

MINUTES OF THEALE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Council Meeting held on Monday 7th August 2017 in the Peter Gooch Room, The Pavilion, Englefield Road, Theale.

Present: Councillors B. Williams (chair), S. Coker, D. Wood, D. Lye & Z. Fenwick.

Apologies received: Cllrs I. Hopcroft, A. Clark, A. Macro, D. Baker and J. Richardson.

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

Declarations of Interest: None declared.

Chairman asked if any members of the council or any members of the public were intending to record or transmit the meeting. The answer from all was a negative.

63/17/18 Open Forum for Members of the Public

The secretary of the Village Hall identified herself and said she was attending in case councillors had questions regarding Item 14 on the agenda, 'Car Park Signs'. The chairman thanked her.

A member of the public asked if any progress had been made concerning the legalities surrounding any councillor conflicts of interest. The clerk said if he was referring to the matter identified under Item 10 of the agenda then this would be discussed later on in the meeting. The resident said it was and he would wait for the discussion.

No one else wished to speak and so the chairman closed the public open forum.

Notifications of Chairman's remarks – Cllrs Wood and Lye both had one item to raise.

SECTION A

64/17/18 MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF 3rd JULY 2017.

Cllr Lye queried why the minutes did not contain notes of the discussion had about the amended amended plans for 17/00743/FUL which led to the clerk submitting additional comments to WBC. The clerk and the chairman confirmed to Cllr Lye that, on 3rd July, the parish council were not aware that those amended amended plans even existed therefore they were not discussed at that meeting, hence there is no mention of them in the minutes of 3rd July. Cllr Lye was dissatisfied with the response and said he would return to this issue later in the meeting under Chairman's Remarks.

Members adopted the Minutes of the Meeting of 3rd July 2017. Proposed Cllr Fenwick; seconded Cllr Wood. One councillor abstained. Motion carried.

65/17/18 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF 3rd JULY 2017.

There were no matters arising.

SECTION B

66/17/18 District Council Report

No report had been provided.

67/17/18 Clerk's Report

Noted.

68/17/18 Planning Applications

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|-----------------|--|---|---------------------------------------|--|
| 17/01841/HOUSE | Two storey extension to rear of property | 20 Mulberry Way, Theale RG7 5EQ | Ms Gladwinfield | No objection |
| 17/01776/FULD | Retrospective permission for change of use of a former garage into a 2 bedroom flat | 2 Crown Lane, Theale, RG7 5BG | Christine Theakston | OBJECT: Impact on character; no amenity space; no parking provision |
| 17/02049/COMIND | New 24/7 fire station with accommodation for partner services (police), community facilities, offices & support accommodation, training facilities inc. training tower & satellite vehicle repairs, & access points. | Land at junction of Wigmore Lane, Bath Road, Theale | Royal Berkshire Fire & Rescue Service | No objection Comment: concerns raised that boundary fence would prevent Wigmore Lane residents from accessing their rear boundary fences for maintenance purposes |

Application 17/01776/FULD – One councillor abstained from the vote as he said he hadn't been involved in the original objection.

69/17/18 Standing Orders

Cllr Lye suggested the adoption of the Standing Orders should be postponed until more councillors were present. He said he had an issue with the rules governing committees and the rules governing minimum attendance numbers for decision making. The clerk explained that the revised Standing Orders were based on NALC model standing orders, they could be amended at any time in the future and that adopting rules governing committees didn't mean the council had to actually have any committees. She also explained that the minimum attendance numbers for decision making were set down in legislation and could not be amended by any parish council. The chairman asked if any councillors had expressed any concerns over the revised standing orders since they had been sent out with the agenda. The clerk confirmed that no comments had been received. The chairman proposed that, on the basis that the current standing orders are out of date, not fit for purpose and the council can make amendments to its new standing orders in the future, the revised version should be adopted. Proposed Cllr Williams; seconded Cllr Fenwick. One councillor abstained. Motion carried.

