

BARKHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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

Present: Mrs P. Stubbs (in the Chair), Mr. S. Goldring, Mr. D. Oxbrough, Mr G. Burges, Mrs C. Dando, twelve members of the public and the Clerk.

Apologies: Mr. C. Heyliger (on holiday), Mr L. Heath (unwell), Mr F.A. Scott (unwell), Dr R. Loader (unwell)

Mr Derek South gave a most interesting presentation on the work of the Samaritans. Mrs Stubbs thanked him for coming to talk to BPC which was most enlightening.

Declarations of Interests Mrs Stubbs declared an interest with regard to the planning application for Barkham Post Office.

09/359 **Minutes** of meeting held on 13th October 2009 were approved and signed as a true record. The Planning Meeting due to be held on 27th October did not take place as there were no plans to discuss.

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

09/360 **Report from the Villages Youth Project Worker**

Louise Morris was unable to attend the meeting but submitted her report which was read out by the Clerk.

09/361 **Planning**

The Planning Meeting was inquorate and therefore the planning will be dealt with by the full Council at the end of the meeting:-

09/362 **Highways**

The pavement along Barkham Street is again covered in straw, leaves and debris from The Bull and along past The Well House, also the drains are all blocked from the mini roundabout down to the bridge along the Barkham Road. The hedge along Langley Common Road requires trimming back, Clerk to write to the landowner requesting that the hedge is trimmed with a copy of the letter to WBC Highways requesting that enforcement action is taken if it is not trimmed. Clerk to arrange for these matters to be attended to.

Reply received from J. Tredwell at WBC confirming that the bus stop on the opposite side of the road to the proposed new location in Barkham Street will not be necessary because the flag on the new bus stop can say that it is a hail and ride stop so anyone can stand on the other side of the road and hail the bus to stop. BPC feel that this rule maybe known to the highway experts but the general public are unaware of it as we have had complaints from several members of the public that there is a bus stop in only one direction. Clerk to ask J. Tredwell for a bus stop sign on both sides of the road. BPC requested that the footpath be continued around the corner into Church Lane but this would mean cutting back the hedge line in order to keep the width of the road so that cars when turning into Church Lane would not find themselves facing someone coming in the opposite direction. The hedge is privately owned and the cost implications of including the removal of the hedge would have exceeded the amount of money WBC has to spend on this project. BPC have expressed disappointment at efforts to get a footpath to Church Lane, our initial request was to have a footpath extension from where it currently ends at the bridge all the way to Church Lane. This would allow pedestrians to choose where to cross the road rather than have to cross from where the footpath on the opposite side ends in the face of oncoming traffic from Finchampstead coming round a blind bend. When BPC met with Highways staff earlier in the year we were told that it would not be possible to take the footpath through to the bridge as there was insufficient room between the hedge and the edge of the road. Now most of the leaves have fallen it can be seen that through years of neglect, a secondary self sown hedge has established itself parallel to the original hedge, if this self sown overgrowth were to be removed there probably be room for a footpath and this would certainly improve the sight line from Church Lane and the new bit of footpath. Clerk to ask WBC Highways to remove the overgrowth on safety grounds and since this self sown growth is on highways land, it should be possible for them to do this without needing permission from the adjoining land owner.

As regards the suggestion to reduce the speed limit from 40 mph to 30 mph this is not practical without traffic calming measures being in place. The Nine Mile Ride speed limit from 40 to 30 was implemented several years ago and has been a problem ever since because drivers will not abide by the speed, and the police were not in agreement that it should be lowered. The local NAG have been out on site with the police to catch drivers but they can't be there on a regular basis. To lower a speed from 40 to 30 then a speed survey needs to indicate that drivers are already driving within the 30 speed limit otherwise traffic calming is needed and this would not be supported in Barkham Street.

The footpath from Hayes Lane to Coombes Lane – Councillor Keith Baker has asked Julia Tredwell at WBC to write to the houses which front the Bearwood Road advising them of the plans to allow them to reply to WBC rather than the one resident that did reply.

