

## BARKHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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**Minutes** of meeting of the Barkham Parish Council held on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2009  
in Barkham Village Hall at 8.00 p.m.

**Present:** Mrs P. Stubbs (in the Chair), Mr F. A. Scott, Dr. R. Loader, Mr. S. Goldring, Mr. D. Oxbrough, eight members of the public and the Clerk.

**Apologies:** Mr. C. Heyliger (on holiday) and Mr. L. Heath (on holiday).

### **Declarations of Interests**

None

09/320 **Minutes** of meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> June 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

### **09/321 Report from the Villages Youth Project Worker**

Report was read by the Clerk – attached.

### **09/322 Resignation of Councillor Newman (Vice Chairman)**

Mrs Stubbs read out the letter of resignation from Mr Newman and also her reply to him. Comments inferred at the last meeting of BPC by members of the public suggesting that he had not tried hard enough four years ago to get a venue for a teenage youth club were completely unacceptable. Mr Newman not only was the best vice Chairman Barkham Parish Council have ever had devoting many hours of work to improving life for the residents of Barkham. He served on the Southern Villages Youth Project as Chairman, the WBC Town & Parishes Waste liaison group and the Barkham & Finchampstead NAG sub group on litter. Also, he will not seek re election as Chairman of the local NAG at the AGM in September. Mr Newman was responsible for The Village Design Statement for Barkham which was completed in a year due to many hours of hard work and also the Affordable Housing study. His input, expertise, enthusiasm and sense of humour will be greatly missed and will leave a huge gap which will be very difficult to fill. He will be sadly missed by all the Councillors, Chairman and the Clerk.

### **09/323 Planning**

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

F/2009/1388	Land opposite Rooks Nest Farm, Barkham Ride Proposed change of use from agricultural land to suitable alternative natural green space (SANGS/D2) and associated development including access, car park, footpath network and landscaping.	Proposed Opposed
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Clerk to write to WBC opposing this application. The plan is for change of use from agricultural land to Suitable Alternative Natural Green Space (SANG), the area of 50 acres is currently owned by WBC as Council holdings for tenant farmers, the loss of this farm land is not justified as renting farm land is the only way for young people keen to pursue a career in farming to make a start who are unable to purchase a farm. The area would appear to be for the sole use of dog walkers as there are no other recreational amenities. With The Coombes and California Country Park within close proximity where there is a huge area available for dog walking this area would seem to be unnecessary. On looking at the plans there are 2 footpaths proposed to Finchampstead North and none to Barkham and there are no proposed links to the proposed new development at Arborfield. BPC is of the opinion that if a SANG is needed to mitigate the effects of the proposed development at the Arborfield Garrison, the obligation to provide it should be met at the expense of the MOD or its developer. BPC wish to see this land remaining for the use of the tenant farmers as was intended and therefore are opposed to this application.

F/2009/0841	The Scrapyard, Silver Birch, Highland Ave. Proposed use of site for the storage of portaloos and wet waste operations including collection, disposal and maintenance.	Approved
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Conditions: No loading or unloading of vehicles relating to the portaloos storage or wet waste operations shall take place outside the hours of 7.00 a.m. and 6.00 p.m. Monday to Saturday nor at any time on Sundays or Public Holidays. Within one month of the date of this decision, details shall be submitted of a sealed drainage unit, along with details of how this will be disposed of. The development shall be carried out in accordance with the approved details, within two months of the approved details. The development approved is for the storage of portaloos and the operation of the wet waste business. No treatment or disposal of sewage or effluent shall take place on the site.

BPC pointed out to WBC that the supporting documents from the applicant give the impression that they are seeking to claim establish lawful use for a period of over 10 years. The Local Planning Authority can confirm that a recent CLUE application on this basis, reference CLE/2009/0382 was refused as there was a lack of evidence submitted. Mrs Stubbs advised that the License from the Environment Agency was due for renewal in September, Clerk to write to the Environment Agency expressing our concerns about the portaloos being emptied on site as the residents from Woosehill have complained about the smells and effluent in their gardens.

### 09/324 Highways

A detailed drawing has been received from WBC showing the improvements to be made to the junction of Church Lane and Barkham Street. Traffic management team have decided to move the bus stop further down the road as a safety measure as there is the fear that someone might overtake the bus or pull out of Church Lane in front of the stationery bus and cause an accident, and it was felt that the Antique Centre would probably be better serviced if the stop was further along the road but that church goers or those wishing to gain access to the village hall would also still benefit from the proposed relocation of the stop. BPC agreed to the plans and the proposed improvements.

There will be essential road works in Barkham Street on the west side footway between Church Lane junction to approx 410m north. These works will include some kerb and path edging repairs followed by resurfacing of the footways. The works are being managed through WBC as part of their ongoing programme of major maintenance schemes, to commence on 6.7.09 for 3 weeks.

