

MINUTES OF THEALE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Council Meeting held on Monday 10th December 2018 in the Peter Gooch Room, The Pavilion, Englefield Road, Theale.

Present:

Councillors B Williams (chair) D Baker, A Clark, P Clifford, S Coker, Z Fenwick, I Hopcroft, D Lye, J Richardson, C Rolfe & D Wood

In attendance:

*J Perrin (Interim Clerk to the Council)
Four members of the public*

Apologies received:

Councillor D Lye was to arrive late

Declarations of Interest:

None

The chairman asked if any members of the council or members of the public were intending to record or film the meeting. No intention was declared.

129/18/19 Open Forum for Members of the Public

A member of the public asked what the difference was between the previous planning application and the newly submitted planning application for 22 Blossom Lane, Theale (18/02875/HOUSE). The Interim Clerk reported that the footprint of the newly submitted application was smaller than that of the previously approved submission. Both sets of plans were available to view on the West Berkshire Council website.

A member of the public indicated that she had previously sought assurance and was again seeking to clarify that with regard to the site for the new school, once the legal agreements had been finalised they would be made public. The Chairman responded that the agreements would be made available to view at the Parish Office once the legal process had been completed. The resident also reported that a further planning application for Theale Primary School had been submitted, the Parish Council were as yet unaware of any recent application.

As there were no further members of the public wishing to speak the Chairman closed the public open forum.

Notification of matters to be raised by Members later in the meeting – Cllr Rolfe had one item to raise, Cllr Baker had two items to raise, Cllr Hopcroft had one item to raise and Cllr Williams had two items to raise.

SECTION A**130/18/19 Minutes of the meeting held 12th November 2018**

With one typographical correction it was proposed by Cllr Wood, seconded by Cllr Clifford and

RESOLVED to agree the minutes of 12th November 2018 as a true record of the meeting and that the Chairman should sign them as such.

131/18/19 Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held 12th November 2018

Cllr Williams reported that work was taking place to partition the interior of 10A High Street without any planning application having been lodged. Proposed by Cllr Williams, seconded by Cllr Clark it was

RESOLVED – to make West Berkshire Council aware of the situation and ascertain if a formal planning application was required, not only to agree the form of development but also the working hours.

SECTION B

132/18/19 District Council Report

Cllr Macro had tendered his apologies as he was unable to attend the meeting. The Chairman read a written report which had been provided by Cllr Macro: West Berkshire Council (WBC) had debated a petition (7,000 signatures) to abolish the charge to empty green waste bins – the Council resolved to reject the petition.

The development site between The Green and the A340 was allocated for the provision of approx 100 mostly family homes in the WBC Housing Site Allocations DPD. A public exhibition of the proposals was to be held by the landowners on 12th December 2018.

Christmas trees left out with recycling after Christmas were to be collected by WBC whether or not households have paid the green waste collection charge. WBC have arranged for a metal trip fence to be installed to protect the green area behind Meadow Way from traveller incursions. Metal gates would also be installed to protect the service access points to the green areas off Woodfield Way. WBC had removed the dog waste bin from the green square between Blossom Avenue and The Crescent as it was being misused by a resident. It was to be re-sited near the junction of Crown Lane and Blossom Lane.

133/18/19 Planning Applications

10/02875/HOUSE	Section 73: Variation of condition 3 (18/00872/HOUSE)	22 Blossom Lane Theale	M Li
	No objections		
18/02936/LBC2 & 18/02937/FULEXT (adjacent parish consultation)	Section 73: Variation of condition 2 (16/02330/FULEXT & 16/02331/LBC2)	Beansheaf Farm Bourne Close Calcot	B Glass
	No objections		

134/18/19 Budget & Precept 2019/20

Members were asked to consider forming a working group to investigate the project options and formulate a draft budget proposal for consideration at a meeting of the Council in January. Proposed by Cllr Williams, seconded by Cllr Clifford it was

RESOLVED - that all Members would consider the requirements for the 2019/20 budget which would be an agenda item for consideration and agreement at the ordinary meeting of the Council to be held 14th January 2018.

135/18/19 Poppy Wreath Donation – Royal British Legion

Members considered the level of donation to be provided to the Royal British Legion for the supply of a poppy wreath. Proposed by Cllr Clark, seconded by Cllr Coker it was

RESOLVED – to make a donation of £50.00 to the Royal British Legion.

136/18/19 Memorial Bench – Theale Library

Cllr Mr Wood presented details of a request from Theale Library for the supply of a bench in memory of Mr Roy Townsend. The Library intended to clear an area of shrubbery to accommodate the installation.

Proposed by Cllr Wood, seconded by Cllr Rolfe it was

RESOLVED – to supply a memorial bench and plaque as requested with a budget of £500 being allocated for this purpose.

