

MINUTES OF THEALE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Council Meeting held on Monday 23rd July 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. Baker & P. Clifford.

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

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

Declarations of Interest: Cllr Rolfe declared an interest in planning application 18/01508/HOUSE as it is near his property. He confirmed he 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.

43/18/19 Open Forum for Members of the Public

The Chairman opened the Public Forum and stated that Council would not be discussing items that were not on the agenda. The meeting planned for 9th July had had to be cancelled and items of business due to be considered then must be dealt with at this evening's meeting. A member of the public was rude to the Chairman.

A second said that they had been able to ask questions about items not on the agenda before, at previous meetings, why was the Chairman changing the 'rules' now? The Chairman responded that the public were free to ask questions during the Open Forum, but that Council would not get into discussion about items that were not on the agenda.

A resident said that whilst they understood Council will not get into discussions this evening, can you tell us what your timeline is for resolving the school issue? The 'yes group' are offering to lobby WBC to ask them to extend the deadline – she said they had been effective in lobbying WBC before.

The Chairman responded that all residents should rest assured that TPC are treating this matter with the urgency it deserves, if people wish to lobby WBC then that is a matter for them and they are free to do so.

A member of the public was again rude towards the Chairman, adding 'you should get on and do your job'.

A member of the public asked for clarification regarding the advert in the Newbury Weekly News. Is it the legal process that only objections need to be sought? Please clarify that there is no point in sending in letters of support? The Chairman confirmed that the legislation requires the Council to issue a Public Notices so that people can object if they want to. Council is required to consider those objections, not letters of support, before making its final decision. She said that the point had been made before by Council but she would repeat it, residents know there is only one staff member at the moment and that the Council has lots of things to deal with, so to issue a social media call (as had been done) for everyone to submit letters of support when they are not actually required is not helpful. How will you consider these objections? The Chairman replied that all parish councillors would be provided with copies of the objections in order that they could consider them. 'So this is not a re-run of the parish poll?' – the Chairman said no, it isn't a re-run of the poll, it is something TPC is legally required to do.

How long is it going to take you to consider the responses? What if some parish councillors say they need 6 weeks to read the responses? The Chairman stated that, no, it would not take 6 weeks to consider the responses, as previously stated, the council would do this as soon as possible, councillors were well aware of the sense of urgency.

A resident commented that the school issue was not on the agenda but what item is more important than the school? The Chairman stated there were many important issues the parish council had to deal with. Take the matter of the travellers for instance, she said that, as Chairman, she had spent 65 hours on that issue.

A member of the public asked when the Council knew they had to put the notice in the paper, why hadn't they done it sooner? The Chairman explained that the notice had to be published once negotiations had been completed. The final letter from WBC was received on a Friday afternoon, parish councillors had met informally the following Monday evening and agreed that the Public Notice should now be issued. The wording could not be finalised before that week's submission deadline at NWN, 10am Tuesday morning, so it was submitted for the first possible publication. There had been no delay on the part of the parish council, they had acted as soon as was possible and the first available publication date was met.

Question - Yes but are there another 20 steps the parish council has to take? The Chairman confirmed that no, that was not the case. TPC had to consider any objections received in response to the Public Notice; it had to discuss the pros and cons in terms of social/environmental/economic factors and then it had to call a meeting for the decision.

Another member of the public commented that, presumably TPC's legal team is charging the residents for its advice and yet they seem to be taking a long time giving it. The Chairman noted the comment.

A resident said that she had not received an answer to a question she raised at the last parish council meeting. The Chairman apologised for this delay, she said she hadn't had a chance to deal with it as so much else had happened since the last meeting, but that she would get on to it as soon as she had time.

There were no further questions or comments from the public therefore the chairman closed the public open forum at 7.50pm.

Twelve members of the public left the meeting.

Notifications of Chairman's remarks – Cllr Rolfe had four items to raise, Cllr Clifford had three items, Cllr Hopcroft had one item, Cllr Richardson had two items and Cllr Williams had one item to raise.

