The proposal would have an unacceptable impact on the landscape character of the area in accordance with saved Local Plan policies due to the lack of native planting along the site boundary with Bearwood Road and Chestnut Ave. the height and design of hard boundary treatment dividing the individual pitches.

Informatives: The applicant is advised that refusal 1 can be overcome through the submission of a s 106 Legal Agreement, reason 3 through the submission of a reptile survey and reason 4 through the submission of a revised layout plans.

Reply had been received from Mark Cupit (Head of Development Management WBC) regarding the public meeting which BPC had requested in line with what was provided at Arborfield. He states that the timeframe for consultation meant that it was not possible or practical to arrange further such meetings. Mr Lancaster does not feel that he showed "little interest" or dismissed Barkham as "unimportant". The process is a spatial one but is not driven by any particular administrative boundary, since the potential impacts go across several such boundaries and this is reflected in their approach to the preparation of the Supplementary Planning Documents. BPC's views will be fully taken into account and advised that if BPC had any particular questions he would endeavour to answer them. Clerk to reply to Mr Cupit (copy of letter to the Chief Executive and Gary Cowan), stating that this is not acceptable, the bulk of the land is located in Barkham, not Arborfield. The meeting held in Arborfield was not widely advertised in Barkham for our residents to attend and the majority were not aware of it.

10/434 **Core Strategy** – Mr Heath

Mr Heath advised that the comments from BPC had now been submitted to WBC. Finchampstead PC have arranged a joint meeting on 14th April with BPC, Swallowfield, Arborfield and Shinfield (2 members from each Parish), Mr Heath and Mr Burges who were instrumental in producing the response from BPC will represent Barkham. There will be much common ground with the main concerns being the Arborfield relief road which should take the majority of the traffic. The old (i.e. pre-bypass) A327 should be a key route through the site rather than Biggs Lane which was not constructed to take a large volume of traffic. Located within the SDL will be 2 primary schools and 1 senior school, concern was raised about the number of school run movements going in and out of the SDL and the fact that the presumption is that people will walk to work which is clearly unrealistic. A Scoping Report has now been produced for which BPC have 2 weeks to comment. Mr Heath stated that this will be discussed at the joint meeting with the other parishes. Also it has been suggested that the MOD want to develop the site in phases, if this is the case, and each phase caused less than 5% increase in traffic, MOD might claim that there would be no liability to contribute S106 money for highway improvements.

10/435 **Highways**

Mr Oxbrough has inspected the roof of the bus shelter opposite The Bull now that the holly tree has been cut back. The most obvious issue is that one and possibly two of the concrete roof panels have a crack in it where it is supported at the western end. One end of the central panel has dropped slightly. These cracks do not contribute to the water leakage issue (which was the original complaint). He suspects that the concrete slabs have steel reinforcing rods in them so there may not be a problem of it breaking off at the crack but we should have this verified. As far as the water leaks are concerned the gaps between the slabs do have mastic filler which appears to have hardened but is largely intact. Mr Oxbrough returned to the shelter when it was raining heavily and concluded that the mastic filler did need replacing as the water was coming through these gaps. WBC have agreed to repair the shelter and invoice BPC.

Reply received from Steve Smith (Horticulture and Amenities Officer WBC) stating that The Junipers open space cannot be drained as current budget constraints will not allow for monies to be made available to carry out these works. Mr Tiplady offered to find out how much this would cost to drain the field. However, the goal post will be painted as soon as possible.

The tree at the corner of Sandy Lane and Barkham Road has not yet been attended to, currently there are 2 branches on the ground. Clerk to remind WBC. The drains along the Barkham Road from Barkham Bridge to Barkham Manor are still completely blocked with debris from the trees and the pavement has not been cleared. Clerk to again chase WBC.

There are still areas of roads which require attention from the winter snow where pot holes have developed, the area of Sandy Lane to The Woodlands and at the other end of Sandy Lane at the junction of the Bearwood Road, Clerk to notify WBC.

Mr Burges wrote an article for the last edition of the BVRA magazine asking residents where grit bins would be beneficial if reinstated and asking residents if anyone had any ideas where they used to be before WBC removed them. No response has been forthcoming and if BPC wish pursue this a decision must be made at the next meeting in order that our requests can be passed on to WBC.

The allocation S106 monies was raised, it would appear that WBC have a set of priorities which must be met before these funds can be utilised, hence why the proposed pavement from Hayes Lane to Coombes Lane has not yet been constructed. S106 monies must be used to mitigate the effects from the development from which the funds were paid from. Mr Tiplady will provide BPC with a set of guidelines as to how these funds can be utilised.

10/436 Litter and to discuss the Parish Cleanup

A disappointing turnout of volunteers, only around 20 people consisting of the majority of the Parish Council plus the usual few regular helpers. Despite that 61 bags of rubbish were collected plus numerous car parts, wheels, tyres and a battery. It was decided that next year BPC would put up its own posters plus the ones provided by WBC and advertise the event more as over the years numbers have been gradually dwindling. Clerk to write to Dr and Mrs Firth, Mr and Mrs French, Mrs Hands, the Henry family and Mrs Heyliger, all of whom collected a huge amount of litter and gave up their morning Thanks to Marian Heath and Louise Goldring who again did a sterling job of keeping everyone fed and watered. The Clerk was also thanked for her contribution.

The meeting was adjourned at 8.30 p.m. in order that the Parish Assembly could commence and reconvened at 9.20 p.m.

10/437 A Village Plan – to discuss if Barkham Parish Council wish to pursue this

A Village Plan must be community lead with representatives from the Parish Council. If this is to proceed then a leader must be sought who has the time and enthusiasm to drive it forward. The suggestion being, that a public meeting would need to take place inviting residents to attend and thereby establishing if this is what the community wish to do. Swallowfield Parish Council are just starting the process, Dr Loader will speak to Swallowfield and gain ideas. The users of the village hall would be a good target audience. This item to be on the next agenda for further discussion.

