

BARKHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of meeting of the Barkham Parish Council held on 8th September 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 L. Heath, Mr. S. Goldring, Mr. D. Oxbrough, Mr. C. Heyliger, eight members of the public and the Clerk.

Apologies: None

Presentation of the Sam Hosgood Sporting Endeavour Awards

Sam Hosgood made the presentation to the young people who had been successful in being awarded a grant from the fund. Each winner was presented with a cheque for £250.

Sophie and Melissa Hamilton – sailing both aged 15

Sophie and Melissa have been competing at National level in sailing for the last 2 years, both girls made the full RYA National Squad, having success at various events in Europe and the UK. The girls train or compete nearly every weekend, all day, whatever the weather and also need to do lots of fitness training during the week. Both are members of the local sailing club in Theale and spend a huge amount of time travelling to other lakes and sea locations around the country.

Ross Abrahams – trampolining aged 15

Ross is also a member of the Great Britain Youth Squad and has competed at international level for 3 years. He trains 5 days a week at the Edgebarrow Trampoline Club. He has competed in many competitions in individual events and synchro in Europe and the UK with great success. His next competition is the annual British National Trampoline Finals at the NIA in Birmingham.

Katie Abrahams – trampolining aged 12

Katie is also a member of the Great Britain Youth Squad, and has now competed in two International competitions. She trains 5 days a week at the Edgebarrow trampoline Club. She too competes in Europe and the UK in individual events and synchro with great success. She will also be competing in the annual British Trampoline Finals at the NIA in Birmingham.

We would like to congratulate all these very worthy winners.

Declarations of Interests

None.

09/336 **Minutes** of meeting held on 14th July 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.

09/337 Report from the Villages Youth Project Worker – Louise Morris

Louise Morris was on holiday and therefore no report was available.

09/338 Planning

The only planning application which required bringing to the attention of the full Council is:

F/2009/1701	Land rear of Barkham Manor, Barkham Road Retrospective application for the erection of 2 farm buildings (units 2 & 4).	Delegated Opposed
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Clerk to write to WBC opposing this application. The application states that Units 2 and 4 are intended to be used "for slaughtering, butchery, preparation and sales", together with a "Rest room and office". This would be a commercial business use for which there is no approval. It would require vehicular access for both customers and delivery vehicles throughout opening hours and extensive use of the bridleway by vehicles. The area is designated as an Area of Special Landscape Importance where the buildings have been erected, they are unsightly and are a significant blot of the landscape. BPC understands that there is no running water on this site which raises concern about slaughterhouse hygiene

and the application states that no arrangements proposed for storage and collection of waste from the slaughter house and that the proposal does not involve the need to dispose of trade effluent or waste. According to the application form, this development would operate without any staff either existing or additional. To operate a slaughter house a license is required and the on-site presence of a vet. To date there are neither pigs nor turkeys on the site but a pack of guard dogs which bark continuously and disturb the wildlife. This development is a large commercial undertaking in an area which is totally unsuitable for this type of development. Mr Maslin shows little or no regard for the planning regulations and in this case Enforcement action must take place either for the buildings be demolished or to be converted for genuine agricultural use. Mrs Stubbs was asked to List this application for the next meeting of the Development Control Meeting of WBC.

09/339 Highways

Two letters had been received from local residents raising concerns over the proposed new siting of the bus stop in Barkham Street. The plan is to site the bus stop nearer to the Antique Centre away from the corner, passengers who wish to visit the Church and Village Hall will have to cross the road twice to get to Church Lane. It is unclear where the bus stop on the opposite side of the road to facilitate return journeys will be located. Also Councillors were unsure if buses could be stopped anywhere on the route, or if only at a designated bus stop, Clerk to find out. Speeding is of grave concern along Barkham Street, the road is narrow and winding, the current speed limit is 40 mph, on entering Barkham Street from Barkham Road where the speed limit is 30 mph and the far end of Barkham Street where it joins with Barkham Ride the speed limit then drops to 30 mph so therefore it makes sense to have the entire road at 30 mph. Another suggestion for improvements would be to continue the new footpath just around the corner into Church Lane so any pedestrians walking to the hall would be less likely to be hit by a car entering into Church Lane. Clerk to report these observations to WBC Highways.

