

Minutes
of Sulhamstead Parish Council Meeting
held at Sulhamstead Village Hall on Thursday 22 September 2016 at 7.00pm

Present: Mrs Margaret Baxter (Chairman), Mrs Rosemary Sanders-Rose, Mr Ivan Wise, Mr Richard Smith, Mr Roger Ashfield 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

Mr Chris Souden, Ms Teresa Sosna

2) Declarations of Interest by Councillors

None

3) Open Forum

Mr Simon Lindley from West Berkshire Community Broadband gave an update about the project. It was anticipated that the fibre cabling would be connected to the main equipment on 7th and 8th November 2016. The delay was due to a requirement to get permission for the associated road works. All other equipment had been installed and had been successfully tested. Once the fibre cabling was connected the system would be operational.

The joint Chair of the governors from SUN school, Mrs Melanie Woodcock, addressed the Council. She explained that the school was seeking financial assistance in order to cover the cost of the installation of a new boiler and essential fire doors at the school. Whilst the Diocese had covered 90% of the costs, the school was obliged to pay back 10% which was in the region of £9800. She enquired if the Parish Council would be able to make a donation to the school to help to meet these costs. It was agreed to discuss the request under Item 8 of the agenda.

The Chairman asked if the school could give the council a comprehensive report on the activities and events at the school at the Annual Parish Assembly held each May. The report at the 2016 meeting had been quite brief.

4) Approval of Minutes of 21 July 2016

The Minutes were approved and signed.

5) Matters arising from Minutes of 21 July 2016

There were none.

6) Local Interest

a) High Speed Broadband

See the update from West Berkshire Community Broadband under Open Forum. Gigaclear had also held a public meeting in the Village Hall. At that meeting they had undertaken to ensure that the fibre connection to properties would be installed by the end of March 2017. Mrs Baxter queried how the public meeting had been advertised as a number of residents had not been aware it was taking place.

b) Public Open Space

Mr Wise reported that there had been a major sewerage leak in the public open space caused by a blockage near Oakley Drive. He had notified Thames Water who had responded quickly but had had difficulty with the lack of access. It was agreed to report the leakage to the environmental health department at WBC. **Action: Clerk**

c) Website

The stats for July and August were:

1,226 unique visitors 3,156 page impressions

793 unique visitors 2,353 page impressions

d) Local Roads, signs and weight limits

Mr Smith and Mr Ashfield had attended SID training on 26th July. It was agreed to make a request to deploy the SID machine on Sulhamstead Hill. **Action: Mr Smith and Mr Ashfield**
However, Mr Smith stated that WBC usually only reacted once a number of complaints had been received. Councillor Chopping agreed to make enquiries about the availability of the SID machine. **Action: Councillor Chopping**

Mrs Baxter had not yet been able to obtain an update from the PCSO regarding speed checks on Sulhamstead Hill as there had not been another PCSO meeting, but she undertook to do so at the next meeting. She would also ask the PCSO to undertake checks to ensure overweight vehicles were not using the canal bridges **Action: Mrs Baxter**

Mr Smith reported that some of the overgrown hedges had been cut after WBC had written to the householders. However some still had not and Mr Smith agreed to chase the council about these properties. **Action: Mr Smith**

e) Willink Leisure Centre

Awaiting the outcome of the contract review by the solicitor. Mrs Baxter agreed to chase. **Action: Mrs Baxter**

f) PCSO Contract and Reinstatement of Meeting

The contract had been signed and Mrs Baxter will attend the next meeting with the PCSO. **Action: Mrs Baxter**

g) Budget Cuts

There had been no outcome as yet following the consultation about the libraries. The councillors agreed that they would like to work with Burghfield Parish Council to find a solution if the library was closed.