One member of the public left the meeting.

SECTION A

44/18/19 MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF 11th JUNE 2018.

Members adopted the Minutes of the Meeting of 11th June 2018. Proposed Cllr Hopcroft; seconded Cllr Richardson. Approved nem con.

45/18/19 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF 11th JUNE 2018.

36/18/19 Planning meetings equipment – Cllr Hopcroft had not yet arranged the site meeting for this, he requested the chairman let him know when she was available and he would organise it.

38/18/19 WB Heritage Forum – Cllr Hopcroft hasn't heard back from Susan Ellis yet, he will contact her again.

SECTION B

46/18/19 District Council Report

Cllr Macro gave a verbal report:

Travellers – he described the travellers’ reaction to being served a Section 61 notice when they believed they had not acted in such a way as to warrant one; he spoke of the security measures being proposed for Meadow Way and Woodfield Way.

Meadow Way resurfacing – the letters to residents informing them of this work didn’t go out until the day before work was due to start. There was also an error in the times. Cllr Macro has complained to WBC Highways department.

Green bin tax – this is delayed and will come into effect later this summer. There will be a reduction in WBC’s income as a result of the delay. He hasn’t been able to ascertain the reason for the delay.

A new District Plan is being drawn up (up to 2036) and there has been a call for housing sites as well as employment sites. WBC intends to go out to consultation in the autumn. TPC may want to consider doing a Neighbourhood Development Plan as this could influence the District Plan.

WBC is introducing a local lottery which will raise money for local causes.

WBC has announced another £50m investment in commercial property, financed by a Public Works Board loan.

Cllr Macro left the meeting.

47/18/19 Clerk’s Report

Members noted the report.

48/18/19 Planning Applications

18/00823/FULEXT APPLICATION WITHDRAWN	Demolition of existing building & construction of 17 dwellings, 2 retail units, access, parking & landscaping	19 & 19A High Street Theale RG7	T A Fisher	Noted
18/01508/HOUSE	Back extension, internal alterations & loft conversion	6 Crown Lane, Theale RG7 5BG	Sarah Collins	Object: front dormers out of character, over dominant, damages integrity of historic building
18/01607/PASSHE	Replacement single storey rear extension to form enlarged kitchen & shower room, 3.5m from rear wall x 3.5m max height x 2.4m to eaves	11 Station Road Theale RG7 4AA	Lisa Johnson	No comment
18/01563/FULD	Variation of conditions of approved plans 16/00158/FULD & 17/02680/FULD; waste; cycle parking; parking	Unit 4 Brewery Court Theale, RG7 5AJ	Mr Hillman	Comment: replacing cycle storage with cycle hoops would result in them not being used
18/01402/LBC2	Proposal to replace 2 windows at rear of property & a number of sashes within existing windows due to rotting of timber beyond repair	Unit 4 Brewery Court Theale RG7 5AJ	Mr Hillman	Comment: agree as long as replacements are ‘like for like’

18/01589/PACOU	Change of use of offices (Class B1a) to form 8 apartments	10A High Street Theale RG7 5AN	Ashbourne Investments Ltd	Comment: does applicant own entrance road as indicated? How many parking spaces does WBC own? No amenity space. No cycle provision. No mention of waste collection
18/01621/FUL	Section 73A: variation of condition 2 of approved plans 17/02932/FUL	1530-1600 Arlington Business Park, Theale	Muncaster Properties Ltd	No objection

49/18/19 Pedestrian Safety – A4

Members suggested a letter is written to WBC stating that whilst TPC supports the concept of some form of pedestrian crossing over the A4 to the Business Park, it does not have to the power to build one. None of the councillors were available to attend the SID training session on 15th August.

50/18/19 Parish Council Insurance

Members discussed the quotes provided and RESOLVED to take up the 3 year long term agreement with Zurich. Proposed Cllr Williams; seconded Cllr Clifford. Approved nem con.

