

TILEHURST PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 12 March 2019 in the Committee Room, Parish Office, Calcot

Present:

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

District Councillors - Mr T Linden, Mr R Somner

Members of public - Four

19/037 Open Forum:

a) Members of the public – *Is there any update on the cracks on the ceiling and floor at the Cornwell Centre? (Minute 19/027)*. The Clerk advised that she has written to both West Berkshire Council and Reading Borough Council, but has not yet received any response. She is also waiting for further quotes from structural engineers. In the meantime the cracks are being monitored to ensure that the issue is not worsening.

b) Councillors – Mr Marino has been asked by dogwalkers on the Cotswold recreation ground whether there would be any possibility for a water tap to be installed. The main problem in doing this would be access to a water supply, but this will be investigated.

19/038 Apologies for absence: Apologies for absence have been received from parish councillor Mr D Lovegrove, and district councillors Mr R Jones and Mr A Chadley.

19/039 Declarations of Interest relevant to the Agenda: There were no declarations of interest relevant to the Agenda.

19/040 Approval and Adoption of Minutes: The Minutes of the Meeting held on the 12 February 2019, having been previously circulated to Members, were taken as read and signed by the Chairman.

19/041 Matters arising from the Minutes, and Clerk's Update: There were no further matters arising from the Minutes.

Clerk's Report:

a) Minute 19/025: The Clerk has spoken to the Licensing Team at West Berkshire Council and it has been confirmed that no Temporary Events Licence will be required for the pre-schools' summer fayre. As the music being played is ancillary to one part of the fayre, i.e. whilst the dance and gymnastic demonstrations are taking place and not playing throughout, this negates the necessity for a license to be applied for.

b) Minute 19/035 - Donation to CareBus Volunteer Group in memory of Councillor Jean Gardner: The Clerk has been in contact with the Good Exchange with regards to the donation being made and it has been confirmed that the donation from the Parish Council, along with the donation received from a local developer, will both be match funded.

19/042 Planning:

a) Appeals - (i) 6 Hillview Close, Tilehurst. An Appeal has been made to the Secretary of State against the decision of West Berkshire Council to refuse a request under application 18/01365/HOUSE to vary Section 73A: Condition 2 of previously approved application 14/02124/HOUSE: Two storey front, side and single storey rear extensions. As the appeal is proceeding under the Householders Appeal Service, there is no opportunity for this Council to submit contents. However, any comments previously made by this Council will be forwarded for consideration.

(ii) Land adjacent to Bath Road and Dorking Way, Calcot (Application 17/02904/OUTMAJ) – application for a restaurant/pub with associated parking, and outline planning permission for 28 residential units. An appeal made against the decision of West Berkshire Council to refuse planning permission, 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 10 April, in order that the parish can be represented. There is nothing on the Agenda for the meeting on the 20 March.

19/043 District Councillors' Reports:

a) Mr R Somner –

- West Berkshire Council's Full Council Meeting on the 5 March discussed budget setting, and while money is very tight they are looking at ways of increasing their income rather than making more cuts;
- A Council Tax increase of 2.99% has been agreed for the coming financial year;
- Funding has been provided to enable the Padworth Recycling Centre to extend its opening hours for six months, in line with the hours at the main centre in Newbury. It is hoped that if a sufficient number of residents use Padworth, it may be possible to continue with the extended hours beyond that period;
- Work is due to commence shortly on the new Theale primary school;
- The Emotional Health Academy is being championed by West Berkshire Council, who are running workshops to provide health and emotional support;
- The first draw for West Berkshire Council's lottery is taking place on the 31 March 2019;
- Devolution – officers need to be made aware of the importance of parish councils getting the level of support required, and that services in any area are the right ones for that area;

- There is a lot of work going on with the Public Protection Partnership (West Berkshire, Reading, Wokingham, Bracknell, Windsor & Maidenhead), including a homeowner being fined for fly tipping, a company director being asked to pay compensation to a homeowner, and a second-hand car dealer being prosecuted.
- b) Mr T Linden endorsed the comments made by Mr Somner and added –
 - District Councillor Miss E Webster spoke at the Full Council Meeting of West Berkshire Council in memory of Mrs Jean Gardner, who will be sorely missed;
 - The Pincents Lane development will probably be discussed at the Eastern Area Planning Meeting in May;
 - The issue with the Hildens Drive car park is still ongoing, with officers from WBC having recently been in discussions about the situation (Minute 19/024(b)).
 - Schools allocations – 90% of students obtained their first preference of school, with 97% getting one of their preferences.

