

BARKHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of meeting of the Barkham Parish Council held on 9th February 2010
in Barkham Village Hall at 8.00 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 G. Burges, Mrs C. Dando and the Clerk.

Apologies: Mr. C. Heyliger (on holiday)

Declarations of Interests

10/401 **Minutes** of meeting held on 12th January 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

10/402 Report from the Villages Youth Project Worker

The report was read by the Clerk.

10/403 Planning

The three planning applications which warranted reporting to the full Council were:-

F/2009/2672	The Gables, Barkham Street	Delegated
	Retrospective application for replacement of existing fence.	Opposed

Clerk to write to WBC opposing this application, the plans show a straight line for the fence where in fact it has been erected with a distinct dog leg in it. The fence dominates the street scene and the concrete plinth at the base is out of keeping with the neighbouring properties. The Barkham VDS (Trees and Boundaries) strongly recommends that hedges, open fencing and low walls are preferable which give the area a rural feel. The fence also encroaches on to the public footpath which is already extremely narrow along that section of Barkham Street and therefore appears to be outside the boundaries of the property. BPC recommends that the fence is removed.

F/2009/2554	212 Bearwood Road	Proposed
	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.	Opposed
	Adjoining Parish Consultation	

Clerk to write to WBC opposing this application. It would appear that the site has already been cleared, with trees and vegetation having been removed. The proposed site is in a totally inappropriate location with the access being onto a 50 mph road, causing danger for vehicles entering and leaving the site. The access cannot be improved without significant damage to the area and adjoining land. The buildings will be located outside the settlement boundary. The application does not match the plans as under Section 3 "Has the building work or change of use already been started?" the applicant has indicated No and also under the Section regarding Waste, the application states that no provision has been made to store and aid waste collection, when clearly a gypsy site will generate large volumes of waste. BPC feel that there are other gypsy sites in the area and therefore this location is totally unsuitable. WBC should also be notified about our concern that we were not notified automatically of this application.

F/2009/1388	Land opposite Rooks Nest Farm, Barkham Ride	Approved
	Proposed change of use of agricultural land to natural green space with associated development and access.	

Clerk to write to Andy Glencross (copy to Angus Ross) expressing our displeasure at this unnecessary development. The plans for this development have now been viewed by BPC, there are no marked footpaths to link in with the Barkham footpath network (or Finchampstead) and hence anyone who may wish to see the site will have to drive to this location. This is not seen to be a sustainable development. The construction of the proposed paths and landscaping within the SANG would appear to be totally in excess of what is needed and is an extreme waste of money.

10/404 Core Strategy

WBC have confirmed that the Core Strategy has now been adopted and WBC have accepted all of the recommendations of the Independent Inspector. WBC has commenced consultation on:

1. Strategic Development Locations (SDLs) Masterplan Supplementary Planning Documents for Arborfield Garrison, South of the M4, North Wokingham and South Wokingham.
2. Infrastructure Delivery and Contributions SPD for the 4 SDLs referred to above and
3. Sustainable Design and Construction SPD for the Borough

The consultation for the Masterplan will run from 9th February until 23rd March.

Mr Heath reported that he had attended a meeting with Mr Burges at WBC where main proposals for the SDL were headlined. A follow up meeting was also held, attended by Mr Burges, Mr French (BVRA), Mr Newman and Mr Heath, to consider matters of concern to Barkham. The detailed documents have now been released by WBC.

Key issues include the following:

1. The plan includes a proposed Arborfield Relief Road. It would appear that the development of 750 houses is the trigger point for road improvements. This is essential to avoid residential roads being used as main access routes, HGVs will need to access the SDL due to retail and expanded employment area at Hogwood Farm.
2. The layout of the SDL will have the retail centre and school near the centre and the main spine road will run north-south from the Bramshill Hunt roundabout.
3. It was not clear whether there will be further entry points to Langley Common Road. Ideally BPC do not want the spine road feeding on to Langley Common Road as this will encourage traffic to use LC Rd as a main access route, preferably, Biggs Lane should be blocked off at Langley Common Road and Biggs Lane traffic be diverted direct to the Bramshill Hunt roundabout along that part of Baird Road which was originally part of Langley Common Road before the Garrison by-pass was built.
4. There are proposed improvements to Park Lane/Commonfield Lane, the Core Strategy implies that Commonfield Lane will be bus/cycle way only, though this is not certain in the Masterplan.
5. The sewage works must be treated as a priority as originally it was built to serve Barkham and Arborfield and since then Elizabeth Park and many other housing developments including some of those in Finchampstead have been added.
6. The intended retail area has been increased by the Inspector from 2500 m² to 4000 m², given this increase it would be preferable to have two separate competing units rather than one large dominant store.
7. Density of the housing is indicated as 30-35dph with high density along Langley Common Road, which seems to be an error.
8. The name of the development, will it still be referred to as Arborfield Garrison when the military have departed? What governance arrangements are proposed?

