

TILEHURST PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 8 January 2019 in the Committee Room, Parish Office, Calcot

Present:

Councillors - Mr K Page (Vice-Chair), Mrs R Braine, Mr D Lovegrove,
Mr T Marino, Mrs M Murnane, Mrs R Reynolds, Mr C Taylor

District Councillors - Mr T Linden, Mr R Somner

Members of public - Two

19/001 Open Forum:

- a) Members of the public – There were no comments made.
- b) Parish Councillors – There were no comments made.

19/002 Apologies for absence: Apologies were received from Mrs Gardner (Chairman) and District Councillor Mr R Jones.

19/003 Declarations of interest relevant to the Agenda: There were no declarations of interest relevant to the Agenda.

19/004 Approval and Adoption of Minutes: The Minutes of the Meeting held on the 11 December 2018, having been previously circulated to Members, were taken as read and signed by the Vice-Chairman in the absence of the Chairman.

19/005 Matters arising from the Minutes: There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

19/006 Clerk's Update:

a) Minute 18/190 : The hedge located on the Cotswold recreation ground, at the end of Marten Place, was cut back on 20 December 2018. The Clerk has found a few stumps, which are trip hazards, sticking from the ground and will contact the contractor to come back and remove these. Two e-mails have been received from local residents thanking the Parish Council for arranging for these works to be done.

b) Minute 18/210(b) : The Clerk has arranged for “hits” on the old website to be automatically re-directed to the new site, enabling users to view the latest information and most up-to-date site. The office staff have now received training on the editing of the site and a number of small changes have already been made.

- c) Minute 18/193 : New panel heaters have now been installed in the toilet areas at Turnhams Farm Hall, along with a replacement heater being installed in the disabled toilet at the Cornwell Centre.
- d) Minute 18/192 : Five replacement benches have now been ordered for the Cornwell recreation ground. The benches, which will be funded through CIL monies, will be installed as soon as they are delivered.
- e) Minute 18/226 : It has been confirmed by the parish's solicitor that, whilst a renewed Section 25 Notice has been sent to West Berkshire Council, no response has been received as yet. The Clerk will liaise with the solicitor further as the existing notice expires on 20 January 2019.

Note: The Clerk has again spoken to the solicitor as this matter is now urgent, and he has advised that there has still been no contact from WBC regarding the expiration of the S25 Notice. If WBC do not agree to the Notice being extended, then the parish will have no option but for this to be revoked, as it requires agreement from both parties in order for it to continue beyond the 20 January.

19/007 Planning:

- a) Appeals - 18/00117/FUL. The appeal made against the refusal decision of West Berkshire Council has been dismissed.
- b) Decisions - See Appendix A
- c) New applications - See Appendix B
- d) Eastern Area - The Clerk will advise Members if there is anything relevant to the parish on the Agenda for the Eastern Area Planning Committee on the 6 February, in order that the parish can be represented. The Agenda for the meeting on the 16 January has been received and there is nothing relevant to the parish.

19/008 District Councillors' Reports:

- a) Mr Somner advised that:
 - the Leader of the Council Mr Graham Jones is stepping down with effect from May;
 - there have been several changes to the structure of West Berkshire Council;
 - the outcome of the recent budget consultation is awaited;
 - he has been contacted by various members of the public regarding dog waste bins that are in disrepair (mainly in Theale and Holybrook);
 - he has received a phone call from Bellway Homes, ~~who are still hoping to go ahead with the building of a public house/restaurant on the corner of Bath Road/Dorking Way, and who have been refused outline planning permission by West Berkshire Council.~~ They are hoping to arrange an open meeting to discuss their proposed planning application, and Mr Somner will let the Clerk know when the date has been arranged.

- b) Mr Linden advised that:
- Central government have allowed West Berkshire Council to retain a smaller portion of business rates. The extra funds are available for adult social care / costs, which are continually rising;
 - There has been no decision yet on what the rise in Council Tax will be, with effect from April;
 - Sarah Clark, who has been acting head of legal services, has now been confirmed as head of legal services.
- c) Mr Jones was unable to attend the meeting, but did e-mail the office advising that he was concerned that the parish was being asked by West Berkshire Council to make decisions relating to the District, but affecting Tilehurst, without being in receipt of the full facts. He offered to meet with parish councillors to discuss in more detail how services work and how funds are spent.

19/009 Request from Southern Gas Networks to lay a gas pipe in Calcot recreation ground:

SGN and West Berkshire Council had approached the Clerk before Christmas with a request to lay a gas pipe in Calcot recreation ground, rather than under the footpath along the A4. The Clerk wrote to WBC, with SGN being copied in, asking for further information –

- Will the fence and hedge need to be removed to allow access onto the recreation ground and, if so, what reinstatement works will be carried out after completion of the necessary works?
- There are newly installed benches and trees along this boundary line. It is assumed that these will need to be removed to allow for the pipe to be laid. What measures would be put in place for their reinstatement?
- Will full detailed plans be available for this Council to inspect?
- How far down will the new pipe be laid?
- What Health and Safety measures would be put in place during the works and will these measures safeguard members of the public using the recreation ground?
- Will a full risk assessment be carried out?
- With travellers currently in the area, albeit in Reading Borough, what security measures would be put in place to ensure that unauthorised access cannot be gained?
- What compensation will be paid to this Council for access onto our recreational land?

