

BARKHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of meeting of the Barkham Parish Council held on 13th January 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. S. Goldring, Mr. R. Newman, Mr. D. Oxbrough, four members of the public and the Clerk.

Apologies: Mr. C. Heyliger (on holiday), Dr. R. Loader (ill), Louise Morris (Youth Leader WBC)

Declarations of Interests

Mr Newman declared an interest relating to the planning application Little Hayes, Hayes Lane and in relation to the schools admission policy for discussion under Correspondence.

09/229 **Minutes** of meeting held on 9th December 2008 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

09/230 Report from the Villages Youth Project Worker – Louise Morris

Report read by the Clerk attached.

08/231 Planning

F/2007/3115	Barkham Post Office, 50 Bearwood Road Proposed erection of one retail shop and 3 apartments together with a detached two storey dwelling following demolition of existing building. Appeal A	Dismissed At Appeal
F/2008/1290	Barkham Post Office, 50 Bearwood Road Proposed erection of one retail shop and 2 apartments together with a pair of semi detached two storey dwellings following demolition of existing dwelling. Appeal B	Dismissed At Appeal

The Clerk holds the copy of the Inspector's report.

A meeting was held at WBC on 6.1.09 attended by Angus Ross (elected member for Wokingham Without and Planning Committee Member), Mark Cupit (Head of Development Management at WBC), Jenny Gumbrell (Planning Officer at WBC), Robert Newman, Laurence Heath and the Clerk. A number of issues were discussed namely that of Enforcement, WBC admitted that in past years this area had been lacking but was now being addressed, areas of concern for Barkham are Wood Lane, Barkham Manor Farm and Coppid Hill House. WBC are aware of the situation at these locations and are applying the necessary processes that Enforcement entails. The Village Design Statement for Barkham was also discussed as no mention of it appears in planning decisions. WBC assured BPC that it did carry considerable weight and was often used in planning appeals. Finally, Tree Preservation Orders were discussed with regard to the blue cedar tree at the junction of Hayes Lane and Bearwood Road which has a TPO on the tree but WBC had given permission for it to be felled and replaced with a sapling, WBC admitted that this was in fact a mistake and permission should never have been granted for this tree to be felled. The builders at the site now intend to retain the tree. All agreed that the meeting had been most helpful and WBC are very keen for the Parish Councils to work with them. WBC encouraged BPC to send a representative to the meeting on 20.1.09 to discuss the Core Strategy, Mr Newman, Mrs Stubbs and Mr Heath will all attend this meeting.

Mrs Stubbs advised BPC that the scrap yard in Highlands Avenue was required to renew its licenses in September 2009, this could be the opportunity for BPC to influence what activities are permissible at this location. The Clerk to seek advice from BALC and to obtain the planning history from WBC.

09/232 Highways

A site meeting took place on 26.11.08 with Steve Potts and Julia Tredwell from WBC regarding the options of improving the footpath along Barkham Street:-

- Vegetation that has already been cut back is giving a better sight line for pedestrians wishing to cross the road towards Church Lane.
- WBC will carry out a Statutory Undertakers check to see if there are any major services under the area of the new footway.
- Footway that is opposite the entrance to Church Lane. WBC will cut back the verges to check to see how far back the pavement stretches this may well give some additional room and make it wide enough for two people to walk or a buggy to be used safely. WBC will feedback any problems that they encounter from this exercise.
- WBC will investigate a drop kerb at the end of this footway.
- WBC will look to plan the installation of an additional footway, a short section of footway in to Church Lane. WBC will also explore whether the junction can be realigned to make it safer for pedestrians.
- WBC will enquire if they can move the concrete bus pole which is south of Church Lane and install it in the area of the new paved area so that residents can alight and wait for buses on a hard standing and not on the grassed area.
- WBC will enquire if a further bus pole and flag can be erected on the opposite side to the new pavement which will allow residents who wish to visit the parish hall or near by residents to catch the bus as the next bus stop is opposite The Bull.
- WBC will review the hedge on the North/East side of Barkham Street opposite The White Cottage to see whether it is possible to improve the sight lines.

WBC confirm that BPC have £15K to cover the cost of these changes and WBC will put together an idea of how much it will cost. Any money that is made available from the new development in Bearwood Road may well then be spent on the pavement extension from Hayes Lane to Coombes Lane. All agreed that the meeting was most beneficial and thanks were expressed to WBC for agreeing to meeting BPC on site.

The footpath along Barkham Street was only cleaned for a length of 8 meters from The Bull, the remainder of the path has hay and soil deposited on it from passing vehicles and weeds are now growing, hence making the path very narrow for pedestrians, Clerk to request that the path is cleaned thoroughly and for the entire length of Barkham Street.

09/233 Litter

The bin at the footpath junction of Almond Close and 82A Bearwood Road does not appear to ever get emptied, Clerk to request that WBC empty this bin on a regular basis.

