

BARKHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of meeting of the Barkham Parish Council held on 10th February 2009
in Barkham Village Hall at 8.00 p.m.

Present: Mrs P. Stubbs (in the Chair), Mr F. A. Scott, Mr. P. King, Mr L. Heath, Mr. R. Newman, Mr. D. Oxbrough, four members of the public and the Clerk.

Apologies: Mr. S. Goldring (work commitments), Dr. R. Loader (ill) and Mr. C. Heyliger (on holiday).
It was agreed to grant Dr Loader a leave of absence as he has missed several meetings due to ill health this winter, his work with BALC is much appreciated by BPC. Clerk to write to Dr. Loader wishing him a speedy recovery and assuring him that his position of Parish Councillor will not be jeopardised.

Declarations of Interests

09/243 **Minutes** of meeting held on 13th January 2009 were approved and signed as a true record.
Minute number 08/128 dated 13.5.08 requires clarification "A vote took place agreeing to Mr Newman to proceed with the purchase of the shelter, obtain the lottery fund of £4000 and the balance to be met from BPC funds, unanimous". BPC wish to clarify that permission was given to Mr Newman to proceed with the Lottery Fund application, this proved to be unsuccessful and hence BPC were unable to proceed with the purchase of the youth shelter at this point in time.

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

09/244 Report from the Villages Youth Project Worker

Report received from Louise Morris and read by the Clerk.

09/245 Planning

There were no planning applications from the Planning Meeting which required referral to the main Council meeting. Mrs Stubbs advised that the public hearing for Woodlands Farm had to be postponed as the Inspector was unable to attend due to the bad weather; another date has yet to be set.
BPC submitted a very comprehensive document relating to the Core Strategy to WBC in December 2008 it would appear there have been some discrepancies. The Executive summary states "The Council received responses from 59 respondents in the form of a standard email/letter circulated by the Barkham Village Residents Association. The standard response related to the inappropriateness of site XXXIV (land north of Arborfield Garrison (also known as Barkham Square) for development". The reference to a standard email/letter circulated by the BVRA is quite wrong. No standard form letter was circulated, as a matter of policy the BVRA does not support the use of standard letters in planning matters. The BVRA made available a model covering letter containing a template with bullet point briefing notes to identify the main issues to help residents compose and individual response. From a look at the responses there is a wide variety of individual comments which are the result of a lot of individual effort. WBC apparently deems these to be "standard" responses. In the file of responses which is available for public inspection at WBC 44 out of the 66 Barkham responses are missing (including 5 letters which have been individually summarised). The responses by Barkham residents have not been fairly or properly reviewed by WBC, thus indicating that WBC has read less than a quarter of the Barkham response. This could mean that the public consultation does not comply with legal requirements. Mrs Stubbs will visit the Planning Department and will request that WBC correct these failings by:-

- Undertaking a fair and proper review of all Barkham responses.
- Inserting thumbnail summaries of all Barkham responses in the relevant spreadsheet.
- Correcting the discrepancies between the thumbnail summary and the index of respondents.

Mr Heath confirmed that BPC had requested a slot for an oral hearing at the Pre Hearing of the Core Strategy to be held on 19.3.09. Supplemental statements must be delivered at least three weeks before the relevant hearing date. The scheduled date for Session 3 on Arborfield Garrison SDL (CP19) is Thursday 19th March, so the deadline submission date is Wednesday 25th February. Hearing participants will be able to supplement their original representations by a further written statement (max 3000 words), Mr Heath, Mr Newman and Mr French will discuss the best use of this opportunity. BPC, BVRA, Arborfield Parish Council and Councillor Gary Cowan will all be represented at this hearing. The original proposal was to build 2500 houses at the

Garrison when the Army vacate the site, it would appear that WBC have now increased this to 3500 with no explanation for the increase in numbers. It must be noted that the majority of the Garrison is located within Barkham and Section 106 monies must be secured for the benefit of Barkham residents.