The fence which has recently been erected outside The Gables, Barkham Street would appear to be slightly encroaching on to the public footpath, the fence has a kink in it and looks unsightly, a question was raised as to whether planning permission was required for such a high fence, Clerk to report to WBC. The hedge which belongs to Barkham Manor opposite The Bull is encroaching over the pavement, also the hedges along Langley Common Road owned by Barkham Square have grown very wide, reducing the site lines and require cutting back.

09/340 To Consider the expenditure of S106 monies to improve the entrance to Hayes Lane

A request has been received from the residents of Hayes Lane to utilise S106 monies to improve the bell mouth entrance of the Lane. Hayes Lane is a bridleway, footpath and a private street. The residents have been concerned about road safety at the lane entrance due to the increasing level of traffic along Bearwood Road, and increasing number of vehicle movements in to and out of the Lane. With the aid of WBC the residents have negotiated with the new owners of 71A (north side) and 71 (south side) so that it has been possible to return the Lane entrance to its original width, based on old OS maps. This has involved the realignment of the fence of 71A, and hardcore being laid to the north of the current tarmac entrance. On the south side, the hedge has been removed, the lane widened back close to the line of the original ditch (now piped in) and a proper surface laid. This widening and improved sight line means two cars or a car and horse can safely manoeuvre into and out of the lane. Recent building in Hayes Lane has resulted in S106 money being available. Unnamed plot between Little Hayes and Oaks House £6500 and 71 development £5200. The residents have requested that some of this money is spent on the entrance to the Lane, they would like to have the concrete setts moved out to widen the surfaced area, a proper sub base laid where required and the area resurfaced. Hayes Lane residents request the support of BPC in their request for S106 monies raised by new building in the Lane to be spent in mitigation to increased traffic, by improving the safety of the Lane at the junction with Bearwood Road. BPC considered this request and questioned whether BPC should be getting involved and felt that the upkeep of Hayes Lane was the responsibility of WBC (if this is not the case then exactly where does their responsibility end?), this also raises concerns of ongoing repairs which could be costly and whether BPC wish to take this on. BPC had included on its "Wish List" to lay a pavement from Hayes Lane up to Coombes Lane, where currently there are grass verges with the drop kerbs in place, this scheme should be considered with that of the Hayes Lane residents request. It was then questioned as to whether WBC owned this area of verge or if it was owned by the landowners Clerk to contact WBC for clarification of these queries.

09/341 Litter

There were no areas of Barkham which required clearing of litter.

09/342 Finance

WBC – 1 refuse vehicle at The Junipers for July	199	£173.65 (£151.00 exc VAT)
Barkham Village Hall – rent May, June, July	200	£63.00
Katie Abrahams – Sports Fund	201	£250.00
Ross Abrahams – Sports Fund	202	£250.00
Melissa Hamilton – Sports Fund	203	£250.00
Sophie Hamilton – Sports Fund	204	£250.00
J.P. Neuhofer – leaflets for public meeting	205	£150.00
Mazars – audit fee for year ended 31.3.09	206	£327.75 (£285.00 exc VAT)

Standing Order for Clerk's salary for August	£572.64
Standing Order to Royal Bor. Windsor – Pension Fund for Clerk for month of August (Employee & employer contribution)	£127.84

Standing Order for Clerk's salary for September	£572.64
Standing Order to Royal Bor. Windsor – Pension Fund for Clerk for month of September (Employee & employer contribution)	£127.84

The Clerk confirmed that the accounts for the year ended 31.3.09 had been duly returned signed off by Mazars the auditors. The Notice of Conclusion of Audit and Right to Inspect the Annual Return has been duly displayed for 14 days.

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.

The Clerk reported that the computer which was purchased in May 2004 and has had no warranty for 2 years now has become unstable. The disc drive is no longer functioning and therefore cannot create the off site back up discs. £750 has been set aside in the Precept for this purpose. It was agreed that the Clerk could research the purchase of a replacement computer.

