

## MINUTES OF THEALE PARISH COUNCIL

*Minutes of Council Meeting held on Monday 3rd April 2017 in the Peter Gooch Room, The Pavilion, Englefield Road, Theale.*

*Present: Councillors B. Williams (Chairman), J. Richardson, A. Clark, D. Lye, P. Clifford, I. Hopcroft & Z. Fenwick.*

*Apologies received: Cllrs. S. Coker, D. Baker and D. Wood.*

*Present: Jo Friend (Clerk) in attendance. Two members of the public were present in addition to John Herring, reporter from Newbury Weekly News.*

*Declarations of Interest: Cllr Lye declared an interest regarding the planning application at 74 Meadow Way.*

### **254/16/17      Open Forum for Members of the Public**

A member of the public expressed her concern about the low pupil numbers at Theale Green School. Her family's personal experience of the school was very good and the school had made significant improvements but there were still lots of children in catchment who were attending schools out of catchment. These other schools have been expanded to accommodate such parental preferences and this had made it even more difficult for Theale Green as the funding follows the pupil. Theale Primary School currently accommodates many children from outside catchment. The recent Planning Inspector's report on the Lakeside development stated that this would continue in order to fill the proposed new primary school and that whilst WBC was entitled to make space for out of catchment pupils, it was not required to. There are spaces at other neighbouring primary schools and the report said this would continue to be the case, therefore, for Theale's primary school to expand and take out of catchment would create difficulties for other schools and communities, as demonstrated by Theale Green's situation. The resident has previously written to WBC, and copied in TPC, suggesting that the excess space at Theale Green School be used to temporarily accommodate Theale primary pupils whilst the primary school is rebuilt on its current site.

The resident said she just wanted to bring this whole situation to the attention of the parish councillors and would ask them to please consider their moral duty with regard to the expansion of Theale Primary School and to consider the impact this would have on other schools.

As there were no other matters raised in the open forum, Cllr Williams thanked the resident for her comments and closed the forum. Residents were invited to stay for the remainder of the meeting.

*Notifications of Chairman's remarks – Cllr Richardson had one item to raise.*

## **SECTION A**

### **255/16/17      MINUTES OF MEETING OF 6<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2017.**

Members adopted the Minutes of the Meeting of 6<sup>th</sup> March 2017. Proposed Cllr Richardson; seconded Cllr Clifford. Approved nem con.

### **256/16/17      MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 6<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2017.**

235/16/17 – Charity shop: Cllr Richardson informed Council that the shop had reopened under new management.

**SECTION B****257/16/17 District Council Report**

The clerk read out the written report provided.

**258/16/17 Clerk's Report**

Splat Sessions – Members were supportive of the clerk's suggestion. The clerk will forward the relevant details to Cllr Clifford who will find out what sessions are available the costs involved.

Theale Train Station – Members felt that there were a high number of older people and parents of young children amongst Theale's population and the continued delays to improved access at the station would impact them. Councillors asked the clerk to write a letter of support for the access project, to be sent to the appropriate bodies.

**259/16/17 Planning Applications**

17/00581/PACOU ( <i>Factual observations only</i> )	Application to determine if Prior Approval is required for change of use from offices (use Class B1) to 10 no. residential dwellings.	19 & 19a High Street, Theale RG7 5AH	T A Fisher Ltd	TPC comment: concern over narrow vehicular access and the parking proposals – would obstruct delivery and refuse vehicles serving neighbouring businesses and obstruct vehicle access to rear yards of same businesses
1700666/HOUSE	Single storey extension over existing garage to create third bedroom with en-suite shower room & alterations to existing single storey rear extension incorporating new roof make up & bi-fold doors.	12 Swallowfield Gardens, Theale, RG7 5AD	Mr Graham & Miss Lewendon	No objection
17/00634/FUL	Hard & soft landscaping alterations at Arlington Business Park in 2 locations 1) area surrounding 1200 Building; 2) area surrounding existing amphitheatre.	Land near to Buildings 1220, 1230, 1240 & 1310 Arlington Business Park, Theale	Patron Arlington SARL	No objection
17/00198/FUL	Replacement of existing shutter with windows/glazing panels. Installation of external A/C condenser units. Insertion of mezzanine floor.	Access Twelve, Station Road, Theale RG7 6PN	Really Wild Clothing Company Ltd	No objection
17/00684/FUL	Replacement of existing shutter with windows/glazing panels. Installation of external A/C condenser units. Conversion of Units B1 & B2 to one larger unit.	Access Twelve, Station Road, Theale RG7 6PN	Really Wild Clothing Co Ltd	No objection

