

Minutes
of Sulhamstead Parish Council Meeting
held at St Mary's Parish Rooms Thursday 21st July 2016 at 7.00pm

Present: Mrs Margaret Baxter (Chairman), Mrs Rosemary Sanders-Rose, Mr Ivan Wise, Mr Richard Smith, Mr Roger Ashfield Mr Chris Souden, Ms Teresa Sosna and Councillor Keith Chopping.

In attendance: Mrs Fiona Jones (Clerk)

Open Forum: Members of the Public were invited to comment on any of the items on the agenda before the meeting convened.

Declarations of Interest: Visitors were reminded that declarations of interest must be made where appropriate.

1) Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies.

2) Declarations of Interest by Councillors

Mrs Baxter and Mrs Sanders-Rose declared an interest as neighbours of Jackaways Cottage. Ms Sosna declared an interest as a neighbour of the proposed Solar Farm.

3) Open Forum

Mrs Claire Hazelwood, a resident of Sulhamstead Hill, spoke about the traffic speeding up and down the hill in the morning and evening rush hours particularly. She suggested that the 30 mph speed limit be extended from the A4 to Ufton Nervet. Mr Smith recommended that Mrs Hazelwood report the issue to WBC website.

Mr Edward Clintworth from the NHS Public Health and Wellbeing Department gave a presentation about a service which is offered to residents. Health checks can be carried out by nurses in the community. It focusses on cardio vascular disease prevention including heart disease, strokes and diabetes. Checks can be offered on a Saturday in the Parish. It is completely free. 14 appointments can be processed in a day. It is offered to residents aged 40 – 74. It would be possible to have 2 nurses if there was sufficient uptake. Timings will be end of September / early October. Mr Clintworth will liaise with the clerk to progress. **Action: Clerk**

Mr Simon Lindley from West Berkshire Community Broadband gave an update about the project. Excellent progress had now been made and the service is expected to be up and running in less than 2 months. A maximum of 50 homes and business will be covered by the service initially and residents were encouraged to pre-register. Terms and Conditions were now available.

Mr Lindley also briefed the council on the latest status of the Spire Project. Planning permissions had been submitted and an outcome expected in August. The trustees will then need to decide the minimum amount of work at the minimum cost to get the Spire open.

4) Approval of Minutes of 19 May 2016 and 2 June 2016

The Minutes were approved and signed.

5) **Matters arising from Minutes of 19 May 2016**

a) **Closure of Reading Tip to West Berkshire Residents**

West Berkshire will be applying for planning permission to allow for the disposal of general waste at Padworth recycling centre. This may take up to 6 months to be approved. In the meantime resident must use the Newbury facility.

b) **Newsletter**

Ms Sosna and Mr Wise undertook to create a newsletter on behalf of the council with contributions from other councillors. **Action: Ms Sosna and Mr Wise**

c) **Local Roads**

Mr Smith had written to Councillor Chopping about number of hedges which are overgrown and potentially damaging to cars. Councillor Chopping had forwarded the email to WBC Highways Dept and an outcome was still awaited. Councillor Chopping will chase. **Action: Councillor Chopping**

d) **Willink Leisure Centre**

Mrs Baxter had sent the contract to a solicitor to review. **Action: Mrs Baxter**

e) **Adjacent Parish Planning Applications**

The councillors were not satisfied with the response from the planning department. Councillor Chopping to seek further clarification. **Action: Councillor Chopping**

6) **Local Interest**

a) **High Speed Broadband** – covered in the open forum

b) **Public Open Space**

15 Burghfield Scouts had undertaken some excellent work in the POS and Mr Wise had requested that they return in the autumn. Mr Wise suggested a donation of £250 be made to the scouts and this was agreed by the other councillors. **Action: Clerk**

Mr Wise reported that he had briefed Bob Hirst on the actions required to improve the play park.

c) **Website**

The stats for May and June were:

982 unique visitors 2,229 page impressions

834 unique visitors 2,159 page impressions

d) **Local Roads, signs and weight limits**

Further to the complaint about speeding from Mrs Hazelwood, an opportunity had arisen for councillors to attend training for use of a SID (Speed Indicator Device) machine. Mr Smith and Mr Ashfield agreed to attend the training on 26th July. Once the training was complete it would be arranged to deploy the SID machine on Sulhamstead Hill. **Action: Mr Smith and Mr Ashfield**

Mrs Baxter had also asked the PCSO to target Sulhamstead Hill for speed checks. **Action: Mrs Baxter**

Mr Smith reported that the canal bridge near Tyle Mill had malfunctioned on a number of occasions recently. He had observed vehicles over the weight limit using both this bridge and Ufton canal bridge. He expressed concerns about emergency vehicles being delayed when the bridge was out of order. It was agreed to ask the PCSO to undertake checks to ensure overweight vehicles were not using the bridges. **Action: Mrs Baxter**

e) Willink Leisure Centre

Await the outcome of the contract review by the solicitor.

