

## MINUTES OF THEALE PARISH COUNCIL

*Minutes of the Full Council Meeting of Theale Parish Council held on Monday 3 February 2020 in the Peter Gooch Room, The Pavilion, Englefield Road, Theale*

### **Present:**

Cllrs D Baker, A Clark, S Coker, L Cox, P Clifford, Z Fenwick, K Gash, I Hopcroft & J Richardson (Chairman)

**Clerk:** J Kirk and **Assistant Clerk:** P Manley

**Public/Press:** Three members of the public

### **To receive any Apologies for absence:**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors C Rolfe & B Williams

### **To receive any Declarations of Interest:**

None

### **Open forum for members of the public:**

As there were no questions the Chairman thanked the members of the public for attending and closed the public session.

### **Councillors' remarks—to receive notification of any matters to be raised by Members later in the meeting**

Cllrs Baker, Clifford, Fenwick, Gash and Hopcroft notified they had matters to be raised.

### **140/19/20 To adopt the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 9 December 2019 and 27 January 2020**

The full Council Minutes of 9 December 2019 were proposed by Cllr Cox and seconded by Cllr Clark. The full Council Minutes of 27 January 2020 were proposed by Cllr Clifford and seconded by Cllr Richardson. It was resolved with four abstentions—Cllrs Clark, Gash, Hopcroft and Richardson, who were absent from the meeting of 9 December—that these Minutes be signed by The Chairman as true and correct records of the meetings.

### **141/19/20 To receive any matters arising from the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 9 December 2019 and 27 January 2020**

None

### **142/19/20 To receive the Clerk's report**

The Clerk's report included:

- a response from West Berkshire Council Highways Maintenance regarding a notification sent by the Clerk of the failure of four streetlights on the High Street. Highways Maintenance stated that the fault would be rectified within seven days (councillors reported that this had since been rectified);
- a response from Highways England regarding concerns raised by the Clerk on the lighting failure on the pedestrian bridge over the M4 motorway. Highways England stated that hoped to resolve the issue by January 2020 (councillors reported that this had since been rectified).

#### 143/19/20 To receive District Council report

District Cllr Macro deliver his report, which included concerns about pavement parking in Theale and a report on the Housing and Employment Land Availability Assessment.

#### 144/19/20 To consider and agree a formal response to Planning Applications received since the last meeting of the Council—to include all received by meeting date

Councillors considered the Planning Applications listed below and commented upon them as shown.

<a href="#">19/00113/OUTMAJ</a> (adjacent parish)	Outline application for up to 265 dwellings on the western part of the site and a mixed use building comprising 450sqm (GIA) of floorspace to provide a community healthcare hub.	Land East Of, Pincents Lane, Tilehurst, Reading	Mike Bodkin U and I (Pincents Lane) Ltd
<b>Object</b>			
<a href="#">20/00049/FUL</a>	Change of use from Class D1 (Therapy Suite) to Class A3 (Offices).	38A High Street Theale Reading RG7 5AN	W Cumber and Son (Theale) Ltd
<b>No objection</b> , although Theale Parish Council raised concerns about limited parking and the potential for people to use the dedicated parking for the John Cumber Hall, which is in the vicinity			
<a href="#">20/00137/FULD</a>	New dwelling to the rear of the existing retail unit, extension to the existing flat over and alterations to the ground floor retail unit, including landscape.	14 and 14A High Street Theale Reading RG7 5AN	Iain McNaught
<b>No objection</b>			

**145/19/20 To consider and agree written representations in response to an appeal against a decision of West Berkshire Council to refuse planning permission**

<a href="#">18/03209/FULEXT</a>	Demolition of existing building and construction of 15 no. dwellings, 2 no. retail units (use Class A1/A2/A3), associated access, parking and landscaping	19 and 19A High Street Theale Reading Berkshire RG7 5AH	TA Fisher Developments Ltd
The Council agreed to submit written representations, objecting on the same grounds as those agreed at the Parish Council meeting of 14 <sup>th</sup> January 2019.			

