

**Minutes  
of Sulhamstead Parish Council Meeting  
held at St Mary's Parish Rooms on Thursday 24 November 2016 at 7.00pm**

**Present:** Mr Chris Souden (Vice Chairman), Mr Ivan Wise, Mr Richard Smith, Mr Roger Ashfield, 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**

Mrs Margaret Baxter, Mrs Rosemary Sanders-Rose.

**2) Declarations of Interest by Councillors**

None

**3) Open Forum**

Mr Philip Church from Burghfield and Mortimer Handy Bus presented to the council. They notified the council that funding from WBC will cease from the new financial year. They have set up as a charity and will need to take on the costs associated with running the bus, as well as purchasing a new bus in two year's time. About 20% of users come from Sulhamstead and Ufton Nervet. Whilst the charity is not yet clear about the figures, it is likely to have a shortfall in the region of £5000. The situation was discussed by the council and it was agreed to debate it in January when more information will be available. Clerk to add to agenda.

**Action: Clerk**

**4) Approval of Minutes of 22 September 2016**

The Minutes were approved and signed.

**5) Matters arising from Minutes of 22 September 2016**

Mrs Baxter had not yet been able to obtain an update from the PCSO regarding speed checks on Sulhamstead Hill or to ask the PCSO to undertake checks to ensure overweight vehicles were not using the canal bridges as the PCSO had resigned his post and a replacement had not been found.

Mr Smith reported that he was satisfied that the hedges that had been overgrown had been cut.

The clerk had investigated if it was within the Council's powers to support the school with its unexpected financial difficulties, but unfortunately this was not the case.

Rubbish at 24 Abbots Rd. had been cleared by the house owner.

## 6) Local Interest

### a) High Speed Broadband

Openreach were unable to complete the work scheduled for 7<sup>th</sup> November because their contractor failed to provide traffic lights. The revised date is mid-December. West Berkshire Community Broadband is in discussions with Virgin as a back up to provide fibre from the A4. WBCB had been building out the infrastructure for the village (transmitters/receivers on roofs) so that they can start connecting people once the fibre is in place.

### b) Public Open Space

The problem with the sewerage is ongoing and Thames Water had been in attendance. Mr Wise is monitoring the situation.

### c) Website

The stats for September and October were:

1,000 unique visitors	2,824 page impressions
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1129 unique visitors	2,530 page impressions
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### d) Local Roads, signs and weight limits

Mr Smith had deployed the SID machine on Sulhamstead Hill on several occasions in different locations. This did not show that there was major issue. The 85<sup>th</sup> percentile was 31 mph, which would not lead to further action. It was agreed that the speed watch signs should be taken down. **Action: Mr Smith**

Mr Smith had been speaking to WBC about how to tackle the issues with overweight vehicles using the canal bridges. Trading standards are the department responsible. Mr Smith will be following up. **Action: Mr Smith**

### e) Household Waste and Recycling

Planning applications had been submitted for Padworth Recycling Centre to accept non-recyclable waste and also to extend the opening hours of the site.

### f) Willink Leisure Centre

Awaiting the outcome of the contract review by the solicitor. Mrs Baxter will provide a report at the next meeting. **Action: Mrs Baxter**

### g) Budget Consultation

The consultation for the proposed budget for 2017/18 is underway.

### h) Libraries Consultation

The libraries consultation is underway. WBC are asking for a contribution of £150,000 but have not said how this will be divided up.

### 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. One was repaired and the other one was the responsibility of Sovereign Housing.

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. A bin had been purchased and it was agreed the council would pay £50 to have it erect. **Action: Clerk**

**j) NHS health checks 5 Nov**

The health checks were a success with 16 people attending. There had been some no-shows. The clerk had asked the team at WBC if in future they could email / text a reminder to prevent this happening in future. It was agreed to run this initiative bi-annually. **Action: Clerk**

**k) Newsletter**

It was agreed to wait until a number of planning decisions had been made before publication. **Action: Mr Wise**

**l) PCSO**

The contract had been signed by Sulhamstead and Mortimer Parish Councils, but not by Burghfield. As the PCSO had resigned no payment will be requested by TVP until the post has been filled. Burghfield Parish Council had advised that they will be discussing not renewing the PCSO contract from April as they don't feel they are receiving value for money.

**7) Planning Applications**

**a) 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. The appeal had been heard and Mr Wise had attended. No decision had been taken as yet.

**b) Burghfield Park, Theale 16/01240/OUTMAJ**

No update

**c) Lakeside, Theale**

No update

**d) Theale Lakes Business Park 16/01517/FULD**

No update

**e) Solar Farm Appeal 16/00042/WR**

The Planning Inspector had visited the site. No decision had been taken as yet.

**8) Finance:**

<b>a) Account Balances at 31 October:</b>	Current:	£ 13,976.94
	Deposit:	£4,675.29
	Investment:	£10,000.00
	Bond:	<u>£30,000.00</u>
		£48,652.23

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) Long Term Investments**

The council had been receiving income from the Hargreaves Landsdown Investment. The clerk to enquire if this can be re-invested into the fund instead. **Action: Clerk**

**d) CIL Payment**

The council had received £1,138.52 of Community Infrastructure Levy. It was agreed that the council might like to support the Handybus and the school. Clarification to be sought from WBC as to where the money can be spent. **Action: Clerk**

**9) Review of Post/ Any Other Business**

**a) Neighbourhood Development Plan**

3 councillors had attended a meeting with Burghfield Parish Council and had discussed what was involved in working together on a NDP. It was felt that the expense involved and the fact that not the whole of Sulhamstead Parish would be included, precluded taking part. Mrs Baxter to write a letter to Burghfield to that effect. **Action: Mrs Baxter**

**b) Clerks' Meeting**

The Clerk reported that a bi-monthly meeting of Parish Clerks will be taking place from the New Year to discuss issues faced and share knowledge.

**c) Parish Conference**

The Clerk had attended the Parish Conference and reported that the revenue support grant from central government will be completely phased out by 2018/19. The deficit cannot be met by just raising council tax. 32% of expenditure by WBC is for Adult Social Care.

Superfast Berkshire (Broadband) was reported to be completed by the end of October 2017.

WBC are undertaking a boundary review which will lead to a reduction in the number of councillors. This will happen at the next general election.

**Next Parish Council Meeting**

To confirm that the next Parish Council Meeting on 19 January, 2017 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