

MINUTES OF THEALE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Council Meeting held on Monday 13th August 2018 in the Peter Gooch Room, The Pavilion, Englefield Road, Theale.

Present: Councillors B. Williams (chair), J. Richardson, A. Clark, S. Coker, C. Rolfe, D. Wood, P. Clifford & Z. Fenwick.

Apologies received: Councillors I. Hopcroft, D. Baker and D. Lye.

Present: Jo Friend (Clerk) in attendance. There were nine members of the public present.

Declarations of Interest: No declarations of interest were made.

The chairman asked if any members of the council or members of the public were intending to record or film the meeting. The answer was a negative.

61/18/19 Open Forum for Members of the Public

As this was going to be the clerk's last meeting before she takes up her post at Earley Town Council, a member of the public wished to express her thanks to Jo Friend for all the help and assistance she has provided over the years. She thanked the clerk, on behalf of her family, the residents of North Street and, she was sure, many of Theale's residents, for her courtesy and professionalism. She added that Earley's gain was very much Theale's loss. There was a round of applause from the members of the public. The clerk thanked them for their kind words.

The member of the public then asked if there was any feedback available regarding the letters of objection received following the public notice. For instance, could the public be given an idea of the breadth of responses? The chairman confirmed that all parish councillors had been provided with copies of the letters and had met to discuss them. She said they covered a fairly wide range of issues, including highways, loss of public open space, pedestrian safety, the behaviour of WBC towards TPC, the proposed location versus the need for a new school, catchment area issues.

There were no further questions or comments therefore the chairman closed the public open forum.

Notifications of Chairman's remarks – Cllr Rolfe had three items to raise and Cllr Richardson had one item to raise.

SECTION A

62/18/19 MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF 23rd JULY 2018.

Cllr Clifford stated that he was not happy with the two references in 43/18/19 to a member of the public being rude to the chairman during the public open forum. He said this was a matter of opinion and opinion should not be stated in council minutes, these references should be removed. The chairman said it was not a matter of opinion, it was fact, the member of the public had been rude to her on two occasions, on one of these she had asked that he not be rude to the chairman. Cllr Clifford said again that whether he had been rude or not was a matter of opinion. The chairman said she had asked the clerk to ensure there was reference to the incident in the minutes. She asked the councillors who had been present at the meeting of the 23rd if they felt the person had been rude, they all agreed that they had heard the comments and agreed that the comments were rude. Cllr Clifford suggested that if the reference were to remain in the minutes then the full transcript of those comments should also be included. The clerk reminded Cllr Clifford that council minutes were not a verbatim report of a meeting and that it would not be appropriate to repeat rude comments in council minutes, it was sufficient to refer to them.

Cllr Williams asked if there was a proposer of the minutes as they stood. Proposed Cllr Rolfe; seconded Cllr Richardson. All in favour, except for Cllr Clifford who wished for his objection to the inclusion of the reference to rudeness towards the chairman to be minuted.

63/18/19 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF 23rd JULY 2018.

59/18/19 Trees at Lambfields – Cllr Clifford reported that he had no update on the complaint regarding council trees backing onto properties at Lambfields.

SECTION B

64/18/19 District Council Report

Cllr Macro gave a verbal report:

Travellers – he had still not received details of the security measures to be taken by WBC at Woodfield Way. On 22nd September Theale residents will be carrying out the ‘Great Theale Plant’ and will plant daffodil bulbs on the mounds in Meadow Way. He has asked WBC to carry out a risk assessment on all their public open space sites and to investigate the possibility of pre-emptive injunctions.

Green bin tax – this comes into effect on 3rd September.

WBC is going to introduce a local lottery which will raise money for local causes.

WBC will increase its investment into commercial property to £100m.

The National Planning Policy Framework has been amended by government and a ‘housing delivery test’ is going to be introduced. This will test whether or not a high enough proportion of approved development has actually been built. The S106 arrangements regarding affordable housing will now only apply to major developments, ie those in excess of 25 or 30 dwellings.

65/18/19 Clerk’s Report

Members noted the report.

66/18/19 Planning Applications

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|--|--|--|------------------------|--------------|
| 17/02128/COMIND Amended plans/drawings | New 24/7 fire station | Land at Junction of Wigmore Lane, Bath Road Theale RG7 | RBFR | No comments |
| 18/02002/FUL | Regulation 3 – planning approval for double storey modular classroom unit for a further temporary period | Theale Primary School, Church Street, Theale RG7 | West Berkshire Council | No objection |

67/18/19 Library Service

Members discussed the reports provided by WBC and RESOLVED that, on condition that the Theale library service remains at current levels in terms of opening hours, staffing and location, TPC will pay the requested contribution of £2,842 for 2018/19. Payment will be

made towards the end of this financial year. Proposed Cllr Clark; seconded Cllr Clifford.
Approved nem con.

68/18/19 TPC Telephone Contract

Members RESOLVED to continue with Mainstream Digital on a 3 year contract. Proposed Cllr Fenwick; seconded Cllr Wood. Approved nem con.

69/18/19 Financial Update

Noted.

70/18/19 Community-led Housing Conference

Members were not available to attend but suggested there may be residents who would wish to. Details of the event be put on TPC's website.

71/18/19 Remembrance Day 2018

Members noted the actions that need to be taken in preparation for this year's Remembrance Parade.

72/18/19 National Service of Thanksgiving - Armistice

Members congratulated Cllr Wood on his selection for attendance at this important event at Westminster Abbey in November.

73/18/19 Football Pitch Availability

The chairman suggested that this discussion be moved to Part II of this evening's meeting. Members agreed.

74/18/19 Authorisation of Payments

It was RESOLVED that items on sheet no.529 and dated 13th August 2018 be approved for payment. Proposed Cllr Coker; seconded Cllr Williams. Approved nem con.

Members noted the June 2018 Direct Debit sheet and payment sheet no. 527 dated 26th July 2018.

SECTION C

75/18/19 Items for Information

Noted.

SECTION D

76/18/19 CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Cllr Rolfe – the bush overhanging the pavement at The Crescent has now been cut back. He has received further information regarding the suggestion for a joint working group with residents at Burghfield and Mortimer, which he will forward to councillors.

Blossom Lane parking – residents have complained about people parking on the cobbles whilst their own drives remain empty. The clerk told him that the parking situation here regularly drew complaints but that there were no restrictions as to who was permitted to park on the road or the cobbles. If vehicles overhang either the footpath or the highway

then residents are advised to report it on 101 and the police have said that as this is an obstruction they will speak to the vehicle owners.

Cllr Richardson – what is happening about the ‘poppy’ memorial bench and the ‘silent soldier’ that Council had agreed to purchase? The clerk said that councillors had been asked to suggest suitable sites in the village for both of these items but she had not received any responses. Members agreed to action this.

77/18/19 Part II

In view of the confidential nature of business to be conducted it is in the public interest that the public and press be excluded and are instructed to withdraw.

The members of the public left the meeting.

Staffing Matters

There being no other business the Meeting closed at 9.30pm.

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Chairman to the Council