

MINUTES OF THEALE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Council Meeting held on Monday 14th January 2019 in the Peter Gooch Room, The Pavilion, Englefield Road, Theale.

Prior to the formal commencement of the meeting representatives of Englefield Estate provided an outcome summary following a public consultation held on proposals for a new homes development on land off The Green, Theale.

The information was to be made publicly available at www.newhomesfortheale.co.uk

Present:

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

In attendance:

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

Apologies received:

Apologies had been received from Cllrs A Clark, P Clifford & D Wood

Declarations of Interest:

Cllr Rolfe declared an interest in planning application 18/03209/FULEXT as the property was situated in close proximity to his home.

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.

146/18/19 Open Forum for Members of the Public

A representative of Holy Trinity Church spoke in favour of the funding application submitted by the Church to the Parish Council. The application sought retrospective funding towards the cost of resurfacing of a pathway and was to be considered later in the meeting.

A member of the public reported that there was extensive flooding in Blossom Lane which was causing damage to the road surface. It was understood that the flooding was being caused by a burst water main and that Thames Water had been informed. The Clerk was asked to express the concern of the Parish Council to Thames Water and West Berkshire Council, the Highways Authority for Theale.

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.

SECTION A**147/18/19 Minutes of the meeting held 10th December 2018**

Proposed by Cllr Hopcroft, seconded by Cllr Rolfe and

RESOLVED to agree the minutes of 10th December 2018 as a true record of the meeting and that the Chairman should sign them as such.

148/18/19 Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held 10th December 2018

Cllr Hopcroft reported that he would soon be in a position to provide the necessary information to enable the creation of a link on the Parish Council website to the Dr Ellerton's Charity & Allotment Society website.

The Interim Clerk reported that regarding the waste bin at Wigmore Lane responses from both West Berkshire Council and Rail Track were yet to be received. The additional cost for the existing contractor to empty this additional bin would be £5 per week. This matter would be an agenda item for the next meeting of the Council.

SECTION B**149/18/19 District Council Report**

Cllr Macro reported that work to install barriers to the green area behind Meadow Way and the remaining work to secure Woodfield Way was underway and due to be completed in the next few days. Cllr Macro highlighted a consultation currently being undertaken regarding the expansion of Heathrow Airport.

The current projection from West Berkshire Council (WBC) was that an overspend of £2M at year end 2018/19 was anticipated. A sum of £2M had been made available by Central Government to fund highway repairs.

Cllr Macro was pleased to report that Berkshire Councils had been selected for the second year to take part in a pilot scheme to retain 75% of business rates.

WBC had recently lost a legal battle concerning an agreement with a developer to redevelop and area of Newbury.

150/18/19 Planning Applications

<u>18/03092/HOUSE</u>	Single storey rear extension	88 Woodfield Way, Theale	Mr & Mrs Losby
	<p>Object</p> <p>The proposal would result in an overbearing development which would have an unacceptable detrimental impact on the occupiers of the adjacent property No 86 Woodfield Way due to scale and mass. The application is not compliant with current planning guidance.</p>		

18/03209/FULEXT	Demolition of existing building and construction of 15no. dwellings 2no. retail units (use class A1/A2/A3), associated access, parking and landscaping (previous withdrawn application 18/00823/FULEXT)	19 and 19A High Street, Theale	TA Fisher Developments Ltd
	Object Objections raised by Theale Parish Council to the previous application for this site (18/00823/FULEXT) still stand		
18/03307/LBC2	Addition of external staircase as escape route (previous approved application 18/02549/FUL)	Unit 6 Brewery Court, Theale	Prof Levy
	No objections		

151/18/19 Licencing Application

19/00024/LQN	Variation of licence to increase the licensable area of the premises	Wickcroft Farm Pangbourne Road, Theale	Fielders Farm Shops Ltd
	No objections		

152/18/19 Budget & Precept 2019/20

Draft budget proposals had been circulated to all Members in advance of the meeting. The proposals included a maintenance only budget summary, details of earmarked funds, general reserves, historic precept and Band D information and the tax base figure (1,111.83) for 2019/20.

Members debated elements of the budget and noted the requirement for increased funding to deliver a maintenance only budget which also allowed the carry forward of earmarked funds.