**146/19/20 To note West Berkshire Council Planning Decisions for Theale since the last Parish Council Meeting and receive notification of a new planning application**

<a href="#">19/02611/HOUSE</a>	The conversion of our existing integral garage into a family room. The works will involve the removal of the existing garage door and replacement with a new window and facing brickwork.	1 Whitehart Close Theale Reading Berkshire RG7 5QL	Stephen Heap
<b>Approval</b>			
<a href="#">19/02697/ADV</a>	Erection of three flagpoles (6m) to display outside 1600 Waterside Drive, Arlington Parish: Theale Parish Council Business Park.	1530 - 1600 Arlington Business Park Theale Reading RG7 4SA	Bottomline Technologies
<b>Approval</b>			
<a href="#">19/02696/FUL</a>	Erection of three flagpoles (6m) to display outside 1600 Waterside Drive, Arlington	1530 - 1600 Arlington Business Park Theale Reading RG7 4SA	Bottomline Technologies
<b>Approval</b>			
<a href="#">19/02341/ADV</a>	Proposed hoarding on three elevations of the site	Land at Junction of Wigmore Lane Bath Road	Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service
<b>Approval</b>			

<u>19/01977/COMIND</u>	Section 73: Variation of Condition 2 'Approved drawings' of previously approved application 18/00182/COMIND: Demolition of three existing industrial units and the erection of two replacement industrial units with front service yard for flexible B2 and/or B8 uses, with ancillary office.	Technology Centre Station Road Theale Reading Berkshire RG7 4AA	Bottomline Technologies
<b>Approval</b>			
<u>19/02890/HOUSE</u>	Remove existing front porch, replace and extend to full width of the property with pitch roof. Ramp access to front and rear access steps.	42 Meadow Way, Theale, RG7 4AX	Linda Garcia
<b>Approval</b>			
<u>19/02988/FUL</u>	Addition of external staircase as escape route. Section 73 application to vary condition 2 (approved plans) of previously approved application 18/02549/FUL.	Unit 6, Brewery Court, Theale, Reading RG7 5AJ	RSU Pension Scheme
<b>Approval</b>			
<u>19/02915/HOUSE</u>	Detached four bay garage to provide parking for 1 and 2 Church Street Mews with first floor annexe.	1 and 2 Church Street Mews, Church Street, Theale, Reading, RG7 5BF	Mr & Mrs Dickinson
<b>Refusal</b>			

**147/19/20 To confirm, consider and authorise cheque payments as listed on the payment schedule sheet No. 551 dated 3 February 2020 and to confirm payment sheet No 550 dated 13 January 2020**

Members considered and agreed the items on payment schedules nos. 550 and 551, dated 13 January 2020 and 3 February respectively, totalling £7,800.51 and £1,992.65 respectively be approved for payment. These were proposed by Cllr Clifford and seconded by Cllr Richardson and resolved unanimously.

**148/19/20 To formally agree to the amended orientation of the replacement pitch at North Street Playing Fields as offered by West Berkshire Council**

Proposed by Cllr Clifford and seconded by Cllr Baker, with five for, two against and two abstaining from the decision, it was:

**RESOLVED** to formally agree to the amended orientation of the replacement pitch at North Street Playing Fields as offered by West Berkshire Council.

**149/19/20 To consider a quotation from Vision ICT and recommendation from the Parish Office to accept Vision ICT's quotation at a cost of £1,155 to rebuild the Parish Council website in order to comply with Accessibility Regulations 2018**

Proposed by Cllr Cox and seconded by Cllr Hopcroft, it was unanimously:

**RESOLVED** to accept the recommendation from the Parish Office to accept the quotation from Vision ICT to rebuild the Parish Council website.

Cllr Fenwick suggested the Parish Council consider an overall review of the website and create a specification in a future Parish Council meeting.

**150/19/20 To receive a report from Cllr Hopcroft to**

- a. discuss a proposal for a memorial tree to be planted and decide outcome
- b. consider that memorial tree requests to be added to the remit of the TPC Environmental working party and what steps/guidelines would be required.

Cllr Hopcroft reported that a resident had asked whether a memorial tree for the late Matt Newman be planted on the northern edge of the North Street Playing Fields. Subject to the conditions in the lease from Englefield Estate, proposed by Cllr Hopcroft and seconded by Cllr Clifford, with six in favour and three abstaining, it was:

**RESOLVED** to accept the proposal a memorial tree for the late Matt Newman be planted on the northern edge of the North Street Playing Fields.

Regarding the remit of the Theale Parish Council Environmental Working Party, Cllr Hopcroft stated he would present draft steps/guidelines for the Parish Council to consider in a future meeting.

