

MINUTES OF THEALE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Council Meeting held on Monday 11th June 2018 in the Peter Gooch Room, The Pavilion, Englefield Road, Theale.

Present: Councillors B. Williams (chair), J. Richardson, A. Clark, I. Hopcroft, C. Rolfe, D. Lye, D. Baker & P. Clifford.

Apologies received: Councillors S. Coker, Z. Fenwick and D. Wood.

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

Declarations of Interest: Cllr Williams declared an interest in planning application 18/01197/HOUSE as she knew the applicants. She confirmed she would not take part in any discussions or decisions relating to this item.

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.

23/18/19 Open Forum for Members of the Public

A member of the public said she was aware that members of the parish council had been working hard recently in relation to the traveller issue – she wished to register her disappointment that communications to the village were not coming from West Berkshire Council as to what actions they were taking.

A second member of the public asked if he could have an update on the school issue. The chairman replied that, as stated on the agenda, councillors were due to discuss the matter later in this evening's meeting and so, at the moment, no updates could be issued. Q - Will an update be issued after the meeting? The chairman replied that that would depend on tonight's discussions. Q – Surely sharing information isn't detrimental? The chairman stated that what was detrimental was WBC giving information to residents before the parish councillors had even seen it.

The chairman reminded the public that they needed to bear in mind that the past few weeks had been extremely busy for the parish council – there was a lot of work involved in preventing traveller incursions in the village and, as had been stated before, there is one clerk and the majority of the parish councillors hold down full time jobs. The council continues to work on the school issue but it isn't the only thing the council has to do.

A member of the public said they understood this but there was still a sense of frustration amongst some residents.

Another member of the public said it was interesting that WBC had started publishing certain documents now but they still hadn't given the residents the information they had been asking for for three years – WBC pick and choose what they publish.

One member of the public arrived at the meeting.

A resident asked for a timeline for actions and for the decision, she wanted detail regarding the deadlines TPC was working to. The chairman replied that the parish council's solicitor was aware of the deadlines set by WBC but that it was important to remember that any decision had to be made in accordance with the legislation. The member of the public repeated her request and asked how many times had TPC proactively contacted WBC since the poll, either by email, face to face, by telephone? The chairman said that she did not have that information to hand, it would have to be provided to the resident at a later date. The resident continued asking similar questions and said that WBC had been disappointed that deadlines had not been met; if the children who needed a place in September 2019 were to be accommodated then decisions needed to be made (the chairman pointed out that WBC had confirmed that they wouldn't be opening the new school

until September 2020); the parish council had to take notice of the parish poll result; the school needs to plan its intake.

The chairman noted that the public open forum had run on for 30 minutes, the resident had been talking for some time and the meeting wasn't progressing. She asked if anyone else had any other observations before she closed the public open forum.

No one had any other matters to raise therefore the public open forum was closed at 8pm.

One member of the public left the meeting.

Notifications of Chairman's remarks – Cllr Rolfe had four items to raise, Cllr Clifford had two items to raise.

SECTION A

24/18/19 MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING OF 14th MAY 2018. MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF 14th MAY 2018.

Members adopted the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of 14th May 2018. Proposed Cllr Clifford; seconded Cllr Richardson. Approved nem con.

Cllr Hopcroft asked for a small amendment to the wording of item 21/18/19 in the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of 14th May 2018, this was agreed. Members adopted the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of 14th May 2018. Proposed Cllr Rolfe; seconded Cllr Hopcroft. Approved nem con.

25/18/19 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF 14TH MAY 2018 AND THE ORDINARY MEETING OF 14th MAY 2018.

Annual Meeting 14th May 2018: No matters arising.

Ordinary Meeting 14th May 2018: No matters arising.

SECTION B

26/18/19 District Council Report

Cllr Macro gave a verbal report. He said he owed TPC an apology for not inviting them to the public meeting he had organised to discuss the traveller problem. He said Paul Hendry (WBC) had apologised for not doing enough to secure the site once the first set of travellers had left and Thames Valley Police had admitted it had the power to intervene but hadn't done so. He thanked Cllr Williams for taking Cllr Clifford (WBC) to task at the meeting. Alok Sharma MP had asked that everyone respond to the current government consultation on Travellers.

Two members of the public left the meeting.

Cllr Macro stated that he was not happy with the revised opening for the Padworth waste centre but that approval would probably be granted. He informed TPC that WBC was about to enter a joint venture with Sovereign Housing to provide affordable housing. He said that delays to the decision regarding the new fire station were as a result of an objection from the environment agency on the grounds that the site is in a high risk flood zone.

27/18/19 Clerk's Report

Members noted the report.

Three members of the public left the meeting.

