

MINUTES OF MEETING

THURSDAY 7 NOVEMBER 2019

6.15pm - 8.15pm

Civic Offices, Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council, London Road, Basingstoke

1 Opening

The Chairman, Paul Mahoney opened the meeting.

A copy of his opening comments can be accessed [here](#).

2 Record attendance and apologies for absence.

Attendance: 27 representatives from 20 Parish Councils.

Ashmanswoth Parish Council (1), Baughurst Parish Council (1), Bramley Parish Council (1), Cliddesden Parish Council (1), Dummer Parish Council (1), Ellisfield Parish Council (1), Herriad Parish Council (2), Highclere Parish Council (1), Kingsclere Parish Council (2), Mapledurwell & Up Nately Parish Council (2), Mortimer West Parish Council (1), Old Basing & Lychpit Parish Council (2), Overton Parish Council (1), Rooksdown Parish Council (2), St Mary Bourne Parish Council (1), Sherfield on Loddon Parish Council (1); Sherfield Park Parish Council (2), Stratfield Turgis Parish Council (1), Tadley Town Council (1), Upton Grey Parish Council (1), Winslade Parish Council (1), Wootton St Lawrence Parish Council (2)

There were 5 apologies received from 5 Parish Councils.

3 Basingstoke Police – Community Priority Update.

We were joined by Inspector Richard Lane, Neighbourhood Inspector Basingstoke Town & Inspector Hanna Luchesa, Inspector Basingstoke Rural Neighbourhood Teams who talked through their presentation about current priorities across the whole of Basingstoke.

Richard & Hanna's presentation can be accessed by clicking [here](#).

Neighbourhood Policing Team can be accessed by clicking [here](#).

Questions raised:

Q - Doorbells (like Ring) – are they helpful when residents give footage from their cameras?

A - Most of the images don't give an identification of a suspect due to image quality or they are just too far away to be seen clearly. Recent car crime has been opportunistic theft from cars that have been left unlocked, rather than breaking in to a locked car.

Q – What is the online reporting system detail?

A - <https://www.hampshire.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/how-to-report-a-crime/>

Q – How often should we expect Police attendance at Parish Council meetings?

A – *For the town, once every six months would be reasonable. For the rural area, police attend meetings where Council representatives from a number of Parishes come together for a bespoke meeting on a at least a 6 monthly basis.*

Q – the trial of ‘whatsapp’ for several of the rural parishes – how successful is it?

A – *It depends on the working patterns of the officers. It is a good way to communicate with residents – but if there is a crime in action, then 101 or 999 would be more appropriate means of communicating with the Police.*

4 Planning Matters.

We were joined by Matthew Evans, Head of Planning, who talked through their presentation about the **Permission in Principle** – a new way for a land owner or developer to establish sense of acceptability of their scheme through the planning process. Came into force Jan 2018 and there have been 11 since that date.

A copy of Matthew’s presentation on Permission in Principle can be accessed [here](#).

Questions raised:

Q - How does this relate to the 5 Year Land Supply issue? Will it change if there is land supply? Developers could come forward when there wasn’t a land supply, getting a permission in principle, when they come back to build there may be a land supply.

A – the application needs to be determined within the development plan and any key considerations (eg lack of 5 Year Land Supply). Once there is a lack of housing supply, the development plan becomes out of date and the consideration is then given to national guidance. If there is a lack of 5 Year Land Supply then this impacts on the approach that the council needs to take in assessing the applications. If the application isn’t implemented before it expires and they put an application in again and there is a 5 Year Land Supply and the development plan is up to date – it may well result in a different decision to the application.

Q - Does Permission in Principle go out to consultation to Parish Councils?

A - Yes – but be aware of the timescales for review & comment

Matthew then went on to talk through the **Basingstoke 5 Year Land Supply**

A copy of Matthew's presentation on the Basingstoke 5 Year Land Supply can be accessed [here](#).

Questions raised:

Q – SMB Neighbourhood plan has just been adopted after 4 years hard work – is this now out of date?

A – For the purposes of assessing planning applications whilst there is a shortage in the Basingstoke 5 Year Land Supply, essentially it is. It will carry limited weight until Basingstoke has a 5 Year Land Supply.

Q – Has the Borough Council badly let down the rural community because the Borough and the County have for years had ownership of Manydown which has not yet started?

A – Manydown has not progressed as expected and is a major contributory factor to the lack of 5 Year Land Supply in Basingstoke. Also, other strategic sites have not progressed as expected.

Q – will a change in Government in December have an impact on the 5 Year Land Supply issue?

A – All political parties have signed up to delivering 300,000 houses per year – so a change in government shouldn't impact this.

Q – We are seeing the Officer recommendation 'contribution towards the 5 year land supply' at the expense of the living conditions of the community. How is this right?

Cllr Mahoney gave a brief overview of **Electronic Engagement with Parish & Town Councils**.