**151/19/20 To consider a quotation from SSE to remove a SOX streetlight and supply and fit one new LED streetlight in the same location at a cost of £491.49 (ex. VAT)**

Proposed by Cllr Fenwick, seconded by Cllr Clark, it was unanimously:

**RESOLVED** to accept the quotation from SSE to remove a SOX streetlight and supply and fit one new LED streetlight in the same location at a cost of £491.49 (ex. VAT).

**152/19/20 To consider a quotation to repair and replace the damaged brickwork at the rear of the Pavilion adjacent to the boiler room and a cost of £290.00**

Proposed by Cllr Cox, seconded by Cllr Fenwick, it was unanimously:

**RESOLVED** to accept the quotation to repair the damaged brickwork at the rear of the Pavilion.

**153/19/20 To consider the provision of dog fouling signs for the North Street Playing Fields**

It was decided this item would be deferred until the next meeting of the Parish Council. Cllr Hopcroft suggested the signs include mention of the fine of up to £1,000 for not cleaning up after one's dog and the associated Act of Parliament. The Parish Office would obtain information on dog fouling signs and sample prices to present at the next meeting of the Parish Council.

**154/19/20 To consider TPC Projects**

Cllr Clifford drew the Council's attention to the projects listed in the Earmarked Funds. Cllr Hopcroft reminded the Council of a previously agreed sequence of the projects, starting with the refurbishment of the Pavilion kitchen and Peter Gooch Room.

Cllr Hopcroft stated that this project's working party—formed of Cllrs Coker, Clark, Richardson and himself—would produce an informal specification for the refurbishment for consideration at a future meeting of the Parish Council, whence a professional specification would be sought.

**155/19/20 To note any correspondence received and item of information received since the meeting of 9 December 2019**

The Assistant Clerk recited a letter from Mary Tearney (Trustee of The John Cumber Charity) to the councillors. The letter stated that she was sorry to hear of the Clerk's impending departure and commended her work in managing the John Cumber Hall. Mary also expressed continued concern for the long-term viability of the hall.

**156/19/20 To receive any Councillors' remarks**

Cllr Clark

- reported that the ground at the gateway into the North Street Playing Fields by the garages on the south-eastern edge was a slip hazard, due the removal and replacement of turf. He asked that the Parish Council's general maintenance contractor purchase stones to remedy the situation;
- reported that the Parish Council's landscaping contractor had not been cutting the brambles at the west and northern edges of the Recreation Ground. The Parish Office would check the contract and contact the contractor;
- raised a complaint by a resident that footballers had been spotted urinating on the resident's hedge at the edge of the North Street Playing Fields. The Parish Office would talk to the relevant football teams.

Cllr Hopcroft

- raised a complaint about speeding on Church Street and Station Road and requested that the Parish Office write to West Berkshire Council to see what action can be taken;
- asked whether the Parish Council objected to him contacting West Berkshire Council's tree officer regarding the instigation of possible Tree Preservation Orders: nobody objected.

Cllr Clifford thanked the Clerk—Jayne Kirk—for her service and wished her well in the light of her resignation.

Cllr Fenwick reported that residents were asking about the VE Day event on social media. The Events Committee arranged to convene the following week to discuss this.

Cllr Gash reported that the Parent and Teacher Association at Theale Primary School were organising a fête to celebrate the old school buildings. She requested for help gathering old photos of the buildings.

In the interest of time, Cllr Baker deferred his remark for a later date.

The Chairman thanked the Members of the Public for attending.

### **Confidential Session**

Proposed by Cllr Richardson, seconded by Cllr Fenwick, it was

**RESOLVED** to exclude the press and public from the meeting pursuant to Section 1 of the Public Bodies [Admission to Meetings] Act 1960 on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

*No remaining members of the public*

### **157/19/20 To update the John Cumber Hall bank signatories**

The Clerk informed the Parish Council that the decision to update the John Cumber Hall signatories lay with the Trustee of The John Cumber Charity.

Cllr Clifford suggested that the John Cumber Hall signatories include at least two councillors.

### **158/19/20 To receive an update from the Staffing Committee**

Cllr Clifford notified the Parish Council that the Clerk was to finish in her employment on Wednesday 12 February 2020. He stated the intention for the Parish Council to employ a locum clerk thereafter. He stated that the Staffing Committee would meet on Tuesday 4 February 2020 to discuss this.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 10.00pm.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_