

BASILDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Basildon Parish Council held on the 13th May at the Village Hall in Upper Basildon.

Present: Mr Parsons (Chair), Mrs Greasley, Mr Gidden, Mrs Mealar, Ms Coyle, Mrs Kilgour, Mr Couchman, Ms Cox, Mr Chadwyck-Healey, District Councillor Coyle, Mr Greasley (Clerk),

Apologies: None

Members of the public in attendance: Mr Raggett, Mr Williams, Mr Claxton, Mr & Mrs Fountain, Mr Kilgour, Mr Schiff

1.OPEN FORUM

Mr Raggett updated the meeting on an approved application for a new garage at his property (Alda). Early digging work has discovered that the proposed location runs over a sewer and as a result a new application will be required to cover the movement of the garage by around 5 metres. It was confirmed that the Parish Council had no objections to the first application and would consider this when reviewing this revision.

2.DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Couchman declared an interest in planning application covering land east of Hippo Pools.

3.MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on the 8th April having been circulated to members in advance of the meeting were signed by the Chairman.

4.PLANNING

The following planning applications were reviewed:

26/00654 Lower Basildon View – Change of land use, Agricultural to Equestrian.

The Parish Council reviewed and objected based on the lack of response to queries from Highways and Archaeology. Should these be addressed then this objection would be removed.

26/00797 Froomes, The Triangle – Car Charging Point

The Parish Council had no objections subject to the views of neighbours.

26/00711/OUT Land East of Hippo Pools, Outline planning for two new houses.

The Parish Council objected on the following grounds:

The proposal appears to be over development of the site and likely to intrude on the privacy of the occupants of Hippo Pools due to both the close proximity of new dwellings and the additional traffic at site. Councillors felt that the planning application did not adequately cover off proposed elevations and from preliminary drawings the consensus was that this would be over bearing on both the neighbours and on the general appearance of that area of Upper Basildon – including views from a near by footpath (number 9). Other concerns included bio diversity and the removal of a further green space from the local area.

Confirmed Decisions

26/00432 Graystead, Extension was confirmed as withdrawn

26/00227 Froomes, The Triangle – New windows, WBC Approved, PC No Objection

5.GENERAL ITEMS

An update on the Village Green was provided by Councillor Kilgour. The steering group, consisting of three Parish Councillors and two members of the gardening club will be meeting for the first time in the coming days.

Initially this steering group will be limited to those 5 members with an option to expand later as the project progresses. Material has been prepared for the Country Neighbour as part of what's expected to be an extensive consultation and the Chairman has arranged for a dedicated email address for the group to use.

6. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR UPDATES

The District Councillor continues to work on local issues and offered the following updates:

1. Assisting residents with navigating the planning system – call ins requested for

- Greenways – refused by WBC and decision upheld on appeal
- Application at West Berkshire Shooting School

2. Members Bid

- Process whereby a ward member can apply for funding to support community projects- this is capital funding not revenue, is match funded by parish councils/other community organisations

- Last year I put in three bids:

o New bench in Aldworth Rec in partnership with Aldworth Parish Council

o New notice board for Ashampstead in partnership with Ashampstead Parish Council

o New Vehicle Activated Devices for Streatley in partnership with Streatley Parish Council

- Very keen to do something in Basildon – have been discussing with the Parish Council putting in a bid for funding to help with the Village Green project.

3. Road safety improvements

- Some improvements to signage on Pangbourne Road introduced

- Council has announced is changing tack on 20mph zones, was a plan to roll these out across villages in the district but now the idea is that Parish Councils come forward with proposals themselves for any road safety changes they want – more tailored approach, need to show support from community for whatever is proposed

- Continuing to work on solutions for improved safety at Hook End Lane/Aldworth Road

4. Continuing to look into new footway on A329 at Lower Basildon

5. The Grotto- have continued to liaise with officers in hope of getting some action but this is logjammed because of an ownership dispute in respect of the property.

Council wide issues - overview

1. Introduction of three weekly black bin collections – this has led to an increase in recycling rates

2. Ridgway proposals update – decision on whether to proceed with the proposed new unitary to be announced by central government in July

3. Parish Service Offers – pop up library in Basildon continues to thrive, Aldworth has now introduced one too, first Sat of the month at their Saturday Market

7.FOOTPATHS, HIGHWAYS AND OPEN SPACES

The Clerk reported that there were no issues to report with footpaths or open spaces although footpath 17 is getting ready for a cut back which Councillor Cox will facilitate. Additionally, a case has been opened with West Berkshire Council to clear a significant amount of fly tipping on the Aldworth Road which has appeared over the weekend of the 9th May.

8.FINANCE – UPDATES

The following cheques were presented to the meeting:

Cheque	Payee	Purpose	Nett	VAT	Total
103764	R Greasley	Salary	443.13	0.00	443.13
103765	Mulberry Local Authority Services Ltd	Internal Audit	427.50	0.00	427.50
103766	Scofell	Grass Cutting	533.34	106.67	640.01
103767	West Berkshire Council	Library Support – Pop Up and Children’s Community Library	3481.00	0.00	3481.00
103768	Playsafety Ltd	Playground Inspection	118.80	0.00	118.80
103769	Michael Cairns	Tree Work – Wakemans Park	540.00	0.00	540.00

The Council accepted cheque numbers 103764 to 103765 and the clerk confirmed the direct debit to HMRC and SSE.

Councillor Greasley informed the meeting that the VAT reclaim and refund from SSE (totalling almost 3K) has been received.

The Clerk confirmed that the Internal Audit was completed with feedback received and shared. As part of the feedback the Clerk has re-written a section of the financial regulations document and this was issued to Councillors in advance of the meeting for review. The Clerk asked for the meeting to accept the document and this was unanimously voted for. Additionally, the AGAR was presented to the meeting, accepted by it and signed by the Chairman. The Clerk will now submit the forms and add to noticeboards as required.

The Clerk confirmed that insurance quotes have been requested from three sources with currently only one received. Requests will be followed up and the Clerk will make a recommendation to the Council outside of the meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr Williams asked for an update on the Grotto and requested that West Berkshire Council pursue the current owners and look to force a compulsory purchase should remediation work not be forthcoming in an agreed time scale. District Councillor Coyle confirmed that West Berkshire Council are monitoring the situation but a legal issue around ownership remains which restricts options available and is coupled with a general lack of funds to support any compulsory purchase. This will continue to be monitored by the Council.

The meeting concluded at 7:25pm. The next meeting will be on the 10th June at 7:30pm.