19/044 Donation Request: A donation request has been received from Reading Citizens Advice Bureau. Mr Marino suggested that the amount donated should be increased from last year, and Mr Taylor proposed that the amount should be £500. This was seconded by Mrs Reynolds, and unanimously agreed. The donation will be made under S142 of the Local Government Act 1972. This is in addition to the S137 donation made to CareBus in memory of Councillor Gardner which was agreed at the February 2019 Full Council Meeting (Minute 19/035).

19/045 Governance and Risk Management Assessment: The Governance and Risk Management Assessment was adopted, subject to a few small changes.

19/046 Westwood Farm Community Pre-School: (Minute 19/025) – The playgroup have requested that they change the date of their summer fair to the 13 July. This was agreed by Members.

19/047 District/Parish Conference: The Clerk will be attending the Conference on the 14 March, and asked if any Members wished to also attend. None were available on that date.

19/048 Calcot Football Club: The football club have asked for permission to use a football pitch at the Calcot recreation ground on the 25 May for a charity match to raise funds for prostate cancer. The Clerk advised that pitch 2 is in very good condition and will need minimal maintenance this year, and it was therefore resolved to agree to the request. This request is subject to a number of conditions which will be relayed to the club.

19/049 Westwood Farm Community Association: WCFA have requested permission to hold various events on the Cotswold recreation ground during 2019. Members discussed the request –

- Sunday 21 April – Easter Farm. This was agreed.
- Saturday 2 November – firework display. This was also agreed.

- Sunday 26 May – Party in the Park. There was some concern about agreeing to this date. The football pitch is in very poor condition and will need robust maintenance and re-seeding this year if it is to be in a fit state to be played upon next football season. The Clerk has discussed this with the Council’s grounds maintenance contractor and it is proposed that re-seeding takes place at the beginning of May as soon as this season finishes. The pitch will be fenced off to prevent anyone walking over it, and in order that the re-seeding has the best chance of success it is anticipated that 6 – 8 weeks will be required to allow the seeds to germinate and grow.

As the Party in the Park normally uses the whole of the recreation ground Members were of the opinion that having the football pitch fenced off would hinder the usual activities, and suggested that the event could take place on a weekend later in the year e.g. August bank holiday.

The Easter Farm and fireworks display were agreed subject to the usual conditions:

- Clearing of litter from the recreation ground after the events
- To be mindful of other users of the recreation ground
- A copy of up to date insurance to be provided
- The events should be open to all the community, not just members of the Club
- Any repairs to damage will be billed to the Club
- No bouncy castles to be allowed on the recreation ground

The following conditions will also apply:

- 21 April: The Club should liaise with the Clerk beforehand to agree where the trailer used for transporting the animals should be sited
- 3 November: The section of recreation ground being used should be roped off; the football pitch should not be used; the event should be supervised at all times by appropriate fire marshalls and first aiders; and a risk assessment should be provided

19/050 Financial Information: Members reviewed the expenditure for February 2019, and noted retrospective payments.

19/051 Information Items:

a) During the early hours of Monday 18 February 2019, the West Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service attending the Calcot Centre following reports of a fire. As this was suspected arson, the Police were informed of the incident.

It was discovered that one of the newly installed benches, located on the footpath from the Calcot Centre to Starling Drive, has been destroyed by the fire. The Clerk passed this information on to the Police who have advised that no further action can be taken, due to the lack of witnesses and CCTV.

Note: Members noted that there no mention of an insurance claim being made, and asked the Clerk to contact the insurance company to check whether it would be prudent to do so.

b) A representative of the Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service visited the Calcot Centre recently in order to go through the Fire Risk Assessment which is currently completed by the Clerk on an annual basis. A few small issues were identified and discussed and the Clerk will work towards rectifying these. The risk assessments for the remaining two community halls will be reviewed using the guidance received.

c) The Clerk had, previous to the Meeting, advised Members that a sinkhole had appeared on the Cotswold recreation ground, and had been fenced off by the Council's grounds maintenance contractor. The hole on the surface is approx. one foot in diameter but opens up beneath this to an area 6 ft x 12 ft, as far as can be ascertained at this point. Thames Water have been called out but have advised that there is no water leak which is causing the issue. They will send a map of pipework on the recreation ground, at which time the Council's contractor will dig down to investigate further.

d) There have been yet more items of rubbish found in the ravine alongside Calcot recreation ground adjacent to Greenfield House, and the local PCSO is concerned about the amount of drugs paraphernalia being disposed of. West Berkshire Council have been asked to clear the area, along with a reminder that they were going to clear the ravine further towards the southern end of the recreation ground and which has still not been done.