The Clerk reported to Council that no response had been received from either WBC or SGN and that the proposed works are being carried out on the public footpath, with the A4 Bath Road being partially closed.

19/010 SLCC Practitioners' Conference: The Clerk advised that having received the Agenda for the two-day training course, this year she does not wish to attend as she feels there is nothing of value. However, there is a one-day seminar in March which she would like to attend. Members unanimously agreed.

19/011 Maintenance issues: The parish's two maintenance officers spent the time between Christmas and the first week of January carrying out some work in the kitchen at Turnhams Farm Hall. This included a new worktop, as part of the existing one needed to be replaced. As this could not be matched, it would have resulted in three different sections; also a new sink; and replacing the old tiles to match the newer ones which were installed when the kitchen was extended.

Several problems were encountered which meant the work took longer than expected, but it was almost finished by the time the first hirer used the hall on the 5 January. None of the pipes were lagged, some of the plasterboard was damaged when the old tiles were removed as they had been put straight onto the boarding without it being skimmed first, and there was no insulation between the original wall of the building and the newer brick skin. The Clerk advised that she was very pleased with the result and offered to meet any parish councillors who wanted to visit the hall.

There were several smaller maintenance jobs carried out during the month, including new guttering on the changing rooms at Turnhams Farm recreation ground.

19/012 Financial Information: Members reviewed the expenditure for December 2018, and noted retrospective payments.

19/013 Information Items: There were no information items.

19/014 Chairman's Remarks: In the absence of Mrs Gardner, there were no updates.

The Meeting closed at 8.20 pm

The next Meeting will be held on Tuesday 12 February 2019 in the main hall

Chairman

APPENDIX A - DECISIONS

18/02729/HOUSE	<u>29 Longworth Avenue, Tilehurst</u> Single storey rear extension	Granted
18/02573/HOUSE	<u>68 City Road, Tilehurst</u> Single storey side extension	Granted
18/02736/HOUSE	<u>7 Conifer Drive, Tilehurst</u> Side extension at first floor level with new pitched roofs over existing single storey extensions	Granted
18/02869/HOUSE	<u>46 Compton Avenue, Tilehurst</u> Single storey rear extension	Granted

APPENDIX B - NEW APPLICATIONS

- 18/03212/FULD 59 Fairway Avenue, Tilehurst
Demolition of existing house and erection of a replacement dwelling
This Council has no objection to the proposal, although would like reassurance that there are no issues with the willow tree.
- 18/03054/HOUSE 21 Bay Tree Rise, Calcot
Single storey extension to parking under-croft. Re-build rear extension with continuous pitch roof to match existing.
This Council has no objection to the proposal, but there are concerns over possible loss of light to the neighbouring property.
- 18/01064/HOUSE 41 Conway Road, Calcot
Demolition of existing garage. Construction of a double side and double rear extension. Construction of a front porch.
This Council has no objection to the proposal, but there are concerns that there will be insufficient car parking spaces.
- 18/02762/FULD 1103 Oxford Road, Tilehurst – adj parish
Erection of two semi-detached dwellings with associated car parking and access from Oregon Drive on land to rear of 1103 Oxford Road
This Council has no objection to the proposal
- 18/03306/HOUSE 29 Cotswold Way, Tilehurst
Proposal of two-storey rear and side extension with single storey rear extension and front porch
This Council has no objection to the proposal
- 18/03328/ADV Tesco Express, The Parade, Knowsley Road
3 no. 3mm vinyl applied to glazing, 1 no. 3mm vinyl frosting applied to glazing
This Council has no objection to the proposal
- 18/03409/HOUSE 48 Longworth Avenue, Tilehurst
New slanting tiled roof to replace existing asphalt flat roof on rear single storey extension. Tiles to match existing tiles on main roof.
Convert garage into study and utility room.
This Council has no objection to the proposal

PART 11

19/015 CCA rent: The accounts have still not been received, so the decision on the review of the rent has yet again been postponed. The Clerk will continue chasing in order that this can be discussed at a future meeting.

19/016 Staffing Matters:

- a) Over the Christmas period, one of the Council's maintenance officers slipped and cracked two ribs and broke one, and also had concussion. He is on the mend and had only minimal time off work.
- b) Having had no enquiries for the admin officer post, the closing date has been extended to the 1 February, with the job advert also being put in the parish notice boards.