There was a discussion between attendees about how well it works

A copy of his presentation can be access by clicking [here](#).

5 Finance.

Philip Hood (Head of Financial Services) presented the Council's Budget Proposals for 2020/2021 which were to be subject to sign off by the cabinet on 12 November 2019 and then would be out for consultation until 1 January 2020.

A copy of Philip's presentation can be accessed by clicking [here](#).

There were no specific questions raised.

Jack Grounds (Elections Manager) talked through the proposals to charge for elections for Parish & Town Councils.

A copy of Jack's presentation can be accessed by clicking [here](#).

Q – what sort of costs will be involved for the shared election of Parish with Borough elections and for a by election held mid-term?

A – The cost depends on the circumstance and whether the election is contested or not – as a rough guide it would be any where from 30p per elector to £1.50 per elector. Clearly, for larger parishes & town councils, the cost would be more, due to the fact that there would be significantly more electors, poll cards, more ballot papers, more postal votes, potentially more premises, more staff to man polling stations. Where there is a scheduled election of a Parish once every four years there should never be a situation where a scheduled parish election is not combined with the borough council election (with a split cost).

Q – We really need to know how much it is going to cost for each parish otherwise how do the parishes know how to accurately precept by the end of Jan 2020?

A – Parishes are likely to be invoiced in the financial year following the election, so will be able to precept accurately the following year.

Q – what costs would be included in an uncontested election?

A – as an example if the clerk asks for polling cards to be issued for an election even though there is a chance that it will be uncontested. BDBC send out the cards in good faith which involves a cost. If the election is uncontested, then there will not be costs for accommodation, polling station staff, ballot papers & postal votes. However, there will be costs for BDBC to run nomination periods, production of poll cards ... minimum cost.

Q – What is BDBC proposed procedure to count the votes in the May 2020 election?

A – The Returning Officer will need to prioritise the verification and counting of the Police and Crime Commissioner and borough council ballot papers on the night of Thursday 7 May 2019. With the bank holiday on Friday 8 May 2019, BDBC may need to count the parishes on Monday 11th May. However, BDBC will update Parish Clerks closer to the election with regard to precise timings.

6 Closing remarks:

- HALC AGM – Saturday 9 November
- Visionict – will come back with an update on the email that has been sent by Leigh Nicholas on 7 October 2019 regarding upgrading / updating websites in line with the new accessibility regulations
- The Chairman recorded thanks to those who had attended the meeting and to suggest topics for future meetings.

Proposed next meeting: 2nd April 2020

Civic Offices, Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council, London Road, Basingstoke

Meeting close – 8.30pm

7th November 2019

6.30pm – 8.30pm

Training Room B

Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council, Civic Offices, London Road, Basingstoke RG21 4AH

There is limited visitor parking on the civic campus site.
[Link](#) details public car parks within walking distance.

Agenda

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| 6.00pm | <p>Arrival & light refreshments
 <i>Please report to the Deanes reception on arrival.</i></p> |
| 6.30pm | <p><u>Welcome & Introductions</u>
 <i>Parish & Town Councils will be welcomed to the meeting by Paul Mahoney, Chairman Basingstoke District Association of Parish & Town Councils.</i></p> |
| 6.40pm | <p><u>Basingstoke Police – Community Priority Update</u>
 <i>We're delighted to be joined by Inspector Richard Lane, Neighbourhood Inspector Basingstoke Town & Inspector Hanna Luchesa, Inspector Basingstoke Rural Neighbourhood Teams who will talk about current Priorities across the whole District. There'll be an opportunity to ask questions to both Inspectors.</i></p> |
| 7.15pm | <p><u>Planning Matters</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basingstoke 5 Year Land Supply
 <i>We'll talk about the implications of the failure to have 5 year supply of deliverable homes building sites.</i> • Permission in Principle (PiP)
 <i>We'll talk about this different way of obtaining planning permission for housing developments.</i> • Electronic engagement with Parish & Town Councils
 <i>We'll talk about the recent trial by a number of our District members with the planning department.</i> |
| 7.50pm | <p><u>Finance</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council's Budget Proposals for 2020/21
 <i>Phillip Hood (Head of Financial Services) will present the Council's Budget Proposals for 2020/21 – which are subject to sign-off by the Cabinet on 12 November and then will be out for consultation until 1 January 2020. He will also remind Parishes about the key dates for setting precept for next year.</i> • Budget Strategy concerning the recovery of parish election costs
 <i>Jack Grounds (Elections Manager) will talk through the proposals for Parish & Town Councils will need to budget for the election costs.</i> <p><u>Q&A's</u>
 <i>An opportunity for all to ask any questions.</i></p> |
| 8.25pm | <p><u>Closing Remarks</u>
 <i>Provided by Paul Mahoney, Chairman Basingstoke District Association of Parish & Town Councils.</i></p> |
| 8.30pm | <p><u>Close</u></p> |