Proposed by Cllr Richardson, seconded by Cllr Fenwick it was

RESOLVED - to agree the draft budget as presented and approve an increase of 15% (£13.14 per annum per Band D property) in the Parish Council element of Council tax demands to residents of Theale, resulting in a 2019/20 annual change per Band D property of £100.72

Total precept to be raised 2019/20 = £111,983.52

Total funds required to meet agreed budget = £116,460.00

Funding to be allocated from existing general reserve to meet shortfall = £4,476.48

153/18/19 Request for funding – Holy Trinity Church

Members considered a retrospective application for funding. A pathway within the Churchyard had been resurfaced and following the installation the Church had discovered that it was not possible to reclaim the VAT element of the invoice, a sum of £1,455.40. The Parish Council were asked to consider providing financial assistance to the Church.

Members debated the merits of the application and the opportunities available to the Church to receive funding from the Diocese and elsewhere.

Cllr Hopcroft proposed that a donation be provided to the Church with the amount to be determined by a further proposal if necessary. Seconded by Cllr Fenwick a vote was taken with 3 votes in favour, three against and two abstentions. The Chairman exercised a casting vote against the proposal, it was

RESOLVED – not to make a donation to the Church on this occasion.

The Clerk was asked to indicate to the Church that an application in advance of any further work to extend the resurfacing should be submitted with supporting information. The Clerk suggested that Members may wish to consider adopting a formal grants policy and procedure and this was to be an agenda item for the next meeting of the Council.

154/18/19 Office Photocopier – Lease options

The current photocopier lease agreement was to expire 31st March 2019. Notice had been given to terminate the agreement and three quotations had been received for a replacement based on a three-year agreement.

Proposed by Cllr Coker, seconded by Cllr Rolfe it was

RESOLVED – to accept the lowest priced proposal listed in the comparison report as Company B with an anticipated quarterly cost of £327.65.

155/18/19 Hygiene Services Contract

Members considered an offer from the existing hygiene services contractor to extend the contract for a further five years on the same terms and conditions. Proposed by Cllr Williams, seconded by Cllr Baker it was

RESOLVED – to accept the proposal from the existing hygiene services provider and extend the contract for a further five years.

156/18/19 Tree Decay Detection Survey

A decay detection survey had been carried out on an Oak tree situation within Englefield Road recreation ground. A report had been circulated to all Members. In line with the recommendations contained within the report it was proposed by Cllr Hopcroft, seconded by Cllr Richardson and

RESOLVED – to move the bench currently situated below the tree canopy and to allow the grass to grow long beneath the tree. Shrub planting would be considered for this location and species recommendations to provide an all year-round deterrent was to be sought from the survey company.

157/18/19 Authorisation of Payments

Proposed by Cllr Rolfe, seconded by Cllr Fenwick it was

RESOLVED - that items on payment sheet no.538 dated 14th January 2019 and totalling £6,904.77 be approved for payment.

Members noted December 2018 Direct Debit schedule.

SECTION C**158/18/19 Items for Information**

The items for information which included details of the newly installed IT systems were noted.

SECTION D**159/18/19 Chairman's Remarks**

Cllr Rolfe noted the problems with emergency access to Andrews Close which were ongoing. The Parish Council had previously expressed concern and suggested some actions to resolve the problem. Concerned residents were to be directed to West Berkshire Council and their elected representative to this authority.

160/18/19 Part II

Proposed by Cllr Williams, seconded by Cllr Richardson 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.

161/18/19 Staffing Update

Cllr Williams provided an update on the current staffing situation which included details of the new Interim Clerk due to start later that week, and the vacancy for a Cleaner at the John Cumber Hall which would be advertised in the near future.

The Staffing Committee were to consider the options for recruitment of a permanent Clerk and Administration Assistant at their next meeting.

Members thanked the current Interim Clerk for her work over the last three months.

162/18/19 Primary School Project Board Update

Cllr Williams provided an update report on the Primary School Project following a meeting of the Project Board attended by Cllr Williams and Cllr Baker.

There being no other business the Meeting closed at 10.03pm.

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Chairman to the Council