

## TILEHURST PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Meeting held on 18 June 2019 in the Main Hall, Parish Office, Calcot

#### Present:

#### Councillors -

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

#### District Councillors -

Mr T Linden, Mr T Marino

#### Members of public -

Two

#### 19/102 Open Forum:

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

**19/103 Apologies for absence:** Apologies for absence have been received from District Councillors J Stewart and R Jones. Mr A Williamson also sent his apologies, but his e-mail was not picked up before the meeting.

**19/104 Declarations of Interest relevant to the Agenda:** There were no declarations of interest relevant to the Agenda.

**19/105 Approval and Adoption of Minutes:** The Minutes of the Meeting held on the 6 June 2019, having been previously circulated to Members, were taken as read and signed by the Chairman.

**19/106 Matters arising from the Minutes:** There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

#### 19/107 Clerk's Report:

a) The football pitch at the Cotswold recreation ground has been re-seeded and is currently still cordoned off. The regrowth of grass is patchy and, in some areas, has not been as successful as hoped. The regrowth along the touchlines is prominent, however the seed was drilled in lines which is noticeable.

The pitch area is being monitored by maintenance staff and watered when necessary. It will be possible to remove the barrier in due course, however, if this is done, it would only be the centre of the pitch leaving the goal mouths still inaccessible.

b) Minute 19/092 - Annual Subscription to BALC: The Clerk attended an SLCC Branch Meeting where a discussion around BALC took place. Whilst a number of Town and Parish

Councils are still dissatisfied with the service being received, and voiced concern that a copy of the Service Level Agreement between BALC and HALC has not been sent out to members as agreed, the general consensus was that they would subscribe to the service for another year.

It was felt that as NALC has a heightened presence within Central Government, with an increase in its lobbying to improve things within the sector, it was not beneficial at this stage to withdraw support.

#### **19/108 Planning:**

- a) Appeals - 18/00297/FULD, 347 The Meadway, Tilehurst. An appeal has been made to the Secretary of State against the decision of West Berkshire Council to refuse to grant planning permission for the erection of eight flats. This Council will send the usual letter to the Secretary of State re-affirming our objection.
- b) Decisions - See Appendix A
- c) New applications - See Appendix B
- d) Eastern Area - The Clerk has received the Agenda for the Eastern Area Planning Meeting on the 26 June, and there are no items relevant to the parish.

#### **19/109 District Councillors' Reports:**

- a) Mr Linden reported –
  - District Councillor Jo Stewart is very keen to organise a litter pick in the Little Heath area. This will be discussed more fully under the following agenda item.
  - Apparently there have been problems with speeding vehicles in the Warborough Avenue area, although this has not been reported to the parish. Mr Linden questioned whether there was sufficient signage near the school.
  - There is a new round of Members' bids coming up, with any applications having to be submitted by the 23 August.
  - Springfield School would like a new entrance, and Mr Linden is putting in a bid to assist with this.
- b) Mr Jones, although not at this meeting, has advised that he will forward an application form for Members' bids to the Clerk.

**19/110 Community Litter Pick:** District Councillor Jo Stewart is trying to organise a litter pick in the Little Heath Road area following concerns from local residents. It is anticipated that this would be held on either the 20<sup>th</sup> or 27<sup>th</sup> July, although the date has yet to be confirmed.

In the past, this Council has supported the Cornwell Church bi-annual litter pick by providing litter pickers, bags and hoops, and gloves, and arranging for the bagged litter to be collected by West Berkshire Council. Ms Stewart thinks she can get hold of hi-viz jackets. It was suggested that Ms Stewart could approach schools, scout groups, brownies/guides for volunteers.

**19/111 Calcot recreation ground play area:** Two quotes have been received for repair/renewal of the safety surface in the play area at Calcot recreation ground: Option A for £16,705 exc vat to renew the whole area; and Option B for £4,945 to repair the damaged areas only. Mr Taylor proposed Option B, seconded by Mr T Marino. All members were in agreement.

**19/112 Contribution to Library Service:** A request has been received from West Berkshire Council for a contribution of £13,575 to the library service. This has been declined by the parish in previous years because of low usage of West Berkshire libraries by Tilehurst residents. Any contribution made to this service would have to be made under S137 of the Local Government Act 1972, which specifically states that the benefit received by the parishioners for the contribution has to be commensurate with the expenditure that has been incurred. Because usage of libraries within West Berkshire (there is no library within the Tilehurst parish area) by residents of Tilehurst Parish has fallen still further and is at 1.90%, Mr Page suggested that a contribution of £250 should be offered. Mr L Marino proposed that the parish should offer £250 to West Berkshire Council as a contribution for those residents who use the libraries. This was seconded by Mr Taylor, and agreed by all members.