51/18/19 Travellers

Cllr Richardson thanked Edward Crookes, Estate Manager at Englefield, for organising the placing of another concrete block in the gap left by the removal of fence at NSPF. Owing to the sensitive nature of the discussion, the chairman requested that it be completed in Part II of this evening's meeting. Members agreed.

52/18/19 General Data Protection Regulation

Members RESOLVED to adopt the 'Retention and Disposal Policy' on condition that Appendix A, when completed, be provided to all councillors. Proposed Cllr Baker; seconded Cllr Rolfe. Approved nem con.

53/18/19 Tree Survey

Members agreed to commission the tree survey, as per the quotation provided, although they were concerned there could be an issue regarding payment as the contractor no longer accepts cheques. Clerk to contact the company to resolve this issue. Members RESOLVED to commission Tree Surveys to carry out up to date survey in the recreation ground. Proposed Cllr Clark; seconded Cllr Richardson. Approved nem con.

54/18/19 Reappointment of Internal Auditor

Members were satisfied with the service provided and therefore RESOLVED to reappoint Claire Connell as the parish council's Internal Auditor and Members approved the small fee increase that had been quoted. Proposed Cllr Williams; seconded Cllr Hopcroft. Approved nem con.

55/18/19 WBC Highway Winter Service Plan 2018/19

Noted.

56/18/19 WB Local Plan – SuDS SPD

Noted.

57/18/19 Authorisation of Payments

It was RESOLVED that items on sheet no.526 and dated 23rd July 2018 be approved for payment. Proposed Cllr Clifford; seconded Cllr Rolfe. Approved nem con.

Members noted the May 2018 Direct Debit sheet and payment sheets no. 523 dated 9th July 2018, and no. 525 dated 11th July 2018.

SECTION C**58/18/19 Items for Information**

Noted.

SECTION D**59/18/19 CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS**

Cllr Rolfe – residents had spoken to him about ASB on and around the skate park. Cllr Rolfe will recommend that residents report any incidents to the police on 101 in order that they may record days and times and plan their patrols appropriately.

Entrance to Andrews Close – this is still causing a problem. Clerk to provide Cllr Rolfe with contact details of WBC officer who has been dealing with the issue.

Possible activities for the Over 60's? – Cllr Rolfe had been asked if this could be considered by the parish council. Councillors said that, hopefully, once the school issue had been resolved then TPC could get on with its projects and it would certainly consider projects aimed at this age group.

Cllr Rolfe had been approached and asked if TPC would be interested in forming a joint working group with people from Burghfield and Mortimer to explore the possibility of working together to benefit the rural area. Cllr Rolfe will find out more information and the matter can be put on a future agenda.

Cllr Clifford – a resident had asked him if TPC could deal with some overgrown trees at the back of Lambfields, which were blocking her light. The clerk said this resident had already been into the office and asked for trees in the park to be cut back and had been advised to write to the council with details of which property/s were affected and what action was being requested. Councillors would then be able to have a site visit and decide whether any action should be taken. To date the resident had not supplied this information to the parish office. Cllr Clifford said he would go and view the site and report back to councillors.

Cllr Clifford said that he had received some negative feedback from residents regarding the cancellation of the parish council meeting on 9th July. The clerk asked if they had read the website statement which gave clear reasons for why the meeting was cancelled, Cllr Clifford said yes, they were aware of why the meeting was cancelled but had commented negatively on the fact that it had been cancelled.

Cllr Clifford said he had received requests for updates regarding the primary school issue.

Cllr Richardson – complained about the litter on the recreation ground. A couple of the councillors had repeatedly litter picked but this was not sustainable. The clerk suggested that, at least during the summer holidays, the council ask GN Maintenance to increase the frequency of litter bin emptying to twice a week. Members agreed. The clerk also suggested that council consider installing more litter bins in the recreation ground.

Cllr Williams reported that she had received a communication from those responsible for developing the Winning Hand, apologising for any disruption caused to residents during the works.

60/18/19 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 there were no members of the public present.

Social Media

Staffing Matters

There being no other business the Meeting closed at 10.30pm.

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Chairman to the Council

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