09/234 Finance and to agree the Precept for the year 2009 - 2010

Neat Ideas – stationery	167	£57.41 (£49.92 exc VAT)
Inland Revenue – 3 months tax & N.I.	168	£39.79
PC World – purchase of external hard drive	169	£74.37 (£64.67)
Barkham Village Hall – rent of hall September – December 08	170	£84.00
Neat Ideas – stationery	171	£84.04 (£73.08 exc VAT)
Standing Order for Clerk’s salary for January		£542.78
Standing Order to Royal Bor. Windsor – Pension Fund for Clerk for month of January (Employee & employer contribution)		£111.29

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.

Precept

The expenditure for the year was discussed and agreed. A Precept of £27,000 for 2009/2010 was formally adopted. A vote to accept the expenditure for the year took place, 5 votes in favour and 1 against, carried by the majority. Details are documented in Appendix A.

09/235 Social Infra structure Master Planning – Mr Heath

Mr Heath had attended a meeting at WBC on 12.12.08 to discuss the infra structure requirements for the future development of Arborfield Garrison. The main services are currently stretched to breaking point such as power supplies, water and sewage services, surface water drainage and the roads are gridlocked at peak times, the narrow bridge at Barkham Brook and the level crossing all need addressing to aid traffic flows. Obviously with the development of new housing then the inclusion of schools, doctors, dentists must all be addressed. Mr Heath agreed to complete the response form on behalf of BPC and requested that councillors feed any additional comments to him by 15.1.09. Mrs Stubbs thanked him for again taking on this task for BPC.

09/236 Borough Councillor's Report

Mrs Stubbs reported that the consultation on the boundary review ended on 5.1.09 with only 2 comments both in favour had been received by WBC. The changes will become effective from the next election in 2011. This will be presented to the Council meeting at WBC in May 2009 for approval. Mrs Stubbs also reported that she had attended meetings at WBC to discuss the schools admission policy for 2010/2011 where numerous anomalies have now been removed i.e. to incorporate a few areas of the Borough which were not allocated to any primary school, to align some boundary lines so that they follow other recognisable features locally such as road, rail or river courses and parish, field or property boundaries, and to remove some shared areas where these are considered unjustified and unhelpful. New houses had been built but had not been allocated a designated school, this was particularly apparent in the areas served by The Coombes School and Farley Hill School where boundaries have now been adjusted This has now gone out to consultation to the governors of the schools affected for admissions for 2011.

09/237 Correspondence

- a. WBC Telecommunications Pre Roll Out Meeting to be held on Friday 30th January 2.00 – 4.00 p.m. at WBC. No one was able to attend, Clerk to write to WBC asking if in future the meetings could be held in the evenings.
- b. WBC Attendance By Standards Committee Members at Town and Parish Meetings. Individual members of the Standards Committee plan to attend one parish meeting between now and the end of March 2009 and will attend in the same way as a member of the public. Anita Grosz (Independent Member) has been allocated to BPC.
- c. Communities and Local Government – Communities in control: Real people: Code of recommended practice on local authority publicity – A consultation. No comment.
- d. WDALC – invitation to meeting on 15.1.09, at WBC at 7.30 p.m. Topic for discussion is “Youth Matters”.
- e. WBC Draft Wokingham Town Centre Development Guide Supplementary Planning Guide – Consultation to run from 7/1/09 – 20/2/09. No Comment.
- f. WBC Consultation on School Admission Arrangements for 2010 – 2011. Comments to be submitted by 28.2.09. Mrs Stubbs updated BPC as reported above. She stressed that the Parishes must be involved in these consultations.
- g. Mr and Mrs Neville – email received. Mrs Stubbs addressed the issues raised and confirmed that the “Questions” submitted to BPC had been answered. The remaining query related to a Minute 08/128 “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”. The Council were unsuccessful with the lottery application. Clerk to clarify this minute entry.

Distribution

WBC Agenda for Joint Meeting of the Corporate Projects and Finance Overview and Scrutiny Panels.
WBC Planning Applications Input & Decisions Issued for the period 1.12.08 – 5.12.08.
Staff Bulletin Issue 23.
The Town & Parish News December 2008.
WBC Planning Applications Input & Decisions Issued for the period 8.12.08 – 12.12.08.
WBC Planning Applications Input & Decisions Issued for the period 15.12.08 – 19.12.08.
WBC Agenda for Meeting of the Service Development Overview and Scrutiny Panel 5.1.09.
WBC Agenda for Meeting of the Planning Committee 7.1.09.
WBC Agenda for Meeting of the Council 13.1.09.

WBC Minutes of Committee Meetings for the period 12.11.08 – 17.12.08.
WBC Planning Applications Input & Decisions Issued for the period 22.12.08 – 2.1.09.
WBC Agenda for Meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee 19.1.09.
Citizens Advise Bureau – January Newsletter.

09/238 Councillors Forum

Nothing to report.

Meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.

Next meeting of full Council will be held on 10th February 2009 at 8 p.m.

Next meeting of Planning Committee will be held on 27th January 2009 at 7.30 p.m.