

BARKHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Page 10/778

Minutes of meeting of the Barkham Parish Council held on 13th July 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. S. Goldring, Mr F. Postlethwaite, Mr. C. Heyliger, Mr G. Burges, Louise Morris (Youth Worker), two members of the public and the Clerk. Mrs Stubbs arrived at 8.10 p.m. as she was attending another meeting, until such time the meeting was chaired by Mr Scott.

Apologies: Mr D. Oxbrough (on holiday), Mr L. Heath (on holiday)

Declarations of Interests None

10/493 **Minutes** of meeting held on 8th June 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

10/494 Report from the Villages Youth Project Worker – Louise Morris

The youth club is still attracting boys only with 25 – 30 each week. Sadly Louise will be leaving to take up a new role at Twyford, two new staff have been recruited to run the youth club at Barkham, one male and one female. There is currently a big drive at the local schools of Holt, Forest and Emmbrook to attract new members from year 7 for September. The Active Youth web site is up and running with all the summer activities being advertised. Richard Ferguson will cover Louise's role but it is unsure at this stage if she will be replaced. It was suggested that we invite Richard to our meeting in September which would coincide with the Sporting Endeavour Awards. It is very important that BPC continue to receive regular reports on the youth activities in order that we are kept aware of what is happening. Mrs Stubbs thanked Louise for all her work with the young people of Barkham and especially for her input towards the acquisition of the shelter, she was then presented with a gift from the Parish Council as a token of our appreciation.

10/495 Planning

The Planning Committee reported that the only planning application for consideration was:-

F/2010/1283	6 Langley Common Road Proposed conversion of garage to utility room and bedroom and replacement of flat roof with pitched roof.	Proposed No Comment
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For referral to the full Council meeting.

F/2010/1287	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 / day rooms ancillary to that use.	Proposed Opposed
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Clerk to write to WBC opposing this application. The report prepared for Mr Cash and submitted with the planning application states that "This small site of 100m by 60m has been used as a traveller's site in the past and has been used for fly tipping since". This is clearly an untruth as the site has never been a traveller site and certainly has never suffered from fly tipping. It would appear that this land is no longer designated as Green Wedge and there has been no consultation with the Parish Council or notification of this reclassification. There are already 2 traveller sites at Arborfield which are not full and therefore the need for an additional site is not necessary. Also the site which was located along the Nine Mile Ride was sold off due to a lack of need. This proposed location is in a totally unsuitable area with the access being on to a 50 mph busy road. The buildings will be located outside the settlement boundary. Clerk to write to the Planning Dept querying the change of use of the land and to insist that the planning application is refused due to the blatant inaccuracies in the application. Copy of letter to be sent to Arborfield, Winnersh and Wokingham Town Councils. Mrs Stubbs to arrange for this application to be Listed for the next meeting of the Development Control Meeting at WBC and she will also seek the help of Gary Cowan and Angus Ross.

10/496 **The Core Strategy** – report from Mr Heath

Mr Heath and Mr Burges attended a meeting on 21st June of the Southern Parishes with David Lee, Angus Ross, Gary Cowan, Pam Stubbs and other Members from the south of the Borough. This was a very good meeting. David Lee began by outlining how the coalition government's position is evolving rapidly. Indeed he had attended a meeting with Eric Pickles the previous day. As a result local authorities will have much more control over local decisions. Consequently WBC will review the housing requirement from first principles and also take the opportunity to review the practical issues. The Master Plan SPDs will therefore not be adopted until this review is complete. This does not mean that there will be no houses, but it does avoid WBC making plans before the MOD is even clear about its own intentions - they should have a better idea by the autumn once the first stage of the defence review has been completed. Hopefully it should also make it possible to have a more considered approach to the provision of infrastructure. David Lee was keen to learn more about the Southern Parishes concerns, and so he volunteered a follow up meeting at the end of July. This was a very positive approach from him.

The afternoon session was the Community Hubs Workshop, that was arranged by WBC but facilitated by planning consultants. Gordon Burges and Laurence Heath attended along with Robert Newman (with his NAG hat). Various WBC people were there as observers including Angus Ross, Mark Cupit and Cris Lancaster. Discussion covered a range of topics, the absurdity of running a main road through the District Centre Location of the secondary school, whether there should be 2 or 3 primary schools, the extent to which community and school facilities can be shared e.g. halls and sports fields, Church facilities, health centre, retail (two small units rather than one big one). How is the upkeep of community facilities to be funded, Single Parish Council for the SDL - could be pertinent to previous point consultation on name.

Mr Heath reported that he is not sure to what extent all these points were taken on board, but the hiatus with the finalisation of plans should give an opportunity for ideas to be developed properly rather than WBC just telling us what is going to happen based on their own priorities. Mr Heath also stated that he had heard that Eric Pickles has put the Planning Inspectorate “on hold” with the early intention of issuing them with entirely new rules for future determinations. They are currently awaiting clarification as to how they should proceed in the future.