Mr Heath stated that he intends to prepare a joint BPC/BVRA response, but everyone should respond as individuals. The main documents to review are the Arborfield Consultation Draft and the Consultation draft Infrastructure SPD 2010 see link <http://tiny.cc/SDL>. Mr French will post guidance notes on the BVRA web site for residents to write to WBC on an individual basis.

It was noted that Arborfield Parish Council are hosting a public meeting on 9th March at the British Legion for residents to view the plans. Clerk to contact WBC to ask whether a similar meeting could be held in Barkham.

10/405 Highways and to discuss the possible siting of grit bins around Barkham

A resident has complained that the roof of the bus shelter at The Bull is badly leaking, this is the responsibility of BPC. Mr Oxbrough will assess the damage.

The pavement from Sandy Lane to Highland Ave requires sweeping and the ditch is full of water, the ditch has silted up and requires clearing out in order that the water can run away. From The Bull down to the bridge the drains are blocked on both sides of the road and the pavements require sweeping. The ditch by the bridge is also full of water as the culvert to the brook is blocked. Clerk to report these problem areas to WBC.

Grit Bins

Mr Burges has conducted a very comprehensive study of all the roads in and around Barkham which may benefit from a grit bin in order that the residents can apply grit to the roads in times of heavy snow. The cost of a bin is £188 per bin complete with grit and they are positioned by the road side between the months of September and March, they are then removed by WBC and placed into storage. At this stage it is unclear who has to pay for the bins, it maybe that they are part funded by BPC and WBC depending on how many we request. WBC are currently reviewing the situation throughout the Borough. The bins would need to be locked

to prevent people from stealing the grit for their own personal use. In the past there have been bins at the lay by at Coppid Hill and at the entrance to The Lilacs. Mr Burges to write a short article for the BVRA magazine asking residents for their input.

10/406 The Bus Shelter along Langley Common Road – to discuss the siting and design

Julia Tredwell from Highways Dept. At WBC has reported that a site visit took place to measure up the issue of visibility with regards to the bus shelter along Langley Common Road. Langley Common Road is a 40mph road which equates to approximately 60kph. Visibility standards set out in government guidance, Manual for Streets (MfS), advocate that the visibility envelop for 60kph is 59m from a point 2m back from the give-way line of the minor road junction. The existing visibility on Langley Road from the Rickmans Close junction was approximately 70m east towards the bus stop. It is likely that the full 70m would be retained if a shelter with no sides was installed at the back of the verge. Should the shelter have sides, the visibility would reduce to approximately 50m, which allows for the 15m difference in visibility and an assumed 5m for the shelter. Whilst it is acknowledged that on a long straight road the provision of a bus shelter with sides would bring the visibility below standard, in this instance it is not considered to have an impact. The location of the roundabout, approximately 35m to the west of Rickman Close, has an influence over the speed of vehicles approaching the bend and subsequently the bus stop. The average speed of vehicles entering the bend is unlikely to exceed the 50kph (31mph) at which visibility is advocated at 45m. On this basis, it is recommended that the shelter is provided with half side panels and remains in the position on the plan attached. Clerk to reply stating that the shelter can be erected but BPC points out that it did not ask for it; could think of sites in the parish which would benefit more if a shelter were to be provided; is unwilling to contribute to its installation or maintenance, and nor do we wish to own it.

10/407 Litter

The Parish Cleanup will take place on Sunday 21st March in line with the Borough. Clerk to find out if the verges will have been cut back by then and also if this date coincides with street sweeping as it would seem pointless to clear litter if the timetable for WBC to sweep the streets is imminent. Event to be advertised in the BVRA magazine and the Wokingham Times.

There are a number of black sacks dumped along Commonfield Lane, Clerk to notify WBC and request clearance. Mr Oxbrough advised that he had picked up 3 sacks of litter from along Barkham Street which had been thrown out of cars.

10/408 Finance

WBC – 1 refuse lorry at The Junipers for January	223	£177.43 (£151.00 exc VAT)
Neat Ideas – stationery	224	£165.59 (£140.93 exc VAT)
Came & Co. Insurance for shelter	225	£25.00
J.P. Neuhofer – provisions for shelter opening party	226	£56.79
J.P. Neuhofer – 50% of internet & phone bill Aug 08 – March 09	227	£203.18 (£172.92 exc VAT)
Standing Order for Clerk's salary for February		£576.62
Standing Order to Royal Bor. Windsor – Pension Fund for Clerk for month of February (Employee & employer contribution)		£129.11

To date 893 books have been sold, an income of £4666.24, thus leaving 107 unsold, and the Council is now in credit to the amount of £700.57.

