

**Minutes
of Sulhamstead Parish Council Meeting
held at Sulhamstead Parish Rooms on Thursday 18th July 2013 at 7.30pm**

Declarations of Interest: members are reminded that declarations of interest should be made where appropriate.

Present: Mr Bill. Jones (Chairman). Parish Councillors: Mr. Chris Souden, Mr Ivan Wise, Mr. Gary Newell, Mr. Richard Smith, Mr. Roger Ashfield, Mrs Margaret Baxter. District Councillor Keith Chopping

In attendance: Mrs Elisabeth Shaw-Brookman (Clerk)

1. Apologies

Apologies received from Mrs. Rosemary Sanders Rose, Ms Teresa Sosna

2. Open Forum

A member of the public raised an issue regarding a car parking space and was referred to Sovereign Housing.

West Berkshire Council held a briefing on 29th January concerning potential housing sites and invited interested landowners to submit plans by July 2013. SHLAA (Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment) will then be updated.

The resolution of the ongoing problem with the sewage treatment plant on Sulhamstead Hill has been put back to 2016 by WBC. Urgent action to bring this forward was requested.

An update on the new Fire Station and the reorganization within the local fire service was given by Mr David Smith. He will keep the Council informed as matters progress.

3. Approval of Minutes of 16th May 2013

Minutes from the meeting from 16th May were approved and signed.

4. Matters Arising from Minutes of 16th May 2013

Any matters arising would be covered as part of the agenda

5. Local Interest

- a) Tyle Mill – to discuss the closure, effect on residents as well as progress of the cladding on the railway bridge – Mr Chris Souden is continuing to follow up contact with Network Rail
- b) Bridges & Weight limits: Mr Richard Smith has not received an answer to his queries, he will continue to push for a resolution.
- c) Website & Parish Communication – Mr Wise’s contact was unable to attend the meeting due to illness. Four members of the council will meet him as soon as possible to move the issue forward. They will report back at the Council meeting on 19th September.
- d) Road Markings – this has been put back until the potholes have been repaired and the road issues have been resolved. Mr Richard Smith will keep the Council informed.
- e) Land at Jordans Lane- Mr Graham Tandy from WBC is following up the planning issue and will report back to Mr Souden.

- f) Road issues around the parish – Members of the Council expressed great concern at the state of some of the roads in the area. In particular Jacques Lane both from Abbots Road to the crossroads with Folly Lane and Jacques Lane onwards, towards and past the Police Training College. The second part has been partially repaired but due to the problem of flooding now needs to be completely resurfaced. Mr Jones and the Clerk will contact Mr Mark Edwards at WBC as a matter of urgency.

With regards to mud and gravel on the road, in particular Folly Lane and Jacques Lane, the Clerk will write to the Land Owner requesting removal and cleaning to obviate the road narrowing and skid risk.

Mr Keith Chopping offered to invite members of WBC to the next meeting to give an explanation of the Council's procedures for road maintenance. Sulhamstead Council members will liaise to put together questions and the Council's standpoint to be put forward.

The most urgent road issue is that of Ufton Lane.

The road was badly damaged during the traffic diversion due to the last canal bridge repair. Requests to WBC to have the road repaired have not been resolved. Due to the closure of the canal bridge from 29th July - 23rd August and the subsequent diversion of traffic down Ufton Lane, an immediate request will be made to WBC asking for signs and one way traffic lights to be installed during the bridge closure. The condition of the road is now so dangerous that Councillors are extremely concerned that with the extra traffic there may be serious accidents. Mr Souden and the Clerk will contact Mr Mark Edwards as soon as possible.

6) Planning Applications
Planning applications received since last meeting 16th May 2013

- Part single storey, part two storey side and rear extension.

7 Brocas Road Burghfield Common Reading Berkshire RG7 3QL

Ref. No: 13/01636/XHOUSE | Received: Tue 02 Jul 2013 | Validated: Tue 02 Jul 2013 | Status: Pending Consideration

Members of the Council will undertake a site visit on 24th July to inspect the plans in situ and report their decision to WBC Planning Department.

- Single storey rear extension.

3 Brewery Cottages Bottom Lane Sulhamstead Reading Berkshire RG7 4BL

Ref. No: 13/01233/HOUSE | Received: Thu 23 May 2013 | Validated: Thu 06 Jun 2013 | Status: Pending Consideration

7) Finance

- a) Account Balances
Current £11338.94
Savings £14,640.92
Investment Bond £30,000 maturing 1/10/15
- b) Proforma invoices requiring signature

Bob Hirst Garden Services	£300.00
Auditing Solutions Ltd	£132.00
SSE Contracting	£25.00
General Technics	£100.00
Thames Valley Police	£275.25
Karen Eagle	£50.00
Karen Eagle	£50.00
Mary Marsland	£404.99
Elisabeth Shaw-Brookman	£108.66
Mary Marsland	£115.17
Total	£1561.07

- c) Online Banking update: Members of the Council have tried to access the online banking at Lloyds Bank with no success. Prior to the Finance Meeting on 12th September councillors will continue to try and use the online facility and at the meeting decide whether to cancel it and follow up on other ideas.
- d) To consider requests for donations under Section 137 of the local Government Act 1972 as amended – 2013-2014 budget for donations set as £1250. Decision is required as to who should receive donations. The Clerk to circulate details of requests received and these will be discussed at the next Council meeting in September.
- e) A query from the Auditors concerning the Cash Reserves will be dealt with by Mr Jones.

10) Review of Post

- a) CCB Membership - a decision will be taken at a meeting later in the year to possibly join in 2014 - 2015.
- b) Annual Standards Committee Report – any councillors who would like a copy should contact the Clerk.
- c) A letter received from Mr Stan Smith requesting a reply regarding the points raised in his letter of March 2013 will be acknowledged.

11) Any other Business:

Mr Wise will draw up a draft Newsletter for discussion at the meeting on 19th September. This would be distributed to the public in October.

12) Next Parish Council Meeting

The next meeting of Sulhamstead Parish Council will be held on 19th September 2013 at the Sulhamstead Village Hall at 7.30pm.

There will also be a Finance Committee Meeting on Thursday 12th September at 6:00pm in the Parish Rooms at St Mary's Church.