Meanwhile Crest Nicholson submitted an application for North Wokingham and the University submitted applications for west Shinfield, eastern relief road and the SANG, presumably to test the water. Expectation is that WBC will recommend refusals and the developers will go straight to appeal, with both sides uncertain of the outcome. University of Reading insists that their applications conform to current planning policy guidance.

It is unfortunate that WBC adopted the Core Strategy but has not taken any specific action to rescind it. However they are in the process of reviewing the housing targets.

10/497 **Highways**

Keith Baker (Executive Member for Highways WBC) as updated BPC with projects:-

PRIORITY 1 – Pavement, Bus Stop repositioning at Barkham Street / Church Lane Junction – COMPLETED

Bus stop has been completed. There is a small stretch of footway to be completed but not quite scheduled yet.

PRIORITY 2 – Hayes Lane / Coombes Lane Footpath – ON HOLD

We are having difficulty in finding funds to carry this out. We had thought we had identified some S106 to carry out this footway but our submission was rejected. We have had an objection from one resident who says his land stretches out to the highway and one in support. Because of the objection and lack of S106 money we are not progressing this at the moment. Clerk to write to Mr. Baker stating that just because one objection has been received this is no reason to abandon the scheme.

It was noted that in the recent bus shelter guidelines which were circulated by WBC, the new bus shelter at Langley Common Road fails to meet these guidelines as it will be situated on a bend and the pavement is not deep enough. The Clerk raised this issue with the Transport Planner at WBC who has now replied. “The bus stop policy was written as a guide for everyone as to how bus stops will be provided in the borough. The process for providing bus stops is supposed to highlight any issues at proposed locations where further investigation is required. The bus stop policy was also designed to ensure all Town and Parish councils are treated fairly once an infrastructure need had been identified. For example, it was found that some Parishes were asking for shelters which cost significantly more than the standard shelter and hence were receiving greater

proportions of funding for shelters than other areas. The policy is now that everyone can have a standard shelter, or where an upgraded version is preferred in order to suit the character of the area, Town and Parish Councils may fund the additional cost. Each site will still be considered on a site by site basis to ascertain what is most appropriate for each site. At the Langley Common Road site, the issue of sight lines and the provision of sides on the shelter would be flagged up by the bus stop policy assessment as issues which need further investigation.

In the case of the Langley Common Road site the Parish raised this issue anyway, and therefore the council were able to investigate them. Following further investigate, with both an engineer and a transport planner attending a site meeting, then further discussion with a principle engineer, it was concluded that the provision of a shelter with sides, in the proposed location would be appropriate. On this basis, the response previously provided is still considered appropriate.”

A resident who spoke during the Public Session raised BPC’s awareness of speeding along Barkham Street, this has been a subject for debate at the NAG meetings. Apparently, a Vehicle Activated Sign can be positioned for a week, it needs to be attached to a pole. The pole could be placed outside Barkham Antiques and on the opposite side of the road. BPC agreed that this was a good idea and were happy to support the NAG.

10/498 Litter

The standard of the refuse and recycling collections has become very sloppy across the whole Parish. Refuse from the normal collection, the green recycling and the black boxes are being moved to “mini collection points by the refuse employees and then emptied into the back of the lorry, any items which fall out are left in the road and the boxes are then left strewn across the driveways and roads. The Clerk to write to Mr Baveystock to remind him that standards need to be improved.

10/499 A Village Plan – Dr Loader to report to the Council and to discuss if Barkham Parish Council wish to pursue this. Dr Loader has been speaking with his colleague at Old Windsor who has recently conducted a survey of the residents as to their needs, this had a very poor response. He will obtain a set of guidance notes. To be discussed again in October.

10/500 Finance

Sue Ryder Care – grant	246	£350.00
Citizens Advise Bureau – grant	247	£350.00
Barkham Pre School – grant	248	£350.00
Keep Mobile – grant	249	£500.00
Wokingham Job Support Agency – grant	250	£200.00
BVRA – grant	251	£650.00
Inland Revenue – Tax & M.I. for Clerk (May, June & July)	252	£95.43

Standing Order for Clerk’s salary for July	£589.43
Standing Order to Royal Bor. Windsor – Pension Fund for Clerk for month of July (Employee & employer contribution)	£135.26

To date 906 books have been sold, an income of £4734.24 thus leaving 94 unsold, and the Council is now in credit to the amount of £768.57.

A new notice board is required at the Post Office the previous one was demolished by the builders, Clerk to see if BPC can claim on the insurance, if not then a new double board to be ordered costs in the range of £985 + VAT and lettering plus installation costs. This to be positioned along the side of the Post Office backing on to a fence.

