

BARKHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of meeting of the Barkham Parish Council held on 9th March 2010
in Barkham Village Hall at 8.00 p.m.

Present: Mrs P. Stubbs (in the Chair), Mr F. A. Scott, Mr L. Heath, Mr. S. Goldring, Mr F. Postlethwaite, Mr. D. Oxbrough, Mr. C. Heyliger, Mr G. Burges, Mrs C. Dando, one member of the public and the Clerk.

Apologies: Dr. R. Loader (family bereavement)

Declarations of Interests

10/417 **Minutes** of meeting held on 9th February 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

10/418 **Election of Vice Chairman**

Nomination of Dr Loader
Proposed Mrs Stubbs

Nomination of Mr Heath
Proposed Mr Postlethwaite

A vote took place and Mr Heath was duly elected as vice Chairman by a majority vote.

10/419 **Report from the Villages Youth Project Worker** – attached.

10/420 **Planning**

The Planning Committee reported the following items to the full Council:-

F/2010/0029	Little Moor, Park Lane, Finchampstead Application for a change of use of land for the stationing of 2 mobile homes, 2 touring caravans for nomadic use only and 2 stable blocks. Retrospective. Adjoining Parish Consultation.	Delegated Opposed
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Clerk to write to WBC opposing this application on the grounds that this is outside the settlement boundary and is inappropriate development which will change the character of the area.

Coppid Hill House

F/2008/0172	Appeal 1 Change of use of land from agricultural to residential garden Appeals 2 & 3 Change of use of land and the erection of buildings and structures
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Both of these appeals were dismissed by the Inspector on 24/7/09 and the appellant had until 28/1/10 to return the land to agricultural. To date this has not been done. The owners have now got permission for equestrian use on the land. Having contacted Mr Steepe the Enforcement Officer at WBC he has reported to BPC that the approved application for equestrian use may now include part of the land that was included in the Enforcement Notice and therefore may be immune from Enforcement Action. Mr Steepe needs to discuss this with Jeni Jackson the Senior Planning Officer at WBC and will advise BPC accordingly. Clerk to contact Mr Steepe to establish how long this will take and request an explanation as to why the fence cannot be moved back.

10/421 **The Core Strategy – Mr Heath**

Mr Heath reported that he had circulated a lengthy document to all councillors for consideration, he requested any amendments to be sent to him by 15th March in order that they could be incorporated into the response for delivery to WBC by 23rd March. Points raised were provision of traveller sites and the access from the SDL on to Langley Common Road. A public meeting was being held at Arborfield this evening, Mr Newman was attending this meeting on behalf of Barkham residents. BPC had requested a similar meeting to be held in

Barkham but WBC were reluctant to oblige, Clerk to write to WBC to complain that the majority of the housing would be in Barkham but WBC seem to be focussing all their attention of Arborfield.

10/422 **Highways**

Julia Tredwell at WBC has advised that request to use the S106 money from 71 Bearwood Road on the footway link between Hayes Lane and Coombes Lane has been refused because it is not a Key Priority of the Council. WBC have been asked by the residents in Hayes Lane if WBC would look at the Bellmouth, this was going to be included in this project. Mrs Tredwell has asked Traffic Management if they would be good enough to review the Bellmouth area and if it is in need of upgrade then request that they take it on as a revenue scheme in order to ensure it is up to standard. Mr Tiplady the Parish Liaison Officer at WBC will pursue the matter with Julia Tredwell and report back to BPC as to why S106 monies cannot be used.

WBC also advise that they cannot put a bus pole directly opposite the one that has just been moved in Barkham Street, normal practice is to stagger bus stops in opposing directions so that buses stop tail-to-tail and move away from each other. There needs to be approximately 20m gap when they are tail to tail to allow other vehicles to stop behind the bus and if appropriate to overtake. Therefore measuring from the new stop the appropriate distance brings you approximately opposite the entrance to Brook House and directly in front of the historical wooden barn. The second measurement is the width of the pavement. The adopted highway at this point is 1.1m deep and is below the recommended measurement to enable WBC to put in a pole on highway land. Moving the other side of the entrance to the business centre area still only gives a footway width of 1.3m. WBC would normally put in a Kassel kerb but this would slope the footway and may cause water not to run away. This has been discussed with the traffic engineers and they are of the opinion that an additional bus pole cannot be erected in this area. A new flag is currently on order for the new pole which will remind those who wish to use the bus that they can stand the other side and request the bus to stop.

