

**Minutes**  
**of Sulhamstead Parish Council Meeting**  
**held at St Mary's Parish Rooms on Thursday 16 March 2017 at 7.00pm**

**Present:** Mrs Margaret Baxter, Mrs Rosemary Sanders-Rose, Mr Ivan Wise, Mr Richard Smith, 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**

Mr Roger Ashfield

**2) Declarations of Interest by Councillors**

There were none.

**3) Open Forum**

Mr Joe Atkinson, Charlesgate Homes, commented that there had been a complaint about the movement of soil on the Benhams Farm site, and this had resulted in a visit from the West Berkshire Council (WBC) Planning Enforcement Officer. The site is currently the subject of a planning appeal. It was the Planning Enforcement Officer's opinion that there had been a breach of planning regulations as the application had not yet been approved. Mr Atkinson stated that it was his belief that the Parish Council had reported this to the Planning Enforcement Officer. Mrs Baxter stated emphatically that no member of the Parish Council had been involved in the matter, indeed this was the first that the Parish Council knew of the events. Mr Wise stated that he did know who had made the report and that it was nobody associated with the Parish Council. Mr Atkinson apologised for his mistake.

**4) Approval of Minutes of 19 January 2017**

The Minutes were approved and signed.

**5) Matters arising from Minutes of 19 January 2017**

**Sewerage in the Public Open Space (POS)**

Mr Wise reported that another incident had occurred in the middle of March and Thames Water's contractor had been called out. The sewerage pipes were considered too small for the amount of sewerage and the problem was ongoing.

**Damage to fencing in POS**

Although Mrs Baxter had written to the landowner, no repairs had been undertaken and horses had escaped into the POS. Mrs Baxter agreed to write again to the land owner. **Action Mrs Baxter**

**Salt Bin**

The clerk reported that the salt bin at Three Firs Way had been requested to be filled.

## Hedges

The hedges in Shortheath Lane had been inspected by WBC, but not deemed to require cutting. Hedges near Moat House Cottage – Mrs Baxter had written to the land owner. Tree near Jackaways Cottage -Mrs Baxter had written to the landowner.

## 6) Local Interest

### a) High Speed Broadband

Mr Tanner and Mr Lindley showed the council some of the 'hardware' associated with the high speed broadband installation, they explained that Openreach had still not connected the fibre. The Englefield Estate had agreed to put a transmitter on the flagpole at the top of the house which would enable West Berkshire Community Broadband to transmit across the valley to any homes which were in line of sight of Englefield House.

### b) Public Open Space

Mr Wise reported that some work that had been identified by the inspection of the playground last year needed to be carried out before this year's inspection in April. It was agreed that the work should be undertaken and that Mr Wise would contact Bob Hirst to obtain an estimate to carry out the work. **Action: Mr Wise**

### c) Website

The stats for January and February were:

914 unique visitors	2,300 page impressions
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813 unique visitors	2,519 page impressions
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### d) Local Roads, signs and weight limits

Mrs Sanders-Rose commented that the local roads around Home Farm were covered in mud as a result of the farm muck spreading in the area. There was concern that the excessive amount of mud on the road was a hazard to cars and cyclists. Mrs Baxter agreed to speak to the farm manager and request that the roads be cleaned as a matter of urgency.

It was noted that there would be roadworks on Sulhamsted Hill as a result of repairs to the water mains. The roadworks would be in place for some time and diversions would be put in place.

### e) Household Waste and Recycling

Councillor Chopping reported that the legal matters around the application for taking general waste at Padworth required further research to be undertaken and that the application was unlikely to go to the Eastern Area Planning Committee until later in the year.

### f) Willink Leisure Centre

Ms Sosna had reviewed the legal agreement with a solicitor and it was agreed that Mrs Baxter and Ms Sosna would have a conference call with the solicitor to determine the next course of action. **Action: Ms Sosna and Mrs Baxter**

### g) Newsletter

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

### h) Boundary Review

Councillor Chopping explained that in the consultation for the Boundary Review it was proposed that his ward would move into different areas and the ward would cease to exist. Sulhamstead would move under the Burghfield ward. Ufton Nerve would move from Stratfield Mortimer to Aldermaston. This was due to be debated by the full council on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> March.

**7) Planning Applications**

**a) Approved Applications**

**16/03307/TELE56 – Antenna at Sulhamstead Abbots** was approved.

**b) 17/00385/HOUSE – 6 Bannister Road, Burghfield Common.**

First floor side extension. The application was discussed and no objections were raised,

**c) Benhams Farm APP/W0340/W/16/3152933.**

No decision had been taken as yet.

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

No update

**e) Lakeside, Theale**

Mr Chopping reported that the appeal had been allowed.

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

No update

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

No decision had been taken as yet. The clerk reported that she had received the final approval for the Tree Preservation Order on the oak trees at the site.

**8) Finance:**

<b>a) Account Balances at 28 February, 2017:</b>	Current:	£11,893.74
	Deposit:	£4,676.07
	Investment:	£10,000.00
	Bond:	<u>£30,000.00</u>
		£46,569.81

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.

**2017/18 Budget and Precept**

A precept request for £17,000 was submitted to West Berks, remaining flat against the current year.

**c) Donations**

There was £315 remaining in the budget for donations and it was agreed to donate £200 to Ufton Nerve Scouts and £115 to Tadley Citizens Advice Bureau. **Action: Clerk**

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

**a) SUN Village Clean Up**

Following on from the success of the 'Clean for the Queen' initiative last year, Mr Tony Holden announced that he will be running a 1 day clean-up operation from the Fox and Hounds in Theale on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May from 10 – 3. He asked for the Council's endorsement and that was wholeheartedly approved.

**b) Public Footpath Signs off Hollybush Lane**

Ms Sosna reported that the footpath signs located near the garages opposite Bramble Close had been removed. She agreed to email the Clerk the information so that the Clerk could raise an incident with WBC. **Action: Ms Sosna and Clerk**

**Next Parish Council Meeting**

To confirm that the next Parish Council Meeting and Annual General Meeting will be on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> May, 2017 at 7.00pm, to be held in the Sulhamstead and Ufton Nervet Village Hall.

**Mrs Fiona Jones (Clerk)**

**Distribution**

All Councillors

Clerk – Sulhamstead Parish Council

Mr Keith Chopping

Notice Boards

Website