10/501 The Sam Hosgood Sporting Endeavour Awards

The sum of £1000 has been allocated in the Precept. It was decided to grant each applicant £250 each. The awards will be given at the meeting on 14th September, the Clerk to invite Sam Hosgood to give the presentations.

- Louisa Bellis – tumbling aged 16.
- Ross Abrahams – trampolining aged 16
- Katie Abrahams – trampolining aged 13

10/502 Borough Councillor's Report

Mrs Stubbs reported that with the recent change in Government, WBC were still in a state of disarray but there would be many cut backs and cost saving measures.

10/503 Correspondence

- a. Barkham Village Hall – letter of thanks for the grant.
- b. Mrs J. Firth – request to purchase a litter bin to be positioned adjacent to the gate into the Pony Club field, Coombes Lane, and set up a rota of volunteers to empty the bin on a weekly basis. It was decided that to ask volunteers to empty a litter bin was not acceptable due to the nature of the unpleasant items that were likely to be in the bin. However, there are several houses on the left hand side which the refuse vehicle must access, so it was decided to ask WBC if we could arrange a site meeting to investigate the possibility of placing a bin just past the last house, the bin would then be added to the normal round of collections.
- c. WBC – invitation to a major works co ordination meeting on 12.7.10 10.00 – 1.00 p.m. Schemes on the agenda will be major east water works - Finchampstead Road and Easthampstead Road with road closures.
- d. Wokingham Job Support Centre – invitation to AGM to be held on 22.7.10 at 7.00 p.m. at The Cornerstone. No one wished to attend.
- e. Relate – letter of thanks for grant.
- f. The Coombes Primary School – letter of thanks for grant.
- g. Louise Morris – letter advising that Louise will be leaving the role of Youth Worker for the Villages Youth Project in September.
- h. WBC Grounds Maintenance –BPC do not wish to take over any of the grounds maintenance from WBC. However, Clerk to ascertain from WBC full details of the areas which they currently consider to be within scope of the activity.

Distribution

Arborfield News Issue 75.

WBC Planning Applications Input & Decisions Issued for the period 31.5.10 – 4.6.10.

WBC Planning Applications Input & Decisions Issued for the period 7.6.10 – 11.6.10.

WBC Agenda for Meeting of the Planning Committee on 23.6.10.

WBC Agenda for Meeting of the Executive on 24.6.10.

WBC Agenda for Meeting of the Community Partnerships Overview & Scrutiny Panel 30.6.10.

WBC Planning Applications Input & Decisions Issued for the period 14.6.10 – 18.6.10.

WBC Agenda for Meeting of the Corporate Services Overview & Scrutiny Panel 5.7.10.

WBC Planning Applications Input & Decisions Issued for the period 21.6.10 – 25.6.10.

Minutes of Southern Parishes Area Youth Committee Meeting held on 1.7.10.

WBC Agenda for Meeting of the Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Panel 14.7.10.

WBC Planning Applications Input & Decisions Issued for the period 21.6.10 – 5.7.10.

10/504 Councillors Forum

A letter from the Standards Committee was circulated to all Councillors at the request of WBC outlining the changes in which questions can be asked by parish councillors at meetings of the Standards Committee. A question may only be asked if it is delivered in writing on the seventh working day prior to the date of the meeting, but if the question is from a member of the public, they may submit a question on a matter in the Public Session on the day prior to the day of the meeting. BPC question why members of the public are treated differently from parish councillors. Dr Loader to take this up with WDALC.

The Playbuilder Scheme was raised, Clerk to find out if Barkham will still gain from this scheme.

Mr Burges had submitted a detailed response to WBC to the Winter Service Review, suggesting 7 grit bins would greatly benefit the residents of Barkham during adverse weather. WBC have replied stating that all the responses from the Parishes are currently being looked at and a meeting will be held to discuss the proposals, unfortunately the Parish Councils will not be included in this meeting. If 7 bins are provided the cost would be approx £2500 capital costs plus storage of the bins during the summer and servicing of the bins.

Mr Postlethwaite reported that he had attended the Southern Parishes Youth Committee, this committee had previously collapsed and this was an attempt to resurrect it, the Southern Parishes includes the youth of Barkham, Arborfield and Finchampstead and the aim is to provide youth facilities for our young people and to work together.

Page 10/782

The PCSO will be present at The Junipers on 15th July for a “Have Your Say” session when residents are encouraged to attend and voice their concerns. Posters have been put up to advertise the event and leaflets have been distributed.

Meeting closed at 9.50 p.m.

Next meeting of full Council will be held on 14th September at 8 p.m.

Next meeting of Planning Committee will be held on 27th July 2010 at 7.30 p.m.

Draft Minutes for review