

TILEHURST PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on 12 April 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, N Furlong-King, Mr T Marino
District Councillors -	Mr T Linden, Mr R Jones, Mr B Oloko
Public -	2 members of the public were present

Mr Page opened the meeting by welcoming those present and explaining that the meeting would be recorded for minute-taking purposes.

22/051 Open Forum:

- a) Members of the public – there were no comments or questions
- b) Councillors – there were no comments or questions

22/052 Apologies for absence: Apologies for absence were received from Parish Councillors A Foster and G Dennis, and District Councillors Ms J Stewart, Mr R Somner and Mr A Williamson.

22/053 Declarations of interest: There were no declarations of interest relevant to the Agenda.

22/054 Approval and adoption of Minutes of Council meeting held on 8 March 2022: The draft Minutes of the Meeting held on 8 March 2022, having been previously circulated to Members, were taken as read and signed by the Chairman.

22/055 Matters arising: There were no matters arising from the Minutes of the Meeting held on 8 March 2022.

22/056 Clerk's report: See Appendix C.

The Clerk gave a verbal update explaining that, as agreed at the last meeting, she had contacted Reading Age UK to offer an additional donation of £500 if it could be used to give added benefit to parishioners. The Members had reviewed and accepted a report from Reading Age UK which explained how the extra funds could be used. A total of £1,000 would therefore be donated to Reading Age UK under S137 of the Local Government Act 1972.

The Tilehurst People's Local Charity Annual Report for 2020 had been received and was available in the office should anyone wish to see it. The charity is also known as Tilehurst Poor's Land Charity.

22/057 Planning:

- a) Decisions - see Appendix A
- b) New applications - see Appendix B
- c) Eastern Area - the Eastern Area Planning Meeting on 20 April had been cancelled and the Clerk would advise members if there was anything on the Agenda for the meeting on 11 May in order that the Parish could be represented.

22/058 District Councillor's report: The report had been circulated before the meeting.

Mr Jones said there was a free Easter bus service for journeys started in West Berkshire.

He also explained that WBC's Covid Support Hub had been closed and was now reopened as a Ukraine Support Hub. It had been funded by £50,000 from WBC and from Greenham Common Trust.

Mr Oloko had nothing to add to the district councillors' report which had been circulated.

Mr Linden had been part of a district planning group looking for a suitable site in the east of the district, between Pangbourne and Theale, for a new leisure centre. It was explained that the lido in Newbury was closing for £5m refurbishment and would be self-funding when it reopened. A question was asked as to whether there might be redevelopment at Cotswold and Mr Jones explained that there were currently nine leisure centres in the district most of which were no longer really fit for purpose, but the current strategy was to have three or four state-of-the-art centres rather than to refurbish.

The District Planning meeting to discuss the Pincents Hill application was to be held the following evening, on Wednesday 13 April. Ms Stewart was not available to attend, but Mr Linden would be present as Ward member and would read her speech.

22/059 Maintenance report: The report had been circulated before the meeting and was noted. Mr Page thanked the Maintenance Officers for continuing to carry out the work in the parish, and thanked the Clerk for producing the report.

22/060 To receive a report detailing expenditure on the refurbishment of the Calcot annexe: The report had been circulated before the meeting and was noted accordingly. The Clerk confirmed that all the VAT had been received back.

22/061 To consider Westwood Farm Pre-school's request to hold a summer fayre on Cotswold recreation ground on Saturday 18 June 2022: It was unanimously resolved to allow the pre-school to use the recreation ground for its summer fayre.

22/062 To consider the suspension of Financial Regulation 11.1 H to permit the signing of an agreement with Berkshire Youth: A report had been circulated prior to the meeting recommending the resolution “That the council being duly notified approves the temporary suspension of financial regulation 11.1 H for the signing of a contract with Berkshire Youth to provide youth services within the parish”. The resolution was unanimously resolved.

22/063 To receive a report and recommendation from the youth and Community Services working party in regard to entering a new contract with Berkshire Youth: It was unanimously resolved that the council enter into a new contract with Berkshire Youth for a further year at a cost of £16,220. The Clerk confirmed that the monies would come from the Specialised Services budget code to which £20,000 had been allocated.

22/064 Review the financial position and retrospectively note payments for March 2022: Expenditure was reviewed and retrospectively noted.