10/438 **Monitoring the shelter in The Junipers** – to decide whether to apply anti climb paint to the roof and also to agree the wording for a warning notice. WBC advice “BPC accept no liability for loss or damage arising from the use of this shelter. No Climbing. Roof treated with anti climb paint which will damage clothing”. It was decided that anti climb paint would not be appropriate and no notices should be put up. When the additional play equipment is installed this will include climbing equipment which should detract the young people from climbing on to the roof of the shelter. The shelter is the first item of older equipment to be installed and this will be complemented by the addition of the Playbuilder Scheme equipment. There has been a miniscule amount of graffiti on the silver bars of the shelter but this is regularly cleaned off.

10/439 Finance

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| WBC 1 refuse vehicle at The Junipers for March | 231 | £177.43 (£151 exc VAT) |
| J.P. Neuhofer – refreshments for Parish Cleanup | 232 | £26.77 |
| H.M. Revenue – Tax & N.I. for Clerk (Feb, March & April) | 233 | £71.55 |
| Neat Ideas – 2 ink cartridges | 234 | £45.81 (£38.99 exc VAT) |

Standing Order for Clerk’s salary for April

£576.62

Standing Order to Royal Bor. Windsor – Pension Fund for Clerk for month of April (Employee & employer contribution)

£129.11

To date 898 books have been sold, an income of £4691.24, thus leaving 102 unsold, and the Council is now in credit to the amount of £725.57.

The standing orders for the Clerk’s salary have been amended to take effect from 1.5.10, the Clerk’s salary to be paid at SCP 27, the monthly standing order has been amended to £589.43 and the standing order in favour of the pension fund has been increased to £135.26 (the employers contribution has risen to 15.3% and the employee contribution remains at 6.5%. This was agreed in the Precept.

10/440 **Borough Councillor's Report**

Mrs Stubbs did not make a report in view of the forthcoming election but continues to assist residents with their problems. It was mentioned that a welcome letter should be sent to the residents of Sandy Bottom who will be included within Barkham in 2011 and also to write an article for the BVRA magazine. After the election has taken place a list of names to be obtained from Electoral Services at WBC.

10/441 **Communication Strategy** –Dr. Loader

A paper had been circulated by Dr Loader and Mrs Dando, unfortunately Mrs Dando was unable to be present, therefore this will be added to the agenda for the next meeting in May for further discussion. All agreed that communication must be improved between the residents and BPC. Articles placed in the BVRA magazine should carry the BPC logo in order that it is clear that it has originated from BPC. The website should be used more inviting people to participate in activities. All were encouraged to study the papers prepared by Dr Loader and Mrs Dando for further discussion.

At 10.00 p.m. a vote was taken to continue with the meeting and complete the business. All agreed.

10/442 **Correspondence**

- a. Keep Mobile – invitation to AGM on Saturday 24th May at 2.00 p.m. No one was able to attend.
- b. WBC Managing Development Delivery Development Plan Document. Mr Heath agreed to look at the document.
- c. WBC have arranged a presentation with South East Water at Shute End on 1st June 10.00 – 1.00 p.m. regarding the major works for the renewal of a water main on Finchampstead Road. The proposed works have been planned to coincide with school summer holidays and will involve the closing of the road from Evendons Lane to the junction of Sandhurst Road from 23.7.10 – 5.9.10. If anyone would like to attend please notify the Clerk.

Distribution

WBC Planning Applications Input & Decisions Issued for the period 1.3.10 – 5.3.10.
WBC Planning Applications Input & Decisions Issued for the period 8.3.10 – 12.3.10.
WBC Minutes of Committee Meetings for the period 10.2.10 – 3.3.10.
WBC Agenda for Meeting of the Council on 25.3.10.
WBC Agenda for Meeting of the Executive on 25.3.10.
Minutes from Area Youth Committee Meeting held on 10.3.10.
WBC Agenda for Meeting of the Personnel Board on 29.3.10.
WBC Agenda for Extraordinary Meeting of the Executive on 25.3.10.
WBC Agenda for Meeting of the Planning Committee on 31.3.10.
Thames Valley Air Ambulance Recycling Information.
WBC Agenda for Meeting of the Licensing and Appeals Committee on 7.4.10.
WBC Planning Applications Input & Decisions Issued for the period 15.3.10 – 19.3.10.
WBC Planning Applications Input & Decisions Issued for the period 22.3.10 – 26.3.10.
Arborfield News April – May 2010.
WBC Planning Applications Input & Decisions Issued for the period 29.3.10 – 2.4.10.
BaA NAG Minutes from meeting held on 31.3.10.

10/443 **Councillors Forum**

Mr Heath reported that he had attended the Local Transport Plan Meeting held on 29.3.10 at Shinfield Parish Council, this was most interesting, he stated that Central Government seemed to have a desire to manage this. Mr Oxbrough reported that a speeding car travelling along Barkham Street had clipped the kerb, lost control and ended up in a ditch. Luckily the driver was unharmed.

Mr Goldring reported that the lorries leaving Highlands Ave are continually overloaded and never netted, the police need the registration number of the lorry in order to prosecute the driver. The Clerk to write to the police asking them to warn the drivers about this.

Also, many parked cars in Almond Close are becoming a problem especially where houses are having work done. Clerk to request a set of guidelines from WBC about double yellow lines.

Meeting closed at 10.20 p.m.

Next meeting of full Council will be held on 11th May at 8 p.m. Next meeting of Planning Committee will be held on 27th April 2010 at 7.30 p.m.