

MINUTES OF THEALE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Council Meeting held on Monday 5th March 2018 in the Peter Gooch Room, The Pavilion, Englefield Road, Theale.

Present: Councillors B. Williams (chair), S. Coker, J. Richardson, A. Clark, D. Wood, D. Lye, D. Baker & P. Clifford.

Apologies received: Cllrs Z. Fenwick and I. Hopcroft.

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

Declarations of Interest: None declared.

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.

215/17/18 Open Forum for Members of the Public

Jon Lockley spoke about the school proposal information session at the library organised by West Berkshire Council. He said he knew there were grumbles about a lack of communication from WBC but could he suggest that the parish council put details of the session on its website. The chairman informed Mr Lockley that WBC had not even told the parish council that these sessions were taking place and had not provided TPC with any details about them.

Pamela Sergent said she attended the parish council meeting held before the parish poll was announced and that she had suggested to the council a list of things she thought it should be clarifying. There is a lot of misinformation out there and she would like to see a balance of information. Mrs Sergent had received a green 'Yes' leaflet through her door and the way it was written and the content made her think it was from the parish council. It wasn't and she would like to see a leaflet of facts from TPC. There is confusion amongst the public, for instance, some people thought they had to register specially in order to vote in the poll. She went on to say that at a site meeting, at which Cllr Baker was present, a WBC representative confirmed parking would be made available on both sites, now WBC is saying that parking will only be made available on one or the other.

Jon Lockley agreed that all leaflets etc should make it clear where they are coming from. He said he thought that at the meeting on the 30th the council had been asked if it had received confirmation about the lease from the Estate and the response had been no but now a letter from the Estate has emerged. Councillors did not recall such a question being asked at that meeting and Cllr Williams checked the draft minutes. No such question was recorded. Cllr Williams said the council was aware that the Estate had chosen to publish a letter it sent to TPC but that this letter clearly stated it was not a contract, it was just a letter. Another resident spoke up and informed the meeting that she had received an email from Edward Crookes confirming that no discussions about a new lease would start until TPC agreed the release of the 5 acres.

Pam Sergent said that the Save Our Village group did publicise who the group were and what they stood for. This information was on their posters, in the papers and they had come to a parish council meeting to explain the group to councillors and the public.

Cllr Williams made it clear that TPC had not endorsed either side and so all should refrain from naming TPC on their literature. They should also refrain from naming WBC too as some residents are interpreting it as the literature is coming from WBC.

There being no further questions the chairman closed the public open forum at 7.54pm.

Six members of the public left the meeting.

Notifications of Chairman's remarks – Cllr Clifford and Cllr Williams both had one item to raise.

SECTION A**216/17/18 MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF 30th JANUARY 2018, 5th FEBRUARY 2018 and 12th FEBRUARY 2018.**

Members adopted the Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of 30th January 2018. Proposed Cllr Wood; seconded Cllr Lye. Approved nem con.

Members adopted the Minutes of the Meeting of 5th February 2018. Proposed Cllr Clark; seconded Cllr Richardson. Approved nem con.

Members adopted the Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of 12th February 2018. Proposed Cllr Coker; seconded Cllr Wood. Approved nem con.

217/17/18 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF 30TH JANUARY 2018, 5th February 2018 and 12th FEBRUARY 2018.

30th January 2018 – no matters arising.

5th February 2018 - 200/17/18 Cllr Clifford said he had not received any paperwork regarding becoming a signatory and wanted to chase this up. The clerk confirmed that she had now obtained this from the bank and would send it on to him for completion.

201/17/18 Cllr Clifford said he had not been provided with the minutes that had to be gone through in relation to the Beansheaf issue and wanted to chase this up. The clerk said that, as soon as she had had time to sort out the relevant minutes for him she would let him know.

196/17/18 Cllr Lye asked councillors if they wanted him, as an employee of Reading Borough Council, to speak to their graffiti removal team about removing the graffiti from the skatepark. Councillors agreed to him approaching them.

12th February 2018 – Cllr Williams said that now TPC would have to pay for a by-election as well as a parish poll, funds may have to be moved around to facilitate this.

SECTION B**218/17/18 District Council Report**

Cllr Macro was not present and no report had been received.

219/17/18 Clerk's Report

Noted.