09/246 Highways

After the recent snow fall and freezing conditions earlier in the year, the state of the roads around Wokingham Borough have suffered badly with many pot holes now visible. Clerk to report to WBC a large pot hole at Edneys Hill roundabout and also at the junction of Sandy Lane and Bearwood Road, outside "The Lodge".

09/247 Litter

A Borough wide litter pick has been organised for Sunday 26th April, the idea is that as many parishes and other groups all collect litter on the same day to make the public more aware of this growing problem of anti social behaviour. WBC Waste Services will collect the rubbish on the day from various pick up points. The vehicle will have balloons and posters on it to promote the day and the pile of rubbish will be photographed to publicise how much rubbish has been collected from the Borough. BPC currently have 10 pickers and 15 vests stored in the garage of Mr Oxbrough. Mr D. Carter from the BVRA has been nominated as coordinator to liaise with WBC, the Clerk has also given her name. It was agreed that BPC would conduct their Parish Cleanup in the same manner as before with a skip at the village hall, Mr Oxbrough offered to drive around and collect the bags of rubbish in the trailer for dumping in the skip. The clerk will liaise with WBC, if WBC wish to produce a poster advertising the event it must have a section where each Parish can add the details of where to meet and the time.

09/248 Finance

SLCC Enterprises Ltd. – annual conference for Clerk	172	£56.35 (£49.00 exc VAT)
WBC – 1 refuse lorry at The Junipers for January	173	£166.75 (£145.00 exc VAT)

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

09/249 Borough Councillor's Report

Mrs Stubbs reported that there was nothing of importance to report from WBC, the Council Tax has not yet been announced, this should be agreed at the meeting to be held on 19.2.09 at WBC. Mrs Stubbs will then be able to report to BPC at the next meeting. Mrs Stubbs continues to help many local residents with problems who contact her via the Post Office.

09/250 Correspondence

- a. WBC Surface Water Management Plan – meeting requested. Mr Scott was nominated as the Councillor to meet with WBC as he has lived in the area for many years and has much local knowledge regarding the ownership of fields and waterways and drainage.
- b. K. O'Leary – email from resident in Winnersh suggesting the continuation of the footpath along Bearwood Road. Mr O'Leary was in attendance at the meeting where it was explained that BPC had suggested this scheme to WBC on several occasions but the cost of providing a path along this section of road would prove to be so costly as to be prohibitive.

Distribution

WBC Staff Bulletin Issue 1.

WBC Agenda for Meeting of the Finance Overview and Scrutiny Panel 22.1.09.

WBC Agenda for Meeting of Licensing and Appeals Committee 20.1.09.

WBC Agenda for Meeting of the Personnel Board on 22.1.09.

WBC Planning Applications Input & Decisions Issued for the period 5.1.09 – 9.1.09.

WBC Agenda for An Extraordinary Meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee on 27.1.09.

WBC Carriageway re surfacing – Barkham Road (Phase 1).

WBC Agenda for Meeting of the Executive 29.1.09.

WBC Planning Applications Input & Decisions Issued for the period 12.1.09 – 16.1.09.
WBC Agenda for Meeting of the Corporate Projects Overview and Scrutiny Panel 3.2.09.
WBC Staff Bulletin Issue 2.
WBC Corporate News.
WBC Planning Applications Input & Decisions Issued for the period 19.1.09 – 23.1.09.
WBC Agenda for Meeting of the Planning Committee on 4.2.09.
WBC Place & Neighbourhood Services Bulletin No. 43.
Minutes of Southern Parishes Area Youth Committee Meeting on 12.11.08.
WBC The Town and parish News January 2009.
WBC Agenda for Meeting of the Finance Overview and Scrutiny Panel 12.2.09.
WBC Planning Applications Input & Decisions Issued for the period 26.1.09 – 30.1.09.
WBC Staff Bulletin Issue 3.

09/251 Councillors Forum

No Councillors had any issues to raise.

Meeting closed at 8.50 p.m.

Next meeting of full Council will be held on 10th March at 8 p.m.

Next meeting of Planning Committee will be held on 24th February 2009 at 7.30 p.m.