

BARKHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of meeting of the Barkham Parish Council held on 13th December 2011
in Barkham Village Hall at 8.00 p.m.

Present: Mrs P. Stubbs (in the Chair), Mr F. A. Scott, Dr. R. Loader, Mr F. Postlethwaite, Mr. D. Oxbrough, Mr. C. Heyliger, Mr. N. Long-Field, Mr K. Lane, Mr J. Kaiser (Borough Councillor), three members of the public and the Clerk.

Apologies: Mr L. Heath (another commitment)

A Presentation from Rhian Hayes from WBC regarding the Community Infrastructure Strategy

The main issues that BPC wish to address are

- The lack of facilities for our children, at present all that can be offered is one night at the Village Hall for a youth club, children have to be driven to all other facilities within Wokingham by parents.
- Community facilities at the Garrison could be put to a better use, such as the use of another hall and a Parish Office.
- BPC stressed the importance that the Parish Council wishes to be involved and consulted over the development of the Garrison as the majority of the Garrison is located within Barkham. Ms Hayes assured BPC that further consultation would be required.
- The lack of footpaths especially to the new SANG which can only be safely accessed by car at present, in time it will be linked into the Barkham footpath network.

Clerk to write to WBC stressing the importance of consultation with the PC.

A Presentation from Peter Baveystock from Waste Services regarding the changes to waste collection next year

Mr Baveystock gave a very interesting talk outlining the changes to the collection of waste throughout the Borough.

- Weekly collection of household waste to remain, but sacks will be issued to households and only rubbish placed in the sack will be collected.
- Plastics and cans for recycling will be collected on a weekly basis, this should encourage residents to recycle more.
- Garden waste will be collected on a fortnightly basis from a wheelie bin which must be purchased from WBC at a cost of £60 p.a. or bags can be purchased from WBC and libraries for £1 each.

Declarations of Interests

None

11/729 **Minutes** of meeting held on 8th November 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

11/730 Report from the Villages Youth Project Worker

The club has been open for 3 weeks now. There is approx. 10 young people attending at the moment, and so the young people have been busy producing posters to promote the club. Mr Postlethwaite called in last Friday to see how they were getting on and said that when the posters are finished he will see about getting them put up on the Barkham notice boards. Mr Ferguson later reported that the young man who had been recruited to assist Donna has since pulled out due to other work commitments, he has also asked if the Council or community have any staff that would like to commit to short stints such as a month, that would be very helpful but they must be CRB checked. Clerk to put up a notice asking for anyone who has experience in youth work if they could help out on a temporary basis.

11/731 Planning

There were no planning related matters that required referral to the full Council.

11/732 Highways

The pot hole at the junction of Sandy Lane and Bearwood Road is not on the adopted highway but on the Public Right of Way, therefore this has been sent to Rebecca Walkley the PROW Officer in Countryside Services. The stile at BA7 has now been repaired, Clerk to thank Countryside Services.

Countryside Services do not have a more up to date map of the Barkham footpaths. There is up to date information on the website via planweb. The Parish could use this information to produce a map.

They are planning to promote rights of way via leaflets/ the web as part of ROWIP, via promotion of circular routes. A project we will be starting next year.

The recent heavy rain has now washed all the debris into the drains which are now blocked, this is a result of the gutters not being cleared, Clerk to report this to WBC and request the gutters are cleared and the drains unblocked. Also the ditch at Barkham Brook is full to the point of overflowing as the outlet to the brook must be blocked, Clerk to request that it is cleared.

It was noted that the SANG known as Rooks Nest Wood is proving very popular with dog walkers, the boundary of the SANG has been fenced and hence it is contained but the car park only has open fencing, therefore dog walkers are returning to the car park and dogs are then able to run out onto the road as the fence consists of a simple wooden horizontal bar. Clerk to report this to Countryside Services to see if there is anything that can be done to improve the situation.

11/733 Litter

There is a large amount of rubbish and tyres along Langley Common Road, opposite the Garrison, Clerk to request it is cleared.

The next Parish Cleanup will take place on Sunday 25th March 2012 this will coincide with the Borough Cleanup.

11/734 Finance and to discuss the Precept for 2012/2013

WBC – Charge for uncontested election in May 2011	329	£251.75
WBC – charge for 1 refuse vehicle at The Junipers for November	330	£204.00 (£170 exc VAT)
SLCC – annual subscription	331	£110.00
J. Neuhofer – Norton Subscription for 1 year	332	£39.99 (£34.77 exc VAT)
Arborfield Parish Council – 50% of insurance premium for War Memorial for year ending March 2012	333	£333.90

Standing Order for Clerk's salary for December £610.13

Standing Order to Royal Bor. Windsor – Pension Fund for Clerk for month of December (Employee & employer contribution) £136.50

To date 909 books have been sold, an income of £4762.24, thus leaving 89 unsold, and the Council is now in credit to the amount of £796.57. Mr French has now handed over his stock of books to the Clerk, a further 10 books have been taken up to Henry Street Garden Centre.

The Clerk reported that Mrs Stubbs and the Clerk had met with Angie Gibson from WBC regarding the Section 106 monies which are allocated to Barkham, these are as follows:-

£279	Amenity and Open Spaces
£850	Pitches and Recreation
£5800	Childrens Play

Further funding will be available when Folly Court is developed and this will be allocated to parks at Crail Close and The Junipers. It was noted that the plans to develop Folly Court have now been amended for an increased number of houses possibly 200+, Clerk to write to Planning Dept at WBC requesting a copy of the proposed plans when they are available as this should be treated as an Adjoining Parish Consultation.