A request has been received from the Barkham and Arborfield NAG for a grant of £150 towards the cost of the AGM plus a questionnaire they are planning to send to all residents later in the year. Clerk to reply requesting them to ask for the funding when it is required, support will be given.

10/409 Borough Councillor's Report

Mrs Stubbs reported that there was very little that directly affects Barkham from WBC at present. She continues to work tirelessly assisting residents with their problems and is always available at the Post Office.

10/410 Monitoring the shelter at The Junipers Park

Mr Postlethwaite reported that the bin has already been emptied by WBC, and the area was clean and tidy. He walks past the shelter on a daily basis and was happy to keep an eye on it and report any problems to the Clerk.

10/411 **The Parish Boundary of Barkham**

Confirmation has been received from WBC Electoral Services that under the Wokingham Borough Council (Reorganisation of Community Governance) Order dated 15 January 2010, which comes into force on 1st April 2011, the Order gives effect for the change in the geographical areas of the Parish of Barkham and Wokingham Town Council by the transfer of the area known as Sandy Bottom from the area of Wokingham Town Council to Barkham Parish. The current Ward Boundary will then follow the Parish Boundary and will take in both sides of Sandy Lane, Limmer Close, Highland Ave., The Shires, Blandford Drive and both sides of Barkham Road. BPC wish to thank Mr Postlethwaite who undertook this project when he was first a member of BPC and it has now come to fruition.

A vote took place at 10.00 p.m. to continue the meeting.

10/412 **Communication Strategy** – Mrs Dando

Mrs Dando circulated a list of points to try to improve the communication from BPC to residents:-

- To raise the profile of BPC within the community
- To encourage residents of Barkham to be involved in decisions that affect them
- To investigate applying for Quality Status for BPC
- To raise interest in the Council and therefore aim for contested elections in the future

Numerous suggestions were mentioned, Dr Loader will take advice from BALC as to which are permitted and legal before any decisions are made. This item to be placed on the agenda for next month.

10/413 **Correspondence**

- a. JSPU – notification that the Berkshire Unitary Authorities Minerals and Waste Core Strategy has been withdrawn by the Secretary of State on 5.1.10. Clerk to find out why this has been withdrawn and what implications this will have.
- b. Thames Valley Police Authority Liaison Meeting to be held on 20.4.10. Dr Loader to attend.
- c. BALC – Training course on health and safety and risk assessments to be held on 25.3.10 at Bracknell Town Council. No one wished to attend.
- d. WBC Local Transport Plan Briefing session to be held on 22.2.10. Mr Scott to attend.

Distribution

WBC Minutes of Committee Meetings for the period 2.12.09 – 23.12.09.

WBC Agenda for Meeting of the Council on 14.1.10.

Relate Annual Report and Accounts for year ending 31.3.2009.

WBC Agenda for Meeting of the Licensing and Appeals Committee on 21.1.10.

WBC Agenda for Meeting of the Finance, Overview & Scrutiny Panel on 20.1.10.

WBC Planning Applications Input & Decisions Issued for the period 4.1.10 – 8.1.10.

WBC Agenda for Meeting of the Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee on 27.1.10.

WBC Agenda for Extraordinary Meeting of the Council on 28.1.10.

WBC Agenda for Meeting of the Executive on 28.1.10.

WBC Planning Applications Input & Decisions Issued for the period 11.1.10 – 15.1.10.

WBC Planning Applications Input & Decisions Issued for the period 18.1.10 – 22.1.10.

Minutes of BaA NAG Group Meeting held on 20.1.10.

WBC Agenda for Meeting of the Planning Committee to be held on 3.2.2010.

Notes from Town & Parish Council Meeting held on 13.10.09.

WBC Agenda for Meeting of the Service Development Overview & Scrutiny Panel 11.2.10.

WBC Planning Applications Input & Decisions Issued for the period 25.1.10 – 29.1.10.

BaA NAG Barkham Street Analysis of Speed Survey.

WBC Staff Bulletin Issue 2.

10/414 **Councillors Forum**

It was agreed that the production of minutes will be produced in draft with a watermark across the paper, a method of producing them as an adobe pdf file has been located in order that they cannot be tampered with by simply using Windows and therefore no extra costs will be incurred by the Council.

Meeting closed at 10.30 p.m. . Next meeting of full Council will be held on 9th March 2010 at 8 p.m.

Next meeting of Planning Committee will be held on 23rd February 2010 at 7.30 p.m.