Members discussed the probability that a large proportion of Tilehurst parish residents use Tilehurst library, which is run by Reading Borough Council, and the suggestion was made that the parish could make some contribution to that library. The Clerk will contact them to ascertain the usage before making a final decision. This was proposed by Mr L Marino, and seconded by Mr T Marino, with all members in agreement.

**19/113 BALC Training Courses:** Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated to all Members details of training courses available in the coming months. If any Member is interested, they should advise the Clerk accordingly.

**19/114 Speed Indicator Device training:** West Berkshire Council's Road Safety Office has advised that they are running a training session on Wednesday 7 August at 6.30 pm, to enable any parish to have volunteers trained to operate SID within their boundaries. At present this parish does not have anyone trained in using the SID equipment, as the previously held licence has now expired. The Clerk suggested that the Assistant Maintenance Officer would be a suitable person to undertake the training, and he has expressed an interest in doing so. Members agreed.

**19/115 Maintenance:** A report was presented to Members, detailing non-regular maintenance/repairs which have been carried out over the past few weeks.

**19/116 Cotswold recreation ground – removal of chicane:** A resident of Wyre Court has requested that the chicane on the pathway between the flats and Cotswold recreation ground be removed, as it is causing difficulty for some mobility scooters and double buggies to access the recreation ground.

The chicane was originally installed many years ago by the parish council in consultation with the Housing Association who own a number of properties, and homeowners to prevent motor bikes using the footpath to gain access to the recreation ground. After a long

discussion it was agreed that the chicane should remain in place. There are several other entrances to gain access, but the removal of the barrier could cause excess noise and disturbance for those residents in Wyre Court close to the footpath.

Several years ago the chicaned entrance leading off Talbot Way was adapted to enable mobility easy access onto the Cotswold recreation ground. As this is in close proximity to Wyre Court, this could be used as an alternative access point.

**19/117 Football pitch requests:** Members were given a list of those football clubs who have applied for pitches in the coming season. No representatives of the clubs were present to support their requests. Allocations will be discussed in Part 11 of this meeting.

**19/118 Neighbourhood Development Plan Community Survey:** The Neighbourhood Plan group have produced a survey which will be sent to all houses in the parish, to provide evidence, when submitting the Neighbourhood Plan, that research has been carried out to ascertain what local residents' wishes are for the future of the parish.

A Consultant has been asked to comment, in order to ensure that all the questions are appropriate, and that it is GDPR compliant. The survey will be trialled on a small number, i.e. 12 – 20 properties, and following this may well need to be shortened slightly.

Mr Page suggested that it would be helpful if Members completed the survey, and gave feedback. He did re-iterate that none of the questions are obligatory.

**19/119 Westwood Farm Pre-School summer fair:** The playgroup, who have been given permission to hold a summer fair on the 13 July on Cotswold recreation ground, have requested permission for the following activities:

- Vintage style tea and cake tent (including a sweet stall). Tents/gazebos are not normally permitted, without prior approval, as there is a byelaw prohibiting this.
- A burger van. This would normally be sited on the hardstanding, but as the emergency services are participating in the event, they will have to park here for convenience in case they are called out on an emergency. The burger van will therefore need to be sited on the recreation ground.
- Ice-cream van. Same circumstances as above.
- A singer who will be using the garden area outside the WFCA, intermittently, during the afternoon only.

The above requests were agreed, with the proviso that the singer should keep the volume at a reasonable level.

**19/120 Cotswold recreation ground play area refurbishment:** A quote for £47,000 has been received for the refurbishment of the play area at the Cotswold recreation ground, including new flooring and replacement of all equipment. The Clerk is of the opinion that not everything needs replacing, and after discussion it was agreed that further quotes should be obtained, to include the following –

New flooring;

A new seesaw, as the existing one is not suitable for the age range allowed in the play area;

New swings; Re-painting of some of the equipment.

The multi-use equipment does not need replacing, only repainting; and the roundabout has been replaced recently following vandalism.

**19/121 VE Day 75:** Celebrations are being organised nationally to commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VE Day. This will take place on the weekend of 8 – 10 May 2020, and communication has been received from SAAFA asking towns and parishes to register their involvement in one or more events which are happening locally.

The Clerk asked if anyone had any ideas, and it was suggested that neighbouring parishes are contacted with a view to maybe organising joint celebrations.

**19/122 External Audit:** The Annual Return accounting statement for 2018/19 was approved by members and signed by the Chairman and Clerk accordingly.