The proposed Precept was discussed, this to be finalised at the January meeting, the Precept must be kept in line with inflation. A suggestion was put forward that a "Fighting Fund" should be accounted for.

11/735 Core Strategy – report from Mr Heath (read by the Clerk)

Angus Ross has initiated some informal discussion about setting up a Parish and Community Board for each SDL to enable contact, briefing, discussion and feedback as we get into the implementation stage for each SDL. He has suggested that these groups would include some Borough and Parish councillors, other community representatives, and appropriate officers. In addition there should be a consortium liaison person to develop their link with the community. Next step is to prepare some draft template for discussion in each SDL. Angus proposes to use Arborfield Garrison SDL as the first 'sounding board'. Other Parishes seem to be agreeable in principle to this proposal. At the end of November, there was a Members Meeting at Shute End which provided the opportunity for some useful discussion. An initial presentation of the new Traffic Model did not inspire confidence as the traffic speeds did not seem realistic, e.g. a baseline that suggests that the driving time from Beech Hill via Arborfield, Barkham Road and the level crossing can be achieved in 18 minutes in the morning peak. However figures for traffic flow seem more realistic.

Mr Heath also attended the meeting at the Garrison to view the redundant buildings, he reported that there was a lot of discussion about the church – the MOD want it to continue as an ecumenical church (non denomination). They were given a tour of the two sites but did not go in any buildings. The circuit of the main campus was very rushed and they did not see inside any buildings. Mr Heath has written to Sandra Fryer at WBC suggesting there should be a proper audit, e.g. would it be cheaper to refurbish the existing college rather than to build a new school from scratch. Clearly there are a lot of financial and logistical issues, but the possibilities should be explored before the wrecking ball goes in.

At 10.00 p.m. a decision was taken to continue with the meeting. All agreed.

11/736 Neighbourhood Plan – Mrs Stubbs and Dr Loader

Mrs Stubbs reported that a meeting had been held with representatives from BPC and Arborfield Parish Council, this had been very successful as Arborfield PC are keen to progress this project as a joint venture. It is thought that this could cost in the region of £20K, the first tranche of funds from the Government has already been utilised, the second tranche is expected around March/April 2012. The group will continue to meet to progress ideas and collate information.

11/737 To Receive a Report from BALC – Dr Loader

Dr Loader reported that he had now been elected as the Chairman of BALC, he has a vision to move BALC forward. He has been attending the South East County Forum where he reported that Nick Randle NALC Chairman is due to retire.

11/738 Borough Councillor's Report – Mr Kaiser

Mr Kaiser emphasised the invitation from Angus Ross who has initiated some informal discussion about setting up a Parish and Community Board for each SDL to enable contact, briefing, discussion and feedback as we get into the implementation stage for each SDL. He has suggested that these groups would include some Borough and Parish Councillors, other community representatives, and appropriate officers. This is an excellent idea to work with the Parishes and Mr Heath will be the representative from BPC. Mr Kaiser stressed the need for adequate infrastructure, sports facilities etc, he stated that many of the buildings are not suitable for retention and are in a bad state of repair but a full audit would have to be carried out, it would appear that the playing fields are to be retained. When the MOD do leave the site 300 army families will remain, this will reduce the number of affordable houses available.

11/739 Correspondence

- a. WBC Mayor's Office – Carols in the Mall, Friday 16th December from 5.30 p.m. all are welcome.
- b. WBC Regenerating Wokingham Town Centre – invitation to an evening lecture at St Crispins School on Tuesday 29th November at 7.00 p.m. everyone is welcome.
- c. Arborfield Garrison – REME will be holding an Open Day on Saturday 16th June 2012 to celebrate 70 years of its foundation. The Clerk has suggested that an article is placed in the BVRA Newsletter Spring Edition.
- d. WBC Susan Law Chief Executive – letter to all Parishes thanking them for their support, she will be leaving WBC, an interim Chief Executive will be appointed in December. This has now been announced as Andy Couldrick.

Distribution

WBC Agenda for Meeting of the Planning Committee on 16.11.11.
WBC Planning Applications Input & Decisions Issued for the period 31.10.11 – 4.11.11.
WBC Agenda for Meeting of the Council 17.11.11.
WBC Planning Applications Input & Decisions Issued for the period 7.11.11 – 11.11.11.
WBC Agenda for Meeting of the Executive on 24.11.11.
WBC Planning Applications Input & Decisions Issued for the period 14.11.11 – 18.11.11.
WBC Agenda for Extraordinary Meeting of the Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee 5.12.11.
WBC Agenda for Extraordinary Meeting of the Executive 7.12.11.
WBC Agenda for meeting of the Personnel Board 12.12.11.
WBC Planning Applications Input & Decisions Issued for the period 21.11.11 – 25.11.11.
South East Water – Water Main Replacement in Barkham Ride commencing January 2012.
Arborfield News.
WBC Planning Applications Input & Decisions Issued for the period 28.11.11 – 2.12.11.
WBC Agenda for Meeting of the Planning Committee 14.12.11.
WBC Agenda for Meeting of the Trading & Enterprises Sub Committee 20.12.11.

11/740 Councillors Forum

In view of the time councillors had no further issues to raise.

Meeting closed at 10.30 p.m.

Next meeting of full Council will be held on 10th January 2012 at 8 p.m.

Next meeting of Planning Committee will be held on 24th January 2012 at 7.30 p.m.