09/363 Playbuilders Fund – Mrs Stubbs to update the Council

Mrs Stubbs, the Clerk and Louise Morris (Youth Worker from WBC) attended a meeting with Nick Christo at WBC to discuss the Playbuilder Fund. WBC has received a grant of £1.1m from the Government over the next two years for the development of a minimum of 22 improved local play spaces from ages 8 – 13. The purpose of the Playbuilder programme is to enable children and young people to enjoy play opportunities in a range of safe, creative and accessible environments throughout the borough. The Junipers has been named for Phase 2, ideally WBC will start to liaise with BPC in January 2010 followed by a public consultation, £45,000 could be allocated, the idea is to provide play facilities that are natural and blend in with the area. The grant for the youth shelter is in support of a different age group and is in the current financial year. BPC need to coordinate planning for these two projects. The young people who were awarded £10,000 from the Youth Opportunities Fund have until January 2010 to use the funds, otherwise they must be returned and a new application made. Louise is liaising with the YOF to establish if they would look favourably at a new application which could then be incorporated with the Playbuilder funds. Clerk to liaise with Louise in order that the funding does not expire before these projects can be implemented.

09/364 Litter

There were no areas that were considered to be particularly bad that required attention. The Clerk reported that she has attended the presentation of the certificates at WBC for participating in the Borough Litter Clearance Day, BPC were also awarded a prize for winning the most unusual item found and accepted a compost bin which was donated to The Coombes School.

09/365 Finance

PC World Business – purchase of new computer & monitor	215	£585.98 (£509.57 exc VAT)
Neat Ideas – ink cartridges	216	£40.24 (£34.99 exc VAT)

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

To date 883 books have been sold, an income of £4616.24, thus leaving 117 unsold, and the Council is now in credit to the amount of £650.67.

09/366 Borough Councillor's Report

Mrs Stubbs reported that things were relatively quiet at WBC at present, but she was kept busy assisting parishioners with their problems.

09/367 Correspondence

- a. WBC Sustainable Community Strategy 2012 – 2020. Invitation to all Parish Councils to participate in the consultation to refresh the Sustainable Community Strategy which will set out the long term vision for the borough over the next ten years. Mr Goldring to study the document and report back at the December meeting of BPC.
- b. Mrs L. Restall of 73 Bearwood Road writing in favour of the footpath from Hayes Lane to Coombes Lane. The Clerk has passed this letter to J. Tredwell at WBC who is collating the responses.
- c. WBC Strategic Partnership – Nominations for Town & Parish Councillor representation on WB Strategic Partnership. This item has been carried forward to the December meeting for consideration.

Distribution

WBC Agenda for Meeting of the Licensing and Appeals Committee on 21.10.09.
WBC Agenda for a Joint Meeting of the Finance and Service Development Overview and Scrutiny Panel on 21.10.09.
WBC Planning Applications Input & Decisions Issued for the period 28.9.09 – 2.10.09.
WBC Planning Applications Input & Decisions Issued for the period 5.10.09 – 9.10.09.
Arborfield News.
NHS Determination of Rurality of Finchampstead.
WBC Agenda fro Meeting of the Special Council Executive Committee 29.10.09.
WBC Agenda for Meeting of the Executive 29.10.09.
WBC Agenda for Meeting of the Personnel Board 29.10.09.
WBC Planning Applications Input & Decisions Issued for the period 12.10.09 – 16.10.09.
WBC Planning Applications Input & Decisions Issued for the period 19.10.09 – 23.10.09.
WBC Agenda for Meeting of the Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee on 5.11.09.
WBC Minutes of Planning Liaison Meeting.
WBC Transformation Update Issue 8.
WBC Staff Bulletin Issue 22.
WBC Planning Applications Input & Decisions Issued for the period 26.10.09 – 30.10.09.

09/368 Councillors Forum

It was suggested that the agenda for future Council meetings be displayed on the BVRA web site, Clerk to liaise with the web master and arrange for this to be done in the future.
Alan Tiplady the Parish Liaison Officer from WBC will give a short presentation at the start of the meeting to the Councillors and will answer any questions.

Mrs Stubbs closed the full Council meeting at 9.05 p.m. and left the meeting, the remaining councillors remained to discuss the planning applications:-

09/369 Planning

Mr Goldring chaired the remainder of the meeting in order to discuss the planning applications.

