

## TILEHURST PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Meeting held on 8 February 2022 in the Main Hall, Parish Office, Calcot

**Present:**

**Councillors -**

Mr K Page (Chairman), Mr C Taylor (Vice-Chairman),  
Mrs J Lane, Mrs T Downes, Mrs R Reynolds, Mrs J Slevin,  
Mrs S Vickers, Mr N Furlong-King, Mr T Marino, Ms A Foster,  
Mr G Dennis

**District Councillors -**

Mr T Linden, Mr B Oloko

**Public -**

Two members of the public were present

**22/017 Open Forum:**

- a) Members of the public – there were no comments or questions
- b) Councillors – Mr Taylor explained that he had been invited to attend a meeting on the coming Thursday evening to discuss the Tilehurst Poor's Land Charity prospective sale of some of its land. Other councillors had also been invited and would be attending.

**22/018 Apologies for absence:** Apologies for absence were received from District Councillors Mr R Jones, and Ms J Stewart.

**22/019 Declarations of interest:** There were no declarations of interest relevant to the Agenda.

**22/020 Approval and adoption of Minutes of Council meeting held on 11 January 2022:** The draft Minutes had been previously circulated to Members. Mrs Slevin pointed out that she was shown in the previous minutes as attending the meeting although she had sent her apologies.

The slight amendment was noted and the Chairman signed the minutes.

**22/021 Matters arising:** There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

**22/022 Clerk's report and maintenance report:** See Appendix C. The Clerk gave an update on Spoon's Café, explaining that she had followed up with WBC Planning and Licensing departments to try to clarify the situation and find out exactly what is and is not permitted. The matter of consumption of alcohol was not a licensable activity, but sale inside the premises and the extension of the hours had been approved by Licensing. The café owner would need Planning approval for the variation to the hours before opening for the extended hours.

*Mr Dennis joined the meeting at 7.36pm.*

## **22/023 Planning:**

- a) Decisions - See Appendix A
- b) New applications - See Appendix B
- c) Eastern Area - The Clerk advised that the meeting scheduled for 16 February had been cancelled as there were no applications to discuss. She would advise members if there was anything on the Agenda for the meeting on 9 March in order that the Parish could be represented.

Mr Taylor asked that it be recorded that the Pincents Hill application had been discussed at the last Eastern Area meeting, and that Highways had withdrawn its objections and WBC's Planning officers had supported the development, so it was remarkable that the Eastern Area Planning Committee had unanimously refused the application. Mr Taylor had attended the meeting on behalf of the Parish Council and wanted to thank all those who had helped achieve the outcome, including the Save Pincents Hill Campaigners, Holybrook Parish Council, Alok Sharma MP, and the Clerk and Members of Tilehurst Parish Council. Mr Page thanked Mr Taylor for representing the Council throughout the process and helping to run such an effective campaign.

**22/024 District Councillor's report:** The report was tabled at the meeting.

Mr Oloko introduced himself as the new District Councillor for the Tilehurst South and Holybrook Ward, and also a Member of Holybrook Parish Council. He thanked everyone for their support, said it was a pleasure to attend the meeting and meet everyone, and that he too was very pleased with the decision on the Pincents Hill application.

Mr Linden explained that he had attended the Pincents Hill planning meeting remotely, and thanked Ms Stewart for attending in person.

Mr Linden said he was involved in a working party concerned with Leisure Strategy across West Berkshire. They'd be meeting the following Monday and invited Members to let him know if they had any ideas for the Tilehurst area.

Mr Linden supported Mr Taylor in thanking those involved for their hard work in objecting to the Pincents Hill application. Although he was pleased with the decision, he had concerns that WBC Planning officers had been very disappointed and he suspected the matter would go to appeal. There was a virtual meeting with Alok Sharma MP on the following Friday.