f) PCSO Contract and Reinstatement of Meeting

Mrs Baxter had attended a meeting with the PCSO and Burghfield & Mortimer Parish councils on 14th July and found it interesting. The contract had still not been signed, but it was agreed to sign the revised copy. **Action: Mrs Baxter**

g) Budget Cuts

West Berkshire Council had been canvassing public opinion about the closure of the libraries in both Mortimer and Burghfield. It was agreed to contact Burghfield Parish Council to see how both councils could work together on this matter. **Action: Clerk**

It was agreed to contact people who are involved in running community libraries to find out what it entails. **Action: Ms Sosna and Clerk**

h) Funding request by SUN School

A request for a donation towards bills of £9815 for fire doors and a new boiler had been made by the governors of SUN school. The councillors requested that a governor attends the next meeting in September to explain the background of the request. It was suggested the governors contacted the Ufton Nerve Fuel Allotment Charity with a request. The councillors wanted to know how many children at the school live in the parishes of Sulhamstead and Ufton Nerve. Clerk to write an email to the governors with these points. **Action: Clerk**

7) Planning Applications

a) Planning decisions taken since last meeting

Home Farm, Sulhamstead 16/01117/FUL

Construction of additional silage clamp and creation of associated hardstanding. The application was approved.

b) Benhams Farm 16/00996/OUTD

Outline application for erection of 43 x self- build/ custom built houses with associated garages and parking – matters to be considered – access. The application had been refused but an appeal had been lodged by the developer. **APP/W0340/W/16/3152933**. It was agreed to raise that this is not really a self-build application. Mrs Baxter agreed to write a letter to the planning authority to get a definition of what constitutes ‘self-build’.

Action: Mrs Baxter

c) Burghfield Park, Theale 16/01240/OUTMAJ

Outline planning application for a residential development of up to 225 homes with associated infrastructure works, drainage works, new buildings to house sailing facilities with associated access and parking, works to the bridge over the Kennet and Avon Canal, means of access, footways, amenity green space, landscaping and other related works. All matters reserved except access. Additional drawings had been submitted. It was agreed that no further comments would be made in addition to those already submitted.

d) Lakeside, Theale

No update

e) 16, Banister Rd., Burghfield Common 16/01722/FUL

Change of use of land and enclosure by the erection of a new fence in the east side of the property. The application was discussed and no objections were raised.

f) Theale Lakes Business Park 16/01517/FULD

Mixed use development for the construction of 9 Lakeside dwellings. The application was discussed and concerns were expressed about potential flooding and how flooding mitigation would be affected by the Burghfield Park development. It was agreed to include these remarks but not to raise any objections.

g) Jackaways Cottage, White House Green, Koi Carp Farm Appeal

APP/W0340/W/16/3146768. The outcome of the appeal is awaited. The clerk was asked to contact the appeals inspector to enquire about the date of the site visit. **Action: Clerk**

h) Solar Farm Appeal 16/00042/WR

Mrs Baxter raised the issue that there were a number of oak trees which remain unprotected by a tree preservation order (TPO). During the planning process a neighbour had been told that it was not possible to raise a TPO whilst the planning was undecided. However when the planning permission had been refused she was told that the trees were no longer at risk. This seemed to be a catch 22 situation. Councillor Chopping suggested that the council should just raise a TPO and Mrs Baxter agreed to contact the Tree Preservation Officer. **Action: Mrs Baxter**

The Green Cat appeal was discussed and the councillors agreed that a response should be drafted. Mrs Baxter agreed to undertake this. **Action: Mrs Baxter**

8) Finance:

a) Account Balances at 30 June:

Current: £ 10,129.85

Deposit : £ 34,670.39

£ 44,800.24

An up-to-date Bank Reconciliation had been sent to the Councillors prior to the meeting.

b) Budget Forecast

Income and Expenditure to year end (2015-2016) was sent to the Councillors prior to the meeting and were approved at the meeting.

c) Audit

The Internal Auditor's report had been received. The clerk reported there were no significant issues which warranted formal comment or recommendations.

d) Long Term Investments

£10,000 had been invested in the Marlborough Multicap income via Hargreaves Landsdown.

Mr Lindley had been unable to find an institution to accept the council's money for investment. Lloyds bank are paying 0.8% on a 2 year bond so it was reluctantly agreed to re-invest £30,000 here as no better option was available. **Action: Clerk**

9) Review of Post/ Any Other Business

a) Minerals and Waste Consultation

3 sites have been identified in the parishes of Ufton Nervet and Sulhamstead for the extraction of sand and gravel. These are Cowpond Piece, Firlands and Tidney Bed. The consultation runs until 5 August. It was agreed to hold a joint meeting of both councils to discuss this and generate a response. **Action: Clerk**

Next Parish Council Meeting

To confirm that the next Parish Council Meeting on 22 Sep 2016 at 7.00pm, to be held in the SUN Village Hall.

Mrs Fiona Jones (Clerk)

Distribution

All Councillors

Clerk – Sulhamstead Parish Council

Mr Keith Chopping

Notice Boards

Website