Reply received from WBC with regard to the issues raised at the last meeting:-

- 1) VAS sign on Barkham Road. The Highway Inspector has issued a works order to cut back the vegetation obscuring this sign. This work has now been carried out
- 2) Re surfacing of Bearwood Road. This section of road is on the current list for re surfacing however this work is dependent on the availability of funding.
- 3) Langley Common Road repairs. The Highways Inspector has advised that the potholes were plugged and it is hoped that patching work will be carried out later this year. The road, in common with all roads within the Borough is subject to regular safety inspections.
- 4) Church Lane visibility. A request for the erection of a traffic mirror must be referred to the Department for Transport for approval. The Borough Council does not have the final word on the use of mirrors as the Department for Transport insists on considering each individual case in the country to maintain a consistent approach. Several problems occur with mirrors. They are prone to condensation in the winter, vandalism and in darkness reflections from headlight beams can be very disconcerting for traffic on the main route. The worst problem is that the mirror information is difficult to interpret and can be very misleading for drivers as the reflected view is in reverse and distorted due to the convex shape of the mirror.

The Department will generally only consider applications for mirrors for access to several properties or businesses. If authorisation is received this will be for 12 months only and is renewable subject to a satisfactory report which will detail the following information:-

The mirror effectiveness in all weather conditions

Any complaints from drivers that the mirror is confusing.

Any difficulty experienced by a driver in judging both speed and distance of reflected vehicles.

Any problems with glare or sunlight.

Any reported damage by accident or vandals

Whether cleaning the mirror has been necessary

Approximately 2 months prior to the expiry date the person who made the request should furnish the above information so that application may be made to the DfT for permanent authorisation. If this information is not received before the expiry date, authorisation lapses and the mirror will have to be removed. Due to the lengthy and potentially costly nature of applications to DfT for traffic mirrors WBC expect applicants to bear the cost. This is usually in the region of £250 plus the cost of the mirror although this may vary. With the proposed plans to improve the junction of Church Lane and Barkham Street which includes cutting back vegetation and hedges

to improve sight lines this should greatly improve matters and hence the need for a mirror should not now be necessary.

The width restriction notices along Barkham Street were brought to the attention of WBC after the last meeting of BPC, to date no reply has been received and no action taken. Clerk to remind WBC.

1. If approaching from the East (Finchampstead) there are 3 signs warning of the width restriction.
2. If approaching from the south (Arborfield) there is one sign but it is currently obscured by a holly tree. The trees were cut back in front of the sign and behind but not sufficiently in order to make the sign visible. Clerk to write to WBC asking them to return to the site and cut back the trees to a higher level for this sign to be fully visible for approaching vehicles, especially the width text 6'6" which currently cannot be seen and is the essential piece of information.
3. If approaching from the North (Wokingham) there are no signs at all to warn drivers of large vehicles. On the grass verge there is a pole but with no sign on it, presumably this was the width restriction sign which has fallen off and since disappeared. Clerk to notify WBC.

Notification has been received from WBC that the dwelling on land adjacent to Little Hayes, Hayes Lane will be named Holly Tree House.

#### 09/325 Litter

The main area of litter is around the village hall, with numerous functions taking place the Grundon is overflowing. Users need to be more vigilant and not leave rubbish stacked up alongside the Grundon which attracts foxes.

#### 09/326 Provision of Youth Shelter

It has been agreed to hold a public meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> September at Barkham Village Hall to be Chaired by Mr. Carter (Chairman of the BVRA). Mrs Stubbs will send a letter to all residents of Barkham requesting their views, which needs to be returned to the ballot box in the Post Office prior to the meeting. The young people have been successful with their application to the Youth Opportunities Fund and have been awarded £10,000 which can be spent up until 31.3.10, they gave an excellent presentation to the Committee who were most impressed with them and they should be congratulated accordingly.

#### 09/327 Finance

Inland Revenue – Tax & N.I. (May, June, July)	193	£65.25
Relate – grant	194	£325.00
Citizens Advise Bureau – grant	195	£320.00
Wokingham Job Support Agency – grant	196	£100.00
Barkham Pre School – grant	197	£350.00
J.P. Neuhofer – 50% of internet and phone bill November 07 – July 08	198	£187.31 (£159.44 exc VAT)

Standing Order for Clerk's salary for July £572.64

Standing Order to Royal Bor. Windsor – Pension Fund for Clerk for month of July (Employee & employer contribution) £127.84

To date 872 books have been sold, an income of £4559.24, thus leaving 128 unsold, and the Council is now in credit to the amount of £593.57.

#### 09/328 The Sam Hosgood Sporting Endeavour Fund

The sum of £1000 has been allocated in the Precept.

Ross Abrahams – aged 15 trampolining

Katie Abrahams – aged 12 trampolining

Sophie Hamilton – aged 15 sailing

Melissa Hamilton – aged 15 sailing

It was decided to give each applicant £250, the awards to be presented at the meeting in September, Clerk to invite Sam Hosgood to make the presentations and the Wokingham Times.

**09/329 Borough Councillor's Report**

Mrs Stubbs reported that WBC was still awaiting the results of the findings from the Core Strategy Enquiry. She also reported that Councillor Alan Spratling (the Leader of the Liberal Democrats) had very sadly died, he had done much for Wokingham and will be sadly missed. Mrs Stubbs continues to work tirelessly for the people of Barkham assisting them with their many and varied problems.