19/052 Chairman's Remarks: Mr Page advised that he had nothing to add, but thanked everyone for their support.

The Meeting closed at 9.55 pm

The next Meeting will be held on Tuesday 9 April 2019

Chairman

APPENDIX A - DECISIONS

18/03328/ADV	<u>Tesco Express, Knowsley Road, Tilehurst</u> 3 no. 3mm vinyl applied to glazing; 1 no. 3mm vinyl frosting applied to glazing	Granted
18/03409/HOUSE	<u>48 Longworth Avenue, Tilehurst</u> 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.	Granted
18/03306/HOUSE	<u>29 Cotswold Way, Tilehurst</u> Proposal of two storey rear and side extension with single storey rear extension and front porch.	Granted
18/03289/HOUSE	<u>317 The Meadway, Tilehurst</u> Single storey rear extension	Granted
19/00014/HOUSE	<u>11 Mendip Drive, Tilehurst</u> Two storey side extension	Granted

APPENDIX B - NEW APPLICATIONS

19/00272/HOUSE Lane End Cottage, 23-25 Westwood Row, Tilehurst
Single storey rear extension and minor alterations

This Council objects to this application on the grounds that the proposed new extension is completely out of character with the existing listed building.

19/00273/LBC2 Lane End Cottage, 23-25 Westwood Row, Tilehurst
Single storey rear extension and minor alterations

This Council objects to this application on the grounds that the proposed new extension is completely out of character with the existing listed building.

19/00375/HOUSE 14 Yew Tree Rise, Calcot
Garage conversion and the formation of a small front extension, to create space for a new entrance lobby, utility and wc including replacement windows and doors

This Council has no objection to the proposal.

19/00465/HOUSE 2 Withy Close, Tilehurst
Loft conversion including installation of three velux roof-lights to the front / rear elevations, to form new habitable space.

This Council has no objection to the proposal.

19/00481/HOUSE 27 Compton Avenue, Tilehurst
Two storey side and single storey rear extensions and front canopy

While this Council has no objection to the proposal, there is concern that an existing manhole will be built over

19/00514/OOD 14 Fircroft Close, Tilehurst - Reading Borough Council
Proposed rear single storey and part two storey rear extension

This Council has no objection to the proposal.

19/00578/HOUSE 7 Dell Road, Tilehurst
Single storey rear and side extension and first floor extension

This Council has no objection to the proposal.

19/00595/FULD 1103 Oxford Road, Tilehurst – adj Parish
Erection of 2 semi detached dwellings with associated car parking and
Access from Oregon Drive on land to the rear of 1103 Oxford Road

While this Council has no objection to the proposed development there is concern that the turning area will be used for extra parking, thus causing access problems

19/00495/HOUSE 50 Longworth Avenue, Tilehurst
Single storey rear extension with demolition of existing conservatory

This Council has no objection to the proposal.

PART 11

19/053 Administration Assistant: Following recent interviews, the vacant post has been offered to one of the candidates who lives locally, and who will be starting on the 25 March subject to satisfactory references being received.

19/054 Parish Assembly: After discussion, it was agreed that last year's format should be used, with the parish assembly taking place on the same evening as the Annual Meeting in May. The Clerk will produce an update for the Meeting, with mention being made that 2019 is the 100th anniversary of Tilehurst Parish Council being founded.

19/055 Badgers Hill PRU: (Minute 19/033) The Clerk has received a response from West Berkshire Council following the points raised at the last Meeting.

19/056: Westwood Wanderers Football Club: Mr Alok Sharma MP, requested a meeting to discuss his recent meeting with representatives of the Westwood Wanderers FC, which the parish council did not attend. The Clerk, Mr Page and Mrs Reynolds met with Mr Sharma and discussed various allegations which the football club made against the parish council. Mr Sharma asked the Clerk to send him a letter confirming the discussion which had taken place during the meeting whilst also elaborating on all the points raised, which he would then refer to in any further discussions with the football club.