With regard to West Berkshire Council's budget, there was a proposal for a 4% increase for 2022/23. This would be made up of 3% for adult social care spending and children's services, and a 1% increase to general Council Tax, so it seemed likely there would be cost pressures. The major capital programme was the upgrade to Calcot Junior School. The schools project trial would be coming to an end shortly.

With regard to the fire authority, it was the eighth lowest precept authority and number four in England. An increase would be proposed but budget challenges were expected going forward.

**22/025 Westwood Farm Community Association (WFCA) request to hold events at the Cotswold recreation ground during 2022:** It was resolved WFCA be permitted to hold an Easter Farm on Sunday 17 April and a Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebration on Saturday 4 June, provided all the usual conditions were met.

**22/026 Barton Rovers Football Club's request to use Turnhams Farm recreation ground (for parking) and changing rooms during its annual tournament on 9 and 10 July 2022:** Mrs Downes explained that in previous years there had been problems with parking in nearby roads including Stratfield Way, Somerset Walk and Barton Road.

It was resolved to permit the use of the recreation ground and changing rooms, but to add a new condition to those already in place to say that the football club should strongly encourage attendees to park considerately or to walk to the event.

**22/027 Review and adoption of Governance and Risk Management Scheme:** Members felt that the current Risk Register was unclear and that some of the descriptions were not appropriate to the associated risk shown. The Clerk explained that, due to other work commitments and upcoming year-end processes and audits, she would not have time to review the table until the summer. In the meantime, Governance and Risk Management Scheme needed to be adopted within the financial year which meant the deadline was the following month's Full Council meeting.

After discussion, Mrs Slevin volunteered to assist the Clerk to tidy up the table so that it could be presented to, and adopted at, the next meeting.

**22/028 Review and adoption of Financial Regulations:** The Clerk recommended no changes be made and the Financial Regulations were unanimously adopted.

**22/029 Update on review of Standing Orders:** Mr Page explained that Standing Orders had to be reviewed on a regular basis, and that the Standing Orders and the way things were carried out had to match. He said it would be simplest to invite all Members to a virtual meeting to review the current situation and agree changes.

It was agreed to hold a virtual meeting to start discussing the Standing Orders at 7.30pm on Wednesday 23 February. Mr Page would circulate a document prior to the meeting. Mr Furlong-King gave his apologies as he would not be available to attend.

**22/030 Review and adopt the Objectives of the Annexe Refurbishment: Phase Two Working Party:** Mr Taylor presented the proposed objectives to the meeting. The Clerk explained that this was a very time-limited working party given the aim was to open the

annexe to users in April. This meant there was likely to be a great deal of work to do in the short-term.

It was resolved to adopt the draft objectives of the Annexe Refurbishment: Phase Two Working Party as presented to the meeting. A plan would be presented at the next Full Council meeting.

**22/031 Receive the Youth Survey Report and verbal update on progress:** The report had been circulated before the meeting. Mr Taylor gave a verbal update, focussing particularly on the section of the report “What should the Parish Council do next?”. He suggested setting a target of May 2023, i.e. the end of the term of the current council, for carrying out much of the work.

Ms Foster agreed with Mr Taylor’s summary, saying the targets were ambitious but should be achievable. She thanked Mr Taylor for all his work on the survey and for continuing to drive progress.

Mrs Downes suggested the maintenance officers might be asked for input on some matters, for example benches in recreation grounds, as they often spoke to members of the public. Mr Page said that, as progress was made, as well as consulting with young people there were some matters which would also need to be explained to the rest of the community.

**22/032 Review the financial position and retrospectively note payments for January 2022:** Expenditure was reviewed and retrospectively noted.

**Chairman’s remarks:** Mr Page explained that he had attended the climate change forum West Berkshire Council had organised for parish councils. It had been very informative and there had been some presentations around actions parish councils could undertake. He felt the slides would be useful for the Net Zero Working Party so he had e-mailed to request a copy of them, and would also find out if there was a recording; if there was, he would circulate the link.