Mr Page asked why the accrual for the water bill for Turnhams Farm was so high, around ten times more than expected. The Clerk explained that there had been a leak in the changing rooms which had not been detected immediately so the usage had been high. The water company had then used the high reading as the basis for its six-monthly estimate, so that was much higher than it should be. The Clerk was investigating the matter and had accrued the maximum amount she expected it to be in order to cover the charges.

22/065 Chairman’s remarks: Mr Page thanked those present for attending. He apologised for scam e-mails purporting to be sent by him and advised that any suspicious-looking messages be deleted and queried with him. He and the Clerk had attended the Purley on Thames Chairman’s Reception the previous evening.

Part II

22/066 To discuss and agree the name for the annexe at the Calcot Centre: Mr Page explained that, following discussion with the Clerk, he did not feel it would be appropriate to name the annexe in recognition of Jean Gardner and her long-term commitment to the parish. He proposed and it was resolved with two abstentions that the new hall be called the Jubilee Annexe.

It was agreed that Mrs Gardner’s family should be consulted about the possibility of putting a plaque in her memory in the new hall. It was also agreed that youth groups should be allowed to give their own names to their clubs and activities.

The Meeting finished at 8.25pm

The next meeting would be held on Tuesday 10 May

Chairman

APPENDIX A – Decisions

22/00149/HOUSE	<u>8 Ashbury Drive, Tilehurst</u> Two storey side and single storey rear extension and demolition of garage	Granted
22/00301/HOUSE	<u>9 Fullbrook Crescent, Tilehurst</u> Single storey front porch with part garage conversion with new roof	Granted
22/00130/HOUSE	<u>241 Overdown Road, Tilehurst</u> Proposed single storey side and rear extension following demolition of garage	Granted
22/00081/HOUSE	<u>21 Wittenham Avenue, Tilehurst</u> Two storey side and rear extension and single storey rear extension	Granted

APPENDIX B – New Planning Applications

1. 22/00678/OOD 162 Overdown Road
Out of district consultation RBC ref 220327: Rear and side two storey extension

This Council has no objections to the proposal but notes there is an increase from three to four bedrooms which might affect the requirement for parking spaces

2. 22/00696/HOUSE 65 Fairford Road
Removal of existing garden building and shed and replacement with detached building for ancillary residential accommodation

This Council has no objections to the proposal provided the new building is ancillary to the main house and is not used as extra dwelling space

3. 22/00729/HOUSE 26 Gatcombe Close
Proposed erection of a detached garage

This Council has no objections to the proposal

4. 22/00426/COMIND Little Heath School, Little Heath Road
Installation of a canopy to create a covered outside seating/eating area. The proposed large canopy is made up of four smaller ones

This Council has no objections to the proposal

5. 22/00647/HOUSE 277 Overdown Road, Tilehurst
Demolition of existing attached garage and construction of two storey side extension to form new store and WC/shower and dining room, ground floor, additional bedroom and bathroom first floor with other internal alterations

This Council has no objections to the proposal provided there is sufficient parking for the increase from three to four bedrooms

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 has now been completed, with the snagging outstanding. Preparations for the formal opening and naming of the facility on the 20 April are underway.

3.0 Vandalism and anti-social behaviour

- 3.1 The skatepark was graffitied again, with the culprits being caught red handed. The matter has been reported to the Police, for information purposes, ahead of a decision from Council as to how it wishes to proceed.
- 3.2 Following the recent addition of graffiti to the skatepark, the Clerk is currently exploring options to alleviate the problems and potentially stop this from occurring in future. A recommendation will be brought to Council at a future meeting

4.0 Other matters

- 4.1 Mr Page and Ms Foster recently started to carry out the Clerk's appraisal, with another meeting pending for the purpose of setting objectives for the coming year. Once the Clerk's appraisal has been completed, she will schedule appraisal dates for two staff members, and will also have a review meeting with another member of staff at the end of his probationary period.
- 4.1 Mr Taylor and the Clerk attending a site visit at Pincents Hill, ahead of the planning application being considered at the District Planning Committee meeting on 14 April 2022.
- 4.2 The Clerk attended a follow-up meeting called by Alok Sharma MP to discuss the potential development of the Calcot Golf Course.
- 4.3 The Clerk spent a day with the parish's accountant, working on the end of financial year 2021-22 accounts. The final accounts will be presented to members for adoption at the May Full Council meeting.
- 4.4 Mr Page and the Clerk are due to attend the Purley on Thames Parish Council Chairman's reception on the evening of Monday 11 April.

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.