

BASILDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Basildon Parish Council held on the 14th February at the Village Hall in Upper Basildon.

Present: Ms Barnes, Mrs Greasley , Mr Chadwyck-Healey, Mr Couchman, Mr Jones, Mr Parsons (Chair) Mr Greasley (clerk)

Apologies: Ms Cox, Ms L Coyle (District Councillor),

The following members of public attended – Ms Batten

OPEN FORUM

Councillor Jones informed the meeting that he will be moving away from the area in April and as a result, this will be his last meeting as a Parish Councillor. The Chairman thanked Councillor Jones for his many years of service and pointed to the progress made across various projects thanks to his involvement. The Chairman concluded by wishing Councillor Jones every happiness in his new home and confirmed that he would write to the Country Neighbour to confirm a Councillor vacancy.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Barnes declared an interest with the Swan Yard planning application.

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on the 10th January having been circulated to members were declared correct and signed by the Chairman.

PLANNING

The Parish Council considered the following new applications:

23/02817 Swan Yard, Lower Basildon – conversion of barn to habitable accommodation

The Parish Council believe that the application covers a building just outside of the settlement boundary and therefore objects to the proposal. However, should it transpire that the building resides inside the settlement boundary then the Parish Council would have no objections.

23/02891 Watergate House – certificate of lawfulness for boundary fence

The Parish Council had no view on the proposal but requests that any new fence is in keeping with that in place on the other side of the footpath.

24/00131 Brae Cottage, Yattendon Road – extensions

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

Confirmed Decisions

23/02729 – 5 Teneplas – extensions – WBC Approved, PC No Objection

23/02207 – Springfield, Yattendon Road – Greenhouse – WBC Approved, PC NO Objection

GENERAL ITEMS

The Chairman confirmed that the Parish Council have received two quotes for this year's grass cutting with a further expected this week. Once received, the quotes will be shared amongst Councillors and a decision reached.

The Clerk informed the meeting that Pangbourne Toilets have requested a grant for 2024. The Chairman proposed a grant of £520 and this was agreed by Councillors.

Councillor Chadwyck – Healey has received a quote for street light repairs in and around the Wakemans area. The cost of circa £5500 will cover replacement lights, brackets and some clear back work of vegetation. Councillors raised questions around parts supply and timers and these will be raised with Volker Highways prior to any agreement.

The Chairman and Clerk will share an action to move forward the proposed bike station at the Red Lion pub.

The Chairman confirmed that he'd attended the district council conference and offered a number of observations:

- Flooding has badly affected areas towards Lambourn with support grants available.
- The district council has introduced a new strategy called 'greener, fairer, more prosperous' and will base its decision making on these principles going forward.
- Budgets were discussed with the special educational needs budget confirmed as one area particularly under threat from cost cutting measures.
- The social care budget has risen by 40%.
- Council tax returns now makes up around 66% of West Berkshire Council's funding with the rest from central Government.
- It was noted that planning breaches had increased whilst planning officer numbers had fallen and Parish Councils are encouraged to report planning breaches where they encounter them.
- The 143 bus service will continue in its current form with Councillor Couchman writing an article to confirm this to the Country Neighbour.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR UPDATES

The District Councillor was unable to make the meeting but provided an update across various items. These are included as an attachment to these minutes.

FOOTPATHS, HIGHWAYS AND OPEN SPACES

No issues were reported.

FINANCE

The following cheques were presented to the meeting:

Cheque No	Payee	Purpose	Nett	VAT	Total
103612	R Greasley	Salary + Stamps	409.87	0.00	409.87
103613	HMRC	Tax on salary	266.80	0.00	266.80
103614	PCC Basildon	Post Office Hire	500.00	0.00	500.00
103615	Volker Highways	Streetlight Inspection	706.74	141.35	848.09
103616	West Berkshire Council	Grounds Maintenance Contribution	103.48	0.00	103.48

103617	West Berkshire Council	Salt bin(s) refill	737.22	0.00	737.22
103618	West Berkshire Council	Wakemans Ground Rent	41.77	0.00	41.77

The Council accepted cheque numbers 103612 – 103618 and the clerk confirmed the direct debit for SSE. The Clerk confirmed that cheque to bank balance checks have been completed without issue.

CORRESPONDENCES

No correspondence has been received this month.

OTHER BUSINESS

The meeting concluded at 8:40pm. The next meeting will be on the 13th March from 7:30pm.