70/17/18 Financial Update

Noted.

71/17/18 Councillor Interests

The chairman suggested that it would be difficult to discuss and resolve this issue as Cllr Clifford, the member to whom the agenda item refers, had not turned up to tonight's meeting. The clerk confirmed that no apology for non-attendance had been received. Members felt that without Cllr Clifford's presence answers could not be provided to any questions members may have and no resolution could be presented to members of the public who had expressed concerns. It was agreed to defer the matter to the next meeting.

One member of the public left the meeting.

72/17/18 Parish Council Positions

Cllr Coker offered to replace Cllr Lye as TPC's AWE LLC representative. Cllr Lye will pass on any relevant paperwork to Cllr Coker. The position of Internal Checker will be deferred to the next meeting.

73/17/18 Planning Committee

Members agreed to defer this matter to the next meeting.

74/17/18 Internal Auditor

Members RESOLVED to reappoint Claire Connell as TPC's Internal Auditor for 2017-18. Proposed Cllr Williams; seconded Cllr Coker. Approved nem con.

75/17/18 Car Park Signs

Members RESOLVED to make the 50% contribution towards costs related to the signs (a sum of £59.85 plus fitting). Proposed Cllr Wood; seconded Cllr Lye. Approved nem con.

76/17/18 Councillor/RFO/Clerk Training

Members RESOLVED that the clerk should attend this training session on Council Budget Setting. The chairman is unable to attend and recommended that the vice chairman be requested to attend. Proposed Cllr Fenwick; seconded Cllr Lye. Approved nem con.

77/17/18 Clerk's Training

Members RESOLVED that the clerk should attend the SLCC Code of Conduct training day. Proposed Cllr Fenwick; seconded Cllr Lye. Approved nem con.

78/17/18 Speed Indicator Device Training

Members agreed to defer this item to the next meeting.

79/17/18 WBC Permits Scheme

Noted.

80/17/18 Lawn Tennis Association Event

Cllr Fenwick will consider attending.

81/17/18 Authorisation of Payments

It was RESOLVED that items on sheet no.494 and dated 7th August 2017 be approved for payment. Proposed Cllr Coker; seconded Cllr Wood. Approved nem con.

Members noted payment sheet No. 493 and the June Direct Debit sheet.

SECTION C**82/17/18 Items for Information**

Noted.

SECTION D**83/17/18 CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS**

Cllr Wood informed members that the damaged lamp post outside the King Wok had still not been replaced. WBC had informed TPC some time ago that a replacement was on order, Clerk will chase this up.

Cllr Lye raised the issue of the additional comments that were submitted by the clerk to WBC regarding the amended amended plans for planning application 17/00743/FUL, without the parish council meeting to approve these comments. The clerk referred to the explanation that had been provided by email to all councillors detailing the unusual circumstances. For some reason, WBC had not allowed the usual time period for public comments on these plans, in fact TPC had only two working days to respond. The clerk and then the chairman had formally asked WBC to allow their usual time period for comments to enable TPC to discuss them. WBC refused and informed the clerk that it didn't have to consult with the parish council at all on amended plans. The time frame meant that it was not legally possible to convene a meeting and, in all probability, it would have been very likely that few councillors would have been able to attend an immediate informal gathering. The clerk had submitted the additional comments to the parish council chairman and vice chairman for approval before submission. Cllr Williams stressed to Cllr Lye that this was an unusual situation, that the comments submitted did not in any way contradict what council had previously said about the planning application and did not contradict TPC's full council vote on 3rd July to object to the application. Cllr Lye was dissatisfied with the explanation. Cllr Williams stated that, as the elected chairman, she had made the decision that it was in the interests of the local community for comments to be made on the latest amendments. In fact, elements of the application had been amended in light of TPC's additional comments.

84/17/18 Part II

Members noted Payment sheet No. 495 dated 7th August 2017.

Library – Gateway Update

There being no other business the Meeting closed at 9.40pm.

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Chairman to the Council