**19/123 Information Items:**

a) Damage was caused to the back fire doors on Saturday 25th May 2019, following the charity football match which was organised by the CCA. Despite numerous adults being around, three children removed loose bricks from the retaining wall at the back of the building, smashed them on the floor to break them before throwing the pieces at the back doors.

The doors had a high number of dents and gauges, along with two pictures which had been scratched into the paintwork.

Using the CCTV footage, the Clerk was able to ascertain the identities of the children and requested that their parents came into the office in order to discuss the matter.

Due to the inclement weather, the doors were sanded, filled and repainted within a few days of the incident so that the wooden doors were not damaged further.

b) West Berkshire Council has adopted its Council Strategy for 2019-2023. The document can be viewed using the following link;

<http://decisionmaking.westberks.gov.uk/documents/s74631/14a.%20WB%20Council%20Strategy%202019.pdf>

The Strategy is produced every four years to align with the electoral cycle, and refreshed every other year. The last Strategy was adopted in 2015, so a new one was needed to cover the period 2019-2023. It explains what the council plan to prioritise and improve over the next four years and on the longer term journey to 2036 and shows six important areas for improvement.

c) Reading Borough Council is now consulting on Main Modifications to the Reading Borough Local Plan until 24th July 2019.

The Council's Local Plan, which will set out the policies for planning decisions in Reading up to 2036, has recently been subject to public examination, held by an independent Planning Inspector. The Inspector has identified a number of modifications necessary to make the plan sound. The Council is now consulting on these proposed modifications. Once modifications are made and the Local Plan is adopted, it will be the main document that informs how planning applications are determined and covers a wide variety of strategic matters, policies and specific sites for development.

Reading Borough Council are seeking comments over the next six weeks during a period of public consultation. The full schedule of main modifications to the Plan and the Proposals Map, as well as a Sustainability Appraisal is on the Council's website at:

<http://www.reading.gov.uk/newlocalplan> and copies can also be viewed at the Civic Offices, Bridge Street, Reading, RG1 2LU (between 9.00 am and 5.00 pm on weekdays) and in all Council libraries (during normal opening hours).

d) Over the weekend of 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> June four new benches were installed at the Cornwell recreation ground.

e) A complaint was raised by a resident via Mrs Braine about the footpath leading from Overdown Road to Westwood Row which is very overgrown, with fly-tipping. The parish did approach West Berkshire Council some time ago suggesting that we would be amenable to using S106 monies to clear this heavily used path, and asking their permission to do so. A response has never been received from WBC. Members suggested that WBC is approached again, and advised that we will clear the footpath as a one-off, and asking them to collect the fly-tipping, as we are unable to do so because of the difficulty in disposing of items.

**19/124 Chairman's Remarks:** Mr Page confirmed that he will be attending a meeting on Wednesday 19 June with CCLA (Churches, Charities and Local Authorities) to discuss the investment of some of the parish's fund, along with the Clerk and Mr L Marino.

**The Meeting finished at 10.10 pm**

**The next Meeting will be held on Tuesday 13 August 2019**

**Chairman**

## **APPENDIX A - DECISIONS**

There have been no decisions received since the last Meeting.

## **APPENDIX B - NEW PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

19/00771/FULD      2 Sandringham Way, Calcot  
Erection of additional 2 bedroom end of terrace two storey house  
and attached garage

**This Council has no objection to the proposal**

2. 19/01427/HOUSE      7 Kendrick Gate, New Lane Hill, Tilehurst  
Proposed garage extension

**This Council has no objection to the proposal**

3. 19/01250/HOUSE      2 Clements Mead, Tilehurst  
Infill side extension to create a new ensuite. Replacement of flat roof  
over porch with pitched roof and a pair of new doors in the rear  
elevation.

**Although this Council has no objection to the proposal, we would like to re-iterate the comment from Highways, that sufficient car parking spaces must be provided for both the existing and the proposed new properties**



## **PART 11**

### **19/125 Football Pitch allocation and charges:**

Charges – Members agreed to keep the same cost for the 2019/20, therefore the charges will be –

Full sided pitch, seniors	- £75 per game
Full sided pitch, juniors	- £40 per game
Small sided pitch	- £26 per game

The discount of £20 per game made to Barton Rovers FC at Turnhams Farm recreation ground in recognition of them marking out the pitch using their own liner will continue. The monthly charge for use of the changing rooms when using the school field will be £50 per month during the playing season.

The charge for anyone else using the changing rooms at Turnhams Farm i.e. when training, will remain at £20 per hour.

#### Pitch allocation:

All requests for football pitches for the 2019/2020 season were considered, and pitches allocated. All relevant clubs will be notified.