220/17/18 Planning Applications

18/00154/HOUSE	Conversion of existing garage into habitable space (bedroom) with shower onto the back of the garage with 1.510m depth x 2.980m length	9 Morton Place, Theale RG7	Mrs Sharon Hopson	No objection
16/01239/FUL 16/01238/FUL 16/01237/FUL <i>Additional drawings</i>	Construction of culverts under highway re flood alleviation/mitigation works associated with Burghfield Park (floating homes)	Burghfield Sailing Club, Hangar Road, Sulhamsted	Berfeld	All existing objections still stand.

	development)			
18/00148/CERTP	Erect rear extension plus an outbuilding in the garden	7 Lambfields, Theale		

Comments re 18/00148/CERTP, 7 Lambfields – TPC had not received notification of this application, which was made under permitted development rights. A resident had contacted the parish office concerned that the site plans submitted to WBC showed a garage like building already in existence when in fact there was no such a building there. Cllr Williams offered to check if the garage building was in existence and, if not, TPC would inform WBC of the possible error on the plans.

221/17/18 License Application – Englefield Estate

Members expressed concern over traffic issues as all vehicles would use the A340 during their access to and egress from the site. The traffic associated with future events could impact the fire station which is due to be built at the Theale end of the A340. Members discussed possible noise issues but agreed to submit comments only around concerns relating to traffic. A councillor suggested TPC email Englefield Parish Council to ask their stance on this application as we should support them in their views.

222/17/18 Bequest

The clerk announced that the late Charles Bateman, parish councillor and chairman of Theale Parish Council until his death in July 2016, had remembered the village in his will. Charles had left the significant amount of £20,000 to Theale Parish Council, to be used for recreation ground seating, young children's play equipment and an older persons' outdoor gym. The clerk informed Members that this was not the only bequest Charles had made to the village and that she was in talks with another organisation about arranging a joint press release. Cllr Williams said this act of generosity summed Charles up, he loved his village and he gave so much of his time and effort to working for it and its residents.

223/17/18 Grants

Members considered the applications and RESOLVED to award three grants of £100 each - Citizens Advice Reading (£100), the Rosemary Appeal (£100) and Young People and Children First (£100). Proposed Cllr Wood; seconded Cllr Clifford. Approved nem con.

224/17/18 Commemoration of End of WW1

Members discussed sponsoring a Royal British Legion 'Silent Soldier', a silhouette of a soldier to be displayed in the village to remember the fallen. TPC organised a WW1 fete and exhibition to mark the centenary of the start of WW1 and is already considering purchasing a commemorative bench to mark the end. Possible locations for the Silent Soldier were suggested including the bypass roundabout or above the churchyard wall. Councillors will look out for other suitable locations before a final decision is made on where it will be placed. Members RESOLVED that both items should be purchased to mark the centenary of the end of WW1. Proposed Cllr Williams; seconded Cllr Wood. Approved nem con.

225/17/18 General Data Protection Regulation

Noted.

226/17/18 Cricket – Licence/Contracts

The draft contract was considered by members and councillors RESOLVED to approve it. Proposed Cllr Clark; seconded Cllr Clifford. Approved nem con. Cllr Williams thanked the working group for producing this document in consultation with the cricket club.

227/17/18 West Berkshire Local Plan Review to 2036

No TPC comment at this time. Councillors can comment individually as can all residents.

228/17/18 Village Hall Sewage Pump - Repairs

Members RESOLVED to pay £691.45 to the Village Hall as its contribution towards the repairs needed to the sewage pump, reference Minute 196/17/18 dated 5th February 2018. Proposed Cllr Coker; seconded Cllr Richardson. Approved nem con.

2 members of the public left the meeting.

229/17/18 Disruption to Train Services – Reading to Newbury

Noted. A suggestion was made that TPC request extra traffic warden coverage during the disruption period.

230/17/18 Authorisation of Payments

It was RESOLVED that items on sheet no.512 and dated 5th March 2018 be approved for payment. Proposed Cllr Coker; seconded Cllr Lye. Approved nem con.

Members noted the January 2018 Direct Debit sheet.

SECTION C

231/17/18 Items for Information

Noted.

SECTION D

232/17/18 CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Cllr Clifford said his item would be covered in Part II.

Cllr Williams said a couple of residents had asked what councillors do as they felt that some appear not to be very involved in council activities nor do some appear to do much training. Cllr Williams reminded Members that it was important that parish councillors were proactive and that they were to be seen to be proactive as well.

233/17/18 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 remaining five members of the public left the meeting.

There being no other business the Meeting closed at 9.48pm.

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Chairman to the Council