137/18/19 Youth Shelter Maintenance

Members considered the advice of the manufacturers of the Youth Shelter with regard to replacing a large bolt which had been removed from the structure. The manufacturers had indicated that the structure remained sound without replacing the bolt. Proposed by Cllr Rolfe, seconded by Cllr Fenwick it was

RESOLVED – to take no action at the current time but to closely monitor the situation through the weekly play inspections.

138/18/19 Electrical Fixed Hard Wiring Testing – The Pavilion

The Interim Clerk reported that that the testing of the fixed hard wiring system at the pavilion was overdue.

Proposed by Cllr Hopcroft, seconded by Cllr Fenwick it was

RESOLVED – to accept a quotation for the sum of £930 and to make arrangements for the necessary testing to be carried out as soon as possible.

139/18/19 Request from Resident – Bin Liners

Correspondence had been received from a resident who had been emptying and repairing a litterbin situated at the lower end of Wigmore Lane, Theale (a private road). The resident reported that this service had previously been carried out by West Berkshire Council but had been discontinued sometime ago. The resident requested that Theale Parish Council provide some strong bin liners to assist with the continuation of the voluntary litter clearance work.

Members discussed the request and whilst welcoming the voluntary work of the resident which was commended. However, concern was expressed regarding the health & safety of the resident and also that the Council would be setting a precedent should this provision be agreed. Proposed by Cllr Coker, seconded by Cllr Clifford it was

RESOLVED – to thank the resident for their initiative but to indicate that the Parish Council were looking into the options available. To request that West Berkshire Council reconsider the cessation of this provision and to ascertain if Railtrack would be willing to supply and maintain a bin in this location. The contractor undertaking bin emptying for the Parish Council was also to be asked to indicate the additional cost of adding this bin to the current collection route.

140/18/19 Authorisation of Payments

Proposed by Cllr Williams, seconded by Cllr Rolfe it was

RESOLVED - that items on payment sheet no.537 dated 10th December 2018 and totalling £8,962.73 be approved for payment with the exception of the payment to the SLCC (£283) as Members believed that the membership had been on hold and an amount of time was remaining prior to renewal. Members noted payment sheet 536 and the November 2018 Direct Debit schedule.

SECTION C

141/18/19 Items for Information

The items for information along with a receipts and payments report, balance sheet and bank reconciliation for all accounts were noted.

SECTION D

142/18/19 Chairman's Remarks

Cllr Rolfe asked if the additional litter bins for North Street Playing Fields had been ordered. The Interim Clerk reported that she was aware of the outstanding action and had received confirmation from Englefield Estates that they would have no objection to the additional bins. The bins would be ordered and installed as soon as possible.

The matters to be raised by Cllr Baker had been dealt with during the course of the meeting.

Cllr Hopcroft suggested that a link could be provided on the Parish Councils website to take residents to the Dr Ellertons Charity & Allotment Society pages. Members had no objection to the link being provided and Cllr Hopcroft undertook to provide the necessary information to the Interim Clerk.

Cllr Williams reported that she had received complaints from both Theale Social Club and Theale Village Hall that footballers using the Parish Council facilities were parking in the car park to the front of their buildings. It was noted that parking for North Street Playing Field was available on site. Cllr Coker agreed to

ensure that away teams were aware of the parking provision and the requirement not to use the parking area to the front of the Social Club and Village Hall.

Cllr Lye apologised for arriving late and joined the meeting.

Cllr Clark reported that he would be attending a meeting of the Neighbourhood Action Group the following day and asked Councillors to let him know of any matters they would like to see raised. Problems with parking, gatherings of youths and motorbikes using pathways were suggested.

143/18/19 Part II

Proposed by Cllr Williams, seconded by Cllr Wood it was

RESOLVED - to exclude the press and public from the meeting pursuant to Section 1 of the Public Bodies [Admission to Meetings] Act 1960 on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

The remaining members of the public left the meeting.

144/18/19 Lease Surrender and Replacement Lease Documentation – North Street Playing Fields

Members considered draft documentation (subject to contract) and correspondence from the Parish Council's Solicitor. A small number of matters were raised on which clarification was to be sought. Members raised concern that, despite assurances, outstanding letters of confirmation on some aspects of the agreement were still outstanding from other parties. It was also noted that the proposed timeline set out by West Berkshire Council appeared outdated in view of the outstanding information.

145/18/19 Extension of Local Government Resource Centre contract to provide Locum Services

The Parish Council contract with the Local Government Resource Centre (LGRC) to provide locum services to the Council was due to expire 18th January 2019. The Interim Clerk indicated that she would not personally be in a position to extend her contract through the LGRC but that another suitable locum would be sought. Proposed by Cllr Clifford, seconded by Cllr Clark it was

RESOLVED – to extend the contract with the LGRC on a rolling basis giving a months' notice of termination.

Cllr Williams reported that the recruitment process for a permanent Clerk and Assistant would commence in January 2019.

There being no other business the Meeting closed at 9.34pm.

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Chairman to the Council