

Chaddleworth Parish Council

Clerk to the Council: Mrs Kim Lloyd
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MINUTES

TUESDAY 4 FEBRUARY 2020– 7.30PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Present: Cllr. Murphy (Chair), Cllr. Ballard (Vice Chair), Cllr. Mills, Cllr. Mcallister, Cllr. Homersham and the Clerk Mrs K Lloyd.
3 members of the public present.

1. APOLOGIES RECEIVED

No Apologies.

The Clerk noted that Gareth Beard's resignation was received by E-mail on 21/01. Members of the Parish Council were already aware of this through E-mail. The Parish Council thanked Gareth for his efforts while on the Parish Council and wished him well for the future.

The Clerk had informed the monitoring officer at West Berkshire Council and the vacancy notice is advertised.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST ON AGENDA ITEMS.

No Declarations of Interest declared.

3. OPEN FORUM

Cllr. Mills arrived during the open forum.

4. PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED.

One planning application was considered.

Ref. 20/00163/HOUSE - The White House - Single storey side extension.

<http://planning.westberks.gov.uk/rpp/index.asp?caseref=20/00163/HOUSE>

The members of the Parish Council had **no objections**.

5. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

Members then **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY** to confirm and adopt the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 7 January 2020.

6. SID UPDATE /SPEEDING IN NORRIS FIELD

Cllrs. Murphy and Mcallister carried out a SID (Speed Indicator Device) on 12/2. They spent two hours (one hour