Councillor Chopping outlined the serious financial cuts which will be necessary to be made by WBC as the central government grant is withdrawn over the coming years.

h) Minerals and Waste Sites

The comments agreed at the joint meeting with Ufton Nerve Parish Council had been added to the consultation document and an outcome was awaited.

i) Three Firs Way – Issues raised by residents

2 residents had complained that two street lights were not working on the Three Firs Way estate. The clerk had reported the fault to SSE contracting but the repair had not yet been completed. The light is old and replacement parts were having to be sourced. The clerk will monitor until the fault is resolved. **Action: Clerk**

One of the residents had also reported that an alleyway near Normoor Rd was regularly fouled by dogs and had requested that a dog waste bin be erected. It was resolved to purchase a bin which would be sited near the main road for ease of emptying. **Action: Clerk**
Councillor Chopping agreed to investigate who was responsible for emptying the bin and how this would be facilitated. **Action: Councillor Chopping**

j) NHS health checks 5 Nov – Publicity

A date of 5 November had been agreed and the hall booked. It was agreed to publish on the website, in the parish magazines, on notice boards and in the newsletter. **Action Clerk**

k) Newsletter

Mr Wise had drafted a newsletter on behalf of the council. He undertook to liaise with Ms Sosna and Mrs Baxter regarding the final content, and it was agreed to wait until a number of planning decisions had been made before publication. **Action: Mr Wise**

7) Planning Applications

a) Planning decisions taken since last meeting

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 approved.

**Jackaways Cottage, White House Green, Koi Carp Farm Appeal
APP/W0340/W/16/3146768.**

The appeal had been allowed by the Planning Inspector.

b) Benhams Farm APP/W0340/W/16/3152933.

Outline application for erection of 43 x self- build/ custom built houses with associated garages and parking – matters to be considered – access. Mr Smith had made enquiries regarding the definition of ‘self build’ and had circulated a government document for information. From that document it had become clear that the properties at Benhams Farm were more likely to be defined as ‘custom build’. It was agreed to raise this at the forthcoming appeal hearing. It was also agreed that the sewerage problems on the site should also be raised. See minute 6(b) above. **Action: Mrs Baxter**

c) Burghfield Park, Theale 16/01240/OUTMAJ

No update

d) Lakeside, Theale

No update

e) Theale Lakes Business Park 16/01517/FULD

Mixed use development for the construction of 9 Lakeside dwellings. The previous application had been withdrawn and a new one submitted 16/02515/FULD. 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. **Action: Clerk**

f) Solar Farm Appeal 16/00042/WR

A tree preservation order (TPO) had been applied for and granted on the proposed site. The TPO had been sent to the Planning Inspector and the Planning Officer at WBC. Mrs Baxter had also sent a response to the Green Cat appeal document.

g) Adjacent Parish Planning Applications

Councillors were not satisfied with the response from the Planning Department regarding their inconsistent approach regarding the notification of applications from adjacent parishes. Councillor Chopping agreed to seek further clarification. **Action: Councillor Chopping**

8) Finance:

a) Account Balances at 31 August:	Current:	£ 8,373.18
	Deposit:	<u>£34,673.37</u>
	Investment:	£10,000.00
		£ 50,046.55

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

b) Budget Forecast

Income and Expenditure year to date were sent to the Councillors prior to the meeting and were approved at the meeting.

c) Audit

The Internal Auditor's report was formally adopted by the council.

d) Long Term Investments

£30,000 had been invested in Lloyds Bank for 1 year at 1% interest.

9) Review of Post/ Any Other Business

a) Funding request by SUN School

Whilst the Councillors sympathised with the school's difficult financial position, they were unsure whether such a donation was within the Council's legal powers. It was agreed that the Clerk would enquire about the legal position and report back to the Council. Clerk to investigate and confirm. **Action: Clerk**

Councillors suggested the governors contact the Ufton Nerve Fuel Allotment Charity with a request as a matter of urgency as there was a meeting to be held in early October.

b) Complaint received about 24 Abbots Rd, Burghfield

A member of the public had contacted the clerk about a pile of rubbish which had accumulated on common land to the side of 24 Abbots Rd. It was agreed to contact WBC via the website to report the rubbish. **Action: Clerk**

Next Parish Council Meeting

To confirm that the next Parish Council Meeting on 24 November 2016 at 7.00pm, to be held in the Parish Rooms, St Mary's, Sulhamstead Abbots.

Mrs Fiona Jones (Clerk)

Distribution

All Councillors

Mr Keith Chopping

Website

Clerk – Sulhamstead Parish Council

Notice Boards