28/18/19 Planning Applications

18/01197/HOUSE	Loft conversion consisting of roof lights to front elevation & flat roof dormer to rear elevation	66 Woodfield Way Theale RG7 5QR	Mr & Mrs Goddard	No objection
18/01126/FUL	Extend the existing second floor office space	T A Fisher Ltd, Theale Court, 11 – 13 High Street, Theale RG7 5AH	T A Fisher (Holdings) Ltd	Object: overshadowing; loss of light; over dominance; public view of site; parking provision
18/00721/LQN	Plan submitted to increase the licensable area to the beer garden	Fox & Hounds PH, Station Road Theale RG7 4AJ	Wadworth & Company Ltd	No comment
18/01409/HOUSE	Removal of 2 metre high hedge along boundary with public highway & replace with 2 metre high fence with minor adjustment to garden enclosure	60 Volunteer Road, Theale, RG7 5DN	Adam Borg	No objection
18/00814/LQC	Variation to licensable activities: add Recorded Music (Fri-Sat 1900 to 0000) and supply of alcohol (7 days from 12 noon onwards)	Theale Club, Theale Village Hall, Englefield Road	Theale Social Club	No comment

29/18/19 Internal Audit – Final Report

Members noted the report.

30/18/19 Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2017-18

Members RESOLVED to approve the Annual Governance Statement 2017-18. Proposed Cllr Richardson; seconded Cllr Clark. Approved nem con.

31/18/19 Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2017-18

Members RESOLVED to approve the Accounting Statements 2017-18. Proposed Cllr Rolfe; seconded Cllr Clifford. Approved nem con.

32/18/19 Travellers

The chairman thanked all those residents who had helped prevent incursions and who had reported incidents to the appropriate authorities. Owing to the sensitive nature of what was to be discussed, councillors agreed to move the discussion of specific site security measures into Part II of this evening's meeting.

33/18/19 General Data Protection Regulation

The clerk gave an update on training received and the latest legislation. Members RESOLVED to appoint Sue Ellis (BALC) as the parish council's Data Protection Officer. Proposed Cllr Williams; seconded Cllr Lye. Approved nem con.

34/18/19 CCTV

Members expressed disappointment at the stance taken by the Social Club Management Committee in relation to their disconnection of TPC's cameras, especially as TPC had

showed support for the club in the past when they wished to hold events on parish council land. Members concluded that to pursue the matter further with this committee would be a waste of TPC's time and so they agreed that the only action to be taken would be a letter, sent to the Village Hall Management Committee, complaining about the actions of its tenant.

35/18/19 Closure of A340 Pangbourne Road, Englefield & Theale

Noted.

36/18/19 Planning Meetings Equipment

Councillors Clifford and Hopcroft presented Members with their research on various presentation solutions. Members agreed that, for purposes of security and value for money, the most appropriate option would be a portable projector and a fixed screen. Cllr Hopcroft has a contact well positioned to advise the council on specific equipment. It was RESOLVED that a portable projector and a fixed screen be purchased – approximate costs: projector £535 and screen £120. Proposed Cllr Williams; seconded Cllr Clark. Cllr Williams and Cllr Hopcroft will arrange a site meeting with the latter's contact to discuss specification. It was noted that a laptop will also be required and agreed that the purchase of this will be dealt with separately.

One member of the public left the meeting.

37/18/19 Community Resilience Workshop

Noted.

38/18/19 West Berkshire Heritage Forum

Councillors will not be attending the Heritage Forum AGM although Cllr Hopcroft and Cllr Clark will be attending the HEAP review meeting of the Forum.

39/18/19 Authorisation of Payments

Members discussed the matter of the grounds maintenance contractor not maintaining the playground area to an acceptable standard and agreed that the monthly payment should be signed off but not paid until the work had been completed.

It was RESOLVED that items on sheet no.521 and dated 11th June 2018 be approved for payment. Proposed Cllr Rolfe; seconded Cllr Clark. Approved nem con.

The clerk suggested that a letter of thanks be sent to Hadleys for their assistance and excellent service during the past few weeks. Members agreed.

Members noted the April 2018 Direct Debit sheet and payment sheet no. 520, dated 22nd May 2018.

SECTION C**40/18/19 Items for Information**

Noted.

SECTION D**41/18/19 CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS**

Cllr Rolfe – he had followed up the complaint about the overgrown bush at The Crescent, WBC had told him it was a Sovereign Housing issue and that they would report it. Cllr Rolfe will chase if no action is taken in the near future.

Cllr Rolfe will continue to liaise with Berkshire Youth regarding the Splat Bus. He had arranged for information to be sent to the clerk.

Residents had asked him for an update on the school matter to be put on TPC's website. Residents have also asked him if the parish council could update the playground and make it more baby-friendly. Cllrs Williams and Richardson informed him that funds had been put aside to upgrade the playground and that work on this project would hopefully be undertaken as soon as possible.

Cllr Clifford – residents had asked him for an update on the school matter.

Residents had also reported the overgrown playground area to him.

42/18/19 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 remaining members of the public left the meeting.

West Berkshire Council Letter – 4th June 2018

Update from Staffing Committee – staff appraisal

There being no other business the Meeting closed at 10.45pm.

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Chairman to the Council