

MINUTES OF THEALE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Council Meeting held on Monday 9th October 2017 in the Peter Gooch Room, The Pavilion, Englefield Road, Theale.

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

Apologies received: Cllrs A. Clark, I. Hopcroft and A. Macro.

Present: Jo Friend (Clerk) in attendance. Eight members of the public were 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 negative.

108/17/18 Open Forum for Members of the Public

A member of the public asked what the timescale was for the parish council making a decision on the land at North Street playing fields. The chairman replied that it was difficult to put a timescale in place when the parish council was still awaiting answers and information from others. The resident asked for confirmation that it was the Estate the council were waiting for, the chairman confirmed this. The chairman assured the public that the parish council were keen to resolve the 'school' issue as soon as they were able to.

A second member of the public asked if there had been any school project board meetings recently. The clerk responded that she wasn't aware that there had been any. It was confirmed that, at the insistence of the parish council, its representative was now invited to attend school project board meetings but no such invitations had been received for some time. The member of the public felt that alternative options should still be under consideration, including the redevelopment of the existing school site, possibly whilst utilising the spare space available at Theale Green School.

As no further members of the public wished to speak, the chairman thanked the public for their comments and the public open forum was closed.

Councillor Fenwick arrived at the meeting.

Notifications of Chairman's remarks – None of the councillors had items to raise.

SECTION A

109/17/18 MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF 11th SEPTEMBER 2017.

One minor amendment: 85/17/18 Add 'Cllr Baker had one item to raise.'

Members adopted the Minutes of the Meeting of 11th September 2017. Proposed Cllr Richardson; seconded Cllr Wood.

110/17/18 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF 11th SEPTEMBER 2017.

There were no matters arising.

SECTION B

111/17/18 District Council Report

The clerk read out a written report provided by Cllr Macro. Issues covered: Parking problems in Meadow Way; WBC litter picking/street cleansing consultation; petition against new waste disposal charges; library re-launch; recent rise in vehicle crime; building works at Theale Golf Club.

112/17/18 Clerk's Report

BALC AGM – Cllr Becky Williams will attend.

113/17/18 Planning Applications

17/002697/COMIND	Installation of a new cycle store, smoking shelter & new plant enclosure	1510 Arlington Business Park, Theale RG7	Nokia Reading Hub	No objection
17/02680/FULD	Section 73A: variations of conditions 2 – approved plans of planning permission 16/00158/FULD, change of use from office to residential (4 flats)	Unit 4, Brewery Court, Theale, RG7	Mr Hillman	No objection

114/17/18 WBC Street Cleansing & Litter Picking Service Consultation

Members discussed the proposed reductions in service and agreed that the clerk should submit a response including :- it is unclear exactly what level service is being proposed; the loss of the Neighbourhood Wardens has already had an impact on some areas; WBC hasn't demonstrated what percentage of the budget is being saved by adopting these proposals; is a reactive service going to be cost effective; a minimum level of service should be provided even if it's topped up with reactive; ask for Church Street to be included in same category as High Street as there are two schools along here.

115/17/18 WBC Highway Winter Service Plan

Members discussed the proposals and agreed the clerk should submit a response including: - Englefield Road, gritting appears to stop at the doctors' surgery, could this be continued up to the pinch point near the village hall; why is there a gap part way down Church Street in the footway snow clearance, should this not be continuous.

116/17/18 General Data Protection Regulation

Members noted the report on the forthcoming new legislation which was provided by the clerk, and the recommendations contained within the report.

117/17/18 Remembrance Sunday

Volunteers are needed to assist with the road closures required for the parade. Cllr Williams, as chairman of TPC, will be taking part in the parade and the church service, Cllrs Richardson, Baker and Fenwick offered to assist with manning the road closure in the morning (Cllr Fenwick requested she be allocated a location that would enable her to attend the church service). The clerk will now contact the scouts to ask for further volunteers.

118/17/18 Boundary Commission – Parliamentary Constituency Review

Noted.

119/17/18 Community Council for Berkshire

No Members are available to attend the AGM.

120/17/18 WBC Members' Bids

Unfortunately Cllr Macro was not present at the meeting but Cllr Richardson suggested purchasing a 'poppy' bench (something previously discussed by council), and Cllr Clifford suggested using such funding to refurbish the pavilion. The clerk updated Members on the situation regarding the church's request for funding for a new path in the churchyard. Cllr Macro is to be updated.

121/17/18 District Parish Conference

Noted.

122/17/18 Clerks' Forum

Members noted the written report provided by the clerk.

123/17/18 Recreation Ground Seat

Members RESOLVED to fund the installation of a memorial seat – seat to be provided by the family of a resident. Proposed Cllr Coker; seconded Cllr Fenwick. Approved nem con.

124/17/18 Theale Christmas Event

Cllrs Williams, Richardson and Fenwick provided an update on plans for this year's Christmas event which will be held on Saturday 2nd December.

125/17/18 CCTV Maintenance

Members discussed the different levels of servicing/maintenance cover available and RESOLVED to approve the 'All Inclusive' cover. Proposed Cllr Clifford; seconded Cllr Baker. Approved nem con.

126/17/18 Authorisation of Payments

Cllr Clifford queried the reimbursement payment to the clerk and suggested that more detail should be provided. The clerk showed him the supporting documentation, which is always made available at every parish council meeting, which details the date, destination and reason for each journey and includes receipts for any purchases.

It was RESOLVED that items on sheet no.499 and dated 9th October 2017 be approved for payment. Proposed Cllr Fenwick; seconded Cllr Williams. Approved nem con.

Members noted the August Direct Debit sheet.

SECTION C**127/17/18 Items for Information**

Noted.

SECTION D**128/17/18 CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS**

Cllr Lye said he did have some Chairman's Remarks. He informed Members that the gym at Theale Green School had closed but that the school was amicable to hiring out the facilities. He asked who's responsibility was the grass cutting by the small play park

(Myton Walk) and was told it belongs to WBC. He also asked why weren't there any give way signs at the pinch point in the High Street (near the old Lloyds Bank) as it could be difficult to negotiate this feature.

129/17/18 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.

All members of the public left the meeting.

Minute 155 from the Meeting of 11th September 2017 was adopted as a correct record. Proposed Cllr Wood; seconded Cllr Richardson. Approved nem con.

Members noted Payment sheet No. 500 dated 9th October 2017.

Library – Gateway Update

Survey

Staff Appraisal

There being no other business the Meeting closed at 10pm.

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Chairman to the Council