**The Meeting finished at 8.35pm**

**The next Meeting would be held on Tuesday 8 March**

## APPENDIX A – Decisions

21/00460/FUL	<u>Units 1 and 2, Savacentre, Calcot</u> Change of use from non-food retail use to also allow the sale of food and drink within Class E	<b>Withdrawn</b>
21/02977/HOUSE	<u>71 Hildens Drive, Tilehurst</u> Single storey front and rear extensions with new flat roof over existing garage/study	<b>Granted</b>
21/02788/OOD	<u>71 Hildens Drive, Tilehurst</u> Out of district RBC ref 211699: single storey front and rear extensions with new flat roof over existing garage/study	<b>Granted</b>
21/02975/REM	<u>Former Murdochs, Bath Road, Calcot</u> Section 73A application to vary Condition 2 (approved plans) of reserved matters approval 21/01814/REM: Application for approval of reserved matters following Outline Planning Permission 21/00614/OUTD (for construction of 4 no. detached houses with associated car parking and roadworks). Matters to be considered: Appearance and Landscaping	<b>Granted</b>
21/02964/HOUSE	<u>244 Overdown Road, Tilehurst</u> Two storey side extension including demolition of existing garage and single storey rear extension including demolition of existing conservatory	<b>Granted</b>
21/02862/HOUSE	<u>145 Long Lane, Tilehurst</u> Single storey front and rear extensions and re-roofing of existing bungalow to include raising ridge height	<b>Granted</b>

## APPENDIX B – New Planning Applications

1. 22/00081/HOUSE 21 Wittenham Avenue, Tilehurst

Two storey side extension and single storey rear extension

**This Council objects to the proposal as it believes that increasing from a three to a four bedroomed house requires an additional parking space in order to meet West Berkshire Council's current policy.**

2. 22/00149/HOUSE 8 Ashbury Drive, Tilehurst

Two storey side and single storey rear extension and demolition of garage

**This Council has no objections to the proposal.**

3. 22/00228/HOUSE 44 Fullbrook Crescent, Tilehurst

Demolition of existing conservatory. Two storey side and single storey rear extensions

**This Council has no objections to the proposal.**

## **APPENDIX C - Clerk's Report**

### **1.0 Background**

1.1 This report provides the council with information about activities undertaken by the Clerk and other team members, and gives updates on other matters of relevance to the council.

### **2.0 Activity updates**

2.1 Refurbishment of the annexe at the Calcot Centre: The Clerk continues to spend a considerable amount of time monitoring progress and budgets, consulting with the contractor and working party members over next steps, fixtures and fittings, etc.

2.2 The new pyracantha hedge has been planted at Turnhams Farm Recreation Ground.

2.3 A new Administrative Officer had been appointed and had taken up post from 1 February 2022.

### **3.0 Vandalism and anti-social behaviour**

3.1 Motorbike damage to pitch at Calcot. See Maintenance Report for further information.

### **4.0 Other matters**

4.1 Mr Taylor and the Clerk attended a Licensing Sub-Committee meeting to discuss the Variation of Premises Licence for Spoons Café, Tilehurst. The application was granted, in part, and opening hours permitted by the Premises Licence have been extended. The Clerk has queried whether the scope of the Planning permission now also needs to be reviewed.

4.2 Mr Taylor and the Clerk had attended the special Eastern Area Planning Committee meeting held specifically to discuss the proposed development at Pincents Lane. The meeting had lasted three and a half hours and, after much discussion, the committee had decided to refuse the application.

4.3 Mr Taylor and the Clerk had attended a remote meeting called by Alok Sharma MP to discuss residents' concerns about the proposals for Calcot Golf Course.

4.4 The Clerk had attended the inaugural meeting of the new Annexe Refurbishment: Phase 2 Working Party.

4.5 Mrs Reynold and the Clerk are due to attend the next Badgers Hill PRU Project Board Meeting on Tuesday 8 February 2022.

5.0 **Further reports**

5.1 The Clerk will provide further updates at the meeting, should this be necessary.

5.2 Members are asked to note this report.