Adam Hopper the Drainage Assistant at WBC has replied stating that he has arranged for works to be carried out which will involve cleaning the drainage gullies and removing blockages from the culvert.

The Coombes has now been designated as a Local Geological site, the process for designation of both Local Wildlife Sites and Local Geological Sites is based upon scientific evidence alone. Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre (TVERC) staff undertake a professional survey of the site and if they think it meets the established criteria for selection as a local site then it goes to an independent selection panel with that recommendation. Prior to the meeting of the selection panel the landowner is contacted and provided with a copy of the survey and offered the opportunity to provide an alternative view of the scientific evidence to the selection panel. The selection panel then takes the decision on scientific grounds on whether the site is to be designated or not based on all the information before it. The selection panel does not consult WBC or the PCs as this would undermine the independence of the panel. WBC could in theory decide not to include in the allocation maps in the LDF but would be on difficult ground at appeal, were it to do so against the decision of the independent selection panel.

The park area in The Junipers is so wet as to be useless for the children to play football, Clerk to write to WBC requesting that the area is drained and also to ask for the goal post to be painted.

The large evergreen tree at the junction of Barkham Road and Sandy Lane has numerous branches which have either fallen or are about to fall from the weight of the snow during the winter, Clerk to request that WBC remove the dangerous branches.

The ditch which is just to the north of the Brook Farm entrance on the east side of Barkham Street is blocked the water from the field that lies behind the old Village Hall site floods onto the road. Clerk to request that it is cleared.

Mr Scott reported that he had attended a meeting at WBC regarding the Highway Plan, this had been most disappointing as it was mostly concerned with procedural matters. It appeared that it was considered very important to tell central government the things it wished to hear such as encouraging people to walk rather than taking the car but when he had referred to BPC's frequent unsuccessful requests for pavement improvements, he was told that these were likely to be equally unsuccessful in the future.

10/423 **Litter and to discuss the annual Parish Cleanup to be held on Sunday 21st March**

This again will be a Borough wide litter pick to encourage more Councils and voluntary groups to participate. The Clerk contacted WBC to ask when the litter picking would have been done under the normal schedule, some roads in Barkham would have been litter picked approx. 10 days before the litter pick but main roads should not be litter picked by the volunteers. Grass cutting starts in the first couple weeks of March but it is weather dependant, also Barkham is near the end of the schedule. At the moment the grass isn't too long.

Mr Hosgood will lend his trailer to collect the rubbish. Mrs Heath and Mrs Stubbs to serve the refreshments which will be supplied by the Clerk. WBC to supply a skip to be placed in the car park of the village hall, two PCSO's will be required, one in Barkham Street and the other in Edneys Hill for safety. Mr Oxbrough reported that he had walked most of the footpaths around Barkham and they were relatively clear of litter, areas that need attention are the Scout field in the Coombes and the Barkham Road from Barkham Manor up to Bearwood Road, also the junction of Sandy Lane and Barkham Road where the children catch the buses to school.

10/424 Finance

The Play Inspection Co. – post installation check of shelter	228	£176.25 (£150 exc VAT)
BALC – annual subscription	229	£394.68
J.P. Neuhofer – stamps for the year	230	£63.84

Standing Order for Clerk's salary for March	£576.62
Standing Order to Royal Bor. Windsor – Pension Fund for Clerk for month of March(Employee & employer contribution)	£129.11

To date 894 books have been sold, an income of £4671.24, thus leaving 106 unsold, and the Council is now in credit to the amount of £705.57.

10/425 Borough Councillor's Report

Mrs Stubbs reported that there was little taking place at WBC that would have a direct effect on Barkham residents. She did elaborate on the planning application at 212 Bearwood Road for 8 gypsy pitches, this area is a site of Special Scientific Importance and with the entrance on to the Bearwood Road which is 50 mph at this location it is totally unsuitable for a gypsy site. There are sites at Arborfield which could easily be expanded. The residents of Woosehill which back on to the site have set up a fighting fund to oppose this application, but WBC is under pressure to provide gypsy sites. Mrs Stubbs is doing all she can to oppose this application. She continually helps residents with their problems and is always available at the Post Office.