VAR/2009/2315	Barkham Post Office, Bearwood Road	Proposed
	Application for variation to condition 2,8 & 9 of Planning Consent F/2009/0488 for a change to the approved access from The Lilacs to two separate accesses from The Lilacs plus repositioning of garage for the 4 bedroom dwelling.	

Clerk to write to WBC raising concern that the proposed two new accesses, one to the three bedroom house and one to the four bedroom house will be narrower than the original one which was a shared access to both the properties, and hence it will be more difficult to see traffic travelling in and out of The Lilacs.

F/2009/1947	Barkham Manor Farm, Barkham Road	Revised Plans
	Proposed erection of two agricultural buildings Units 1 & 3 Part Retrospective.	Opposed
	Revised plans show alteration to elevations.	

Clerk to write to WBC opposing this application and to reiterate our comments which were made about the original application and to include the reasons given for refusal on application number F/2009/1701 for Units 2 & 4 which has already been refused. Unit 1 is to be used for a tractor and hay store and Unit 3 for a workshop, storage of machinery and equipment; the previous application was for a slaughter house and butchery. This is the second of two applications seeking to rely on the determination of Permitted Agricultural development in 1908. BPC questions whether these two applications together are covered by that determination.

F/2009/2290	1 Hornbeam Close	Delegated
	Proposed erection of single storey rear and single storey side extensions to dwelling.	Opposed

Clerk to write to WBC opposing this application as the new extension will be right up to the northern boundary of the property, and BPC consider it to be over development of the site.

F/2009/2086 19a Almond Close Delegated
Proposed erection of single storey side/rear extension to dwelling.

Clerk to write to WBC commenting on the inconsistency of the application which states in Section 7 Trees and Hedges "Will any trees or hedges be removed or pruned in order to carry out your proposal", the resident has ticked "No", when the plans show that an existing tree is to be removed.

F/2009/2244 Langley Pond Farm, School Road Delegated
Erection of a horse field shelter. Retrospective.

Clerk to write to WBC pointing out that there is access to the property from Wood Lane, the plans show access from School Road.

F/2009/1701 Land rear of Barkham Manor, Barkham Road Refused
Retrospective application for the erection of 2 farm buildings (units 2 and 4) and change of use of Unit 4 to B2 (slaughterhouse).

Reasons:-

- 1) The proposed use of part of the site as B2 is not considered to be an appropriate form of development within the countryside. The intensification of the site relating to this use would be detrimental to the rural character of the area and the erection of the buildings relating specifically to this use would decrease the open character of the countryside.
- 2) The form of the buildings is considered unacceptable in this rural setting and the applicant has failed to demonstrate why buildings of this nature which includes a significant number of windows and doors is appropriate to use for agricultural purposes. Within these areas the countryside is to be protected for its own sake and development in open countryside outside existing rural settlements is strictly controlled. The development does by virtue of the appearance of the buildings not comply with the requirements of those policies.
- 3) It has not been demonstrated to the local planning authority that the proposed development would have not have an adverse impact on the amenities of the neighbouring sites.
- 4) The intended use of the site within this rural location is considered to be unsustainable. This would place a strong emphasis on the use of the car.
- 5) In the absence of a suitable Environmental Impact Assessment, it has not been demonstrated to the local planning authority that the development would not have an adverse impact on the local environment.
- 6) It has not been demonstrated to the local planning authority that the B2 use would not lead to an intensification in use of the local substandard access road leading to the site and provide provision for parking and turning.

Clerk to contact John Steepe the Enforcement Officer at WBC requesting what action is now being taken as this planning application has been refused.

VAR/2009/1868 5 Silver Birches Approved
Application for variation of condition 2 of Planning Consent 26426 to allow conversion of garage to habitable accommodation.

The Clerk had contacted WBC about Condition 2 which is a restriction which was put on the houses when they were built preventing the garages from being converted into living accommodation. Therefore any resident who wishes to convert a garage into living accommodation must apply to WBC to have this condition removed.

It has been brought to the attention of BPC that the two ancient ponds in the grounds of Barkham Manor have more or less dried up as the water has been diverted into a pond created by Rainbow Rides, this pond has high walls and unless very heavy rain has fallen the water is unable to overflow and run down to The Manor ponds. Clerk to write to Andy Glencross at Countryside Services, Dinton Pastures to establish if this is permitted.

Meeting closed at 10.00 p.m.

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

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