09/343 Borough Councillor's Report

Mrs Stubbs reported that WBC had only just reconvened after the summer break and therefore she had no report.

09/344 Correspondence

- a. Citizens Advise Bureau – letter of thanks for grant.
- b. Barkham Pre School – letter of thanks for grant.
- c. Wokingham Job Support Centre – letter of thanks for grant.
- d. Borough Council, Parish & Town Conference to be held on Thursday 22 October. 3 places are available to each Council. Mr Heath, Mr Heyliger and Dr Loader to attend.
- e. WBC – invitation to Annual Parish Planning Liaison Meeting for the Eastern & Western Parishes to be held 21.9.09. Mr Heath and Dr Loader to attend and Mrs Stubbs will also attend as the Ward Member.
- f. The Volunteer Centre – invitation to AGM to be held on 17.9.09 at The Cornerstone. No one was able to attend.
- g. Angus Ross Councillor WBC – Rooks Nest Farm (SANG). He will attend our meeting on 6.10.09.
- h. BALC – Training Course “How to be a better Councillor” to be held on 5.11.09 at WBC 6.00 – 9.30 p.m. Clerk to see if the new Councillors would like to attend.
- i. Mr. D. French – letter regarding the proposed improvements to Barkham Street. Discussed under Highways.
- j. Mrs J. Firth – Letter regarding the location of the new bus stop and kerb drops. Discussed under Highways.

Distribution

- WBC Staff Bulletin Issue 14.
- WBC Agenda for Meeting of the Planning Committee on 22.7.09.
- WBC Planning Applications Input & Decisions Issued for the period 6.7.09 – 10.7.09.
- WBC Agenda for Meeting of the Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee 23.7.09.
- Heathrow Airtrack – Improving Public Transport to Heathrow Airport.
- WBC Planning Applications Input & Decisions Issued for the period 13.7.09 – 17.7.09.
- WBC Agenda for Meeting of the Executive 30.7.09.

WBC Planning Applications Input & Decisions Issued for the period 20.7.09 – 24.7.09.
WBC Agenda for An Extraordinary Meeting of the Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee 13.8.09.
WBC Transformation Update Issue 5.
WBC Staff Bulletin Issue 15.
Arborfield News September 2009.
Thames Valley Police – Neighbourhood Update.
WBC Planning Applications Input & Decisions Issued for the period 27.7.09 – 31.7.09.
WBC Staff Bulletin Issue 16.
WBC Agenda for Extraordinary Meeting of the Licensing & Appeals Committee on 19.8.09.
WBC Planning Applications Input & Decisions Issued for the period 3.8.09 – 7.8.09.
WBC Agenda for Meeting of the Planning Committee 19.8.09.
The Omnibus Volume 17.
WBC Planning Applications Input & Decisions Issued for the period 10.8.09 – 14.8.09.
WBC Staff Bulletin Issue 17.
WBC Agenda for Meeting of the Corporate Projects Overview & Scrutiny Panel 2.9.09.
WBC Agenda for Meeting of the Standards Committee 2.9.09.
WBC Planning Applications Input & Decisions Issued for the period 17.8.09 – 21.8.09.
WBC Agenda for Meeting of the Finance & Service Development Overview & Scrutiny Panels 10.9.09.
WBC Planning Applications Input & Decisions Issued for the period 24.8.09 – 28.8.09.
WBC Minutes of Committee Meetings for the period 2.7.09 – 21.8.09.
WBC Agenda for Meeting of the Council 9.9.09.

09/345 Councillors Forum

Clare Dando and Gordon Burges have both expressed an interest in joining Barkham Parish Council and gave a short resume of their interests and educational background. It was agreed to Co-opt both people on to the Council at the next meeting of BPC.

Mr Oxbrough reported that SID (Speed Indication Devise) had been positioned in Barkham Street but as the staff were all wearing bright yellow jackets all the motorists were travelling at 20 mph and hence the exercise was pointless.

Meeting closed at 9.20 p.m. .

Next meeting of full Council will be held on 13th October at 8 p.m.

Next meeting of Planning Committee will be held on 22nd September 2009 at 7.30 p.m.