**09/330 Correspondence**

- a. BVH – letter of thanks for grant.
- b. Mr R. Newman – resignation of Councillor Newman.
- c. WBC The next Waste Meeting will be held on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> September at Grundons energy from waste at Colnbrook.
- d. WBC – invitation to attend the Annual Parish Planning Liaison Meeting for the Eastern Parishes (Barkham, Finchampstead, Wokingham and Wokingham Without) being held on 4.8.09 at WBC. BPC have replied stating that we wish to be grouped with the Western Group which includes Arborfield and Swallowfield, this meeting will take place in October. A reply has been received from Mr Cupit (Head of Development Management at WBC), stating that the teams are arranged on an area basis to provide equal amounts of work to the 3 teams and to provide clear lead officers for contact. The best fit on historical data is the current arrangement and whilst they periodically review this, any changes would need to be reflected by other area changes to compensate in the shift in workload and management responsibility. Mr Cupit is happy for BPC to attend the liaison meeting of our choice but he is unable to add the cost of servicing the meetings by having additional officers present. BPC are still unhappy with this arrangement, with the prospect of 3500 houses being built at the Garrison it makes sense for the same officer to cover Arborfield and Barkham, Clerk to write to the Chairman of the Planning Committee, Mr Steve Chapman, with a copy to the Chief Executive.
- e. Wokingham Job Support Centre – invitation to AGM to be held on 23.7.09. No one was able to attend.
- f. WBC – invitation to Shaping The Communities Of The Future, meeting to be held at WBC on 25.7.09, Arborfield and South of the M4 1.30 – 5.00 p.m. Mrs Stubbs and Mr Goldring to attend.
- g. The Coombes Primary School – letter of thanks for grant.
- h. NHS Litigation Authority – Appeal Against Berkshire West PCT Determination of Rurality in respect of Swallowfield, Berkshire. Decision has already granted Rurality to Swallowfield, the purpose of this appeal is in respect of the northern boundary of the rurality in the light of the major developments that have taken place over the past 12 months and what is planned in the future. BPC fully support this and has an interest in the matter since the operating area of the Swallowfield Medical Practise includes the southern parts of Barkham. In view of the fact that the time-scale for the potential development in the Arborfield Garrison is up to 20 years, and also that the Swallowfield Medical Practice provides services to residents in Arborfield and the Southern parts of Barkham, those areas should be classified as rural at least for the next ten years.
- i. NHS Litigation Authority – Appeal Against Berkshire West PCT Determination of Rurality in respect of Finchampstead, Berkshire. The decision made was that Finchampstead is “Urban” in nature within a one mile radius of California Crossroads. BPC made no comment.

**Distribution**

WBC Planning Applications Input & Decisions Issued for the period 1.6.09 – 6.6.09.  
Partial Review of the regional Spatial Strategy for the South East – Provision for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople.  
Wokingham Local Police Area – Minutes of meeting held on 19.5.09.  
Minutes of Area Youth Committee meeting held on 10.6.09.  
Minutes of Campaign Against Waste Meeting held on 30.3.09.  
WBC Agenda for Meeting of the Standards Committee 18.6.09.  
Arborfield News Issue 69.  
WBC Staff Bulletin Issue 12.  
CAB Report on the Impact of the Recession.  
WBC Planning Applications Input & Decisions Issued for the period 8.6.09 – 12.6.09.  
WBC Agenda for Meeting of the Planning Committee on 24.6.09.  
WBC Agenda for Meeting of the Executive on 25.6.09.  
WBC Agenda for Meeting of the Special Council Executive Committee on 25.6.09.  
Biodiversity News April 2009.  
WBC Agenda for Meeting of the Finance & Service Development Overview & Scrutiny Panels.

WBC Planning Applications Input & Decisions Issued for the period 15.6.09 – 19.6.09.  
WBC Agenda for An Extraordinary Meeting of the overview & Scrutiny Management Committee 8.7.09.  
WBC Staff Bulletin Issue 13.  
WBC Transformation Update Issue 4.  
WBC Minutes of Committee Meetings for the period 18.5.09 – 30.6.09.  
WBC Agenda for Meeting of the Council 15.7.09 & Statement of Accounts 2008/09.  
The Town & Parish News June 2009.  
WBC Planning Applications Input & Decisions Issued for the period 29.6.09 – 3.7.09.  
WBC Agenda for An Extraordinary Meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee on 16.7.09.

**09/331 Councillors Forum**

The pavements around Elizabeth Park require spraying with weed killer, Clerk to request that this is carried out. The bin men have become rather lax when emptying the bins, they are thrown anywhere and rubbish is not picked up which falls from the recycling bins and then blows around the streets. Clerk to write to WBC asking if they could perform their tasks more diligently.

Meeting closed at 9.03 p.m.

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

Next meeting of Planning Committee will be held on 11<sup>th</sup> August 2009 at 7.30 p.m.