10/426 Communication Strategy – Mrs Dando

Mrs Dando reported that she and Dr Loader had attended a meeting with representatives from the BVRA to discuss communication and the best way in which BPC can present news in the BVRA magazine, the BPC logo should be at the top of every article and in that way it is obvious that it is a BPC item. Unfortunately Dr Loader was unable to be present at this meeting and therefore Mrs. Dando requested that this item be discussed in more detail at the next meeting when Dr Loader would be present. The subject of Quality Status was briefly mentioned but the guidelines state that under Electoral Mandate two thirds of the councillors must be elected rather than co opted and Barkham does not fill this criteria. Again this will be discussed when Dr Loader is present.

10/427 Correspondence

- a. Thames Valley Police - letter from Chief Inspector Blackburn thanking BPC for all our hard work in securing this facility for the young people.
- b. Wokingham Borough Annual Community Conference “Working Together To Transform Wokingham Borough” – conference to be held on 12th March at Sindlesham Court 9.30 – 3.30 p.m. Mrs Stubbs will attend during the morning.
- c. LINK – request to nominate a representative to sit on the LINK Steering group. No one wished to sit on this group.
- d. High Sheriff's Berkshire Spring Clean (Dr Christina Hill Williams) has offered to visit as many Parishes as possible who are participating in a Cleanup. The Clerk has replied inviting her to Barkham.
- e. WBC Area Youth Committee Meeting to be held on 10.3.10 at Wokingham Youth Centre. No one was able to attend.

Distribution

WBC Agenda for Meeting of the Corporate Projects Overview and Scrutiny Panel 17.2.10.
WBC Agenda for Meeting of the Executive on 18.2.10.
WBC Planning Applications Input & Decisions Issued for the period 1.2.10 – 5.2.10.
WBC Medium Term Financial Plan 2010/2011.
WBC Agenda for Meeting of the Council on 18.2.10.
WBC Town and Parish News January 2010.
WBC Planning Applications Input & Decisions Issued for the period 8.2.10 – 12.2.10.
WBC Staff Bulletin Issue 2.
WBC Planning Applications Input & Decisions Issued for the period 15.2.10 – 19.2.10.
BaA NAG Minutes from meeting held on 24.2.10.
WBC Agenda for Meeting of the Planning Committee on 3.3.10.
The Omnibus Newsletter of Keep Mobile.
Arborfield News Issue 73.
WBC Staff Bulletin Issue 4.
WBC Agenda for Meeting of the Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee on 10.3.10.
WBC Agenda for Meeting of the Standards Committee on 8.3.10.
WBC Agenda for Meeting of the personnel Board on 8.3.10.
WBC Planning Applications Input & Decisions Issued for the period 22.2.10 – 26.2.10.
WB Local Development Framework Annual Monitoring Report 2009.
Minutes of Area Youth Committee Meeting held on 1.12.09.

10/428 Councillors Forum

It was suggested by Mr Tiplady that a representative from BPC would be useful on the NAG, Mrs Dando will try to attend on behalf of BPC and will give a verbal report back to BPC. The NAG meet on the last Wednesday of the month at The Coombes School.

Mr Postlethwaite suggested delivering a welcome letter to all the new residents of Barkham from the boundary change, this to be done late summer, exact house numbers to be obtained from WBC.

It was suggested that the police be asked to submit quarterly reports to BPC on any crimes or trouble within Barkham and also to attend BPC meetings on a quarterly basis to address any issues that residents have.

A councillor reported that several boys aged about 8 had been spotted climbing on to the roof of the shelter and then jumping off, a local resident had tried to speak to the boys but they ran off. Clerk to put an article in the next edition of the BVRA Newsletter asking parents to speak to their children warning them that this was potentially very dangerous. The Clerk also to write to WBC about this incident as they have liability for the shelter.

Meeting closed at 10.00 p.m.

Next meeting of full Council will be held on 13th April at 7.30 p.m. followed by the Parish Assembly at 8.30 p.m.

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