17/00776/HOUSE	2 storey side/rear extension	74 Meadow Way, Theale, RG7 5DQ	Mr & Mrs Sennett	No objection
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**260/16/17 Internal Audit**

It was noted that the Internal Audit had been carried out successfully. An additional level of internal control will be introduced during the next financial year, Clerk to draw up terms of reference, Cllr Lye offered to carry out this role.

Two members of the public left the meeting.

**261/16/17 West Berkshire Council Library Service**

Members discussed the lack of progress being made in its dealings with WBC over the future of the library building and the service itself. Dialogue is continuing but the financial figures promised some time ago by WBC have still not been received.

Cllr Richardson will design a poster to promote volunteer recruitment.

Members RESOLVED to pay £2,730 in the financial year 2017/18 to WBC Library Service as requested by WBC, subject to conditions. Conditions include: Equivalent level of service is maintained, including but not limited to opening hours, staffing levels and the maintenance and circulation of stock; TPC's contribution is used to directly fund the library service delivered by the Theale library branch; the library service continues to be delivered from the current Theale library building; the decision as to whether financial contributions will be made by TPC in 2018/19 and 2019/20 will be made on an annual basis after TPC has reviewed the current circumstances.

Proposed Cllr Clifford; seconded Cllr Williams. Approved nem con.

**262/16/17 Risk Assessment Review**

Members RESOLVED to adopt the Theale Parish Council Risk Assessment 2017.

Proposed Cllr Hopcroft; seconded Cllr Lye. Approved nem con.

**263/16/17 District Parish Conference**

Members noted the Clerk's report on the District Parish Conference.

**264/16/17 Website**

Two items were recommended for inclusion on TPC's website: TPC's recent grant awards and WBC's new Sandbag policy.

**265/16/17 Community Infrastructure Policy**

Members agreed to start planning a list of priorities for CIL expenditure.

**266/16/17 Public Toilets**

Members discussed this at length and agreed that the parish council is not in a position to pursue this project in the near future as there are other matters, such as the library, which are taking priority. Councillors were also concerned that perhaps the current location of the toilets was not the optimum one for the village. Clerk instructed to inform WBC of TPC's current stance. It was noted that it is likely that WBC will now sell the toilet block to a private developer.

**267/16/17 Beansheaf Building**

No update was available.

**268/16/17 Financial Update**

Noted.

**269/16/17 Authorisation of Payments**

It was RESOLVED that items on sheet no.485 and dated 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2017 be approved for payment. Proposed Cllr Clark; seconded Cllr Fenwick. Approved nem con.

Members noted payment sheet no. 484 and dated 21st March 2017, and the February Direct Debit sheet.

**SECTION C**

**270/16/17 Items for Information**

Noted.

**SECTION D**

**271/16/17 CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS**

Cllr Richardson suggested that council should consider replacing the notice board in the High Street as the surface was now pretty badly damaged and there was water ingress. The clerk will look into this.

Cllr Lye asked if a branch could be cut off a tree in the recreation ground, the one near to the primary school rear entrance, as it was causing an issue for pedestrians using that entrance. The clerk said the tree was a London Plane and had a TPO on it therefore permission would need to be sought from WBC's Tree Officer for specific works to be carried out. Clerk to ascertain whether works are required and to obtain any necessary consents.

**272/16/17 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 member of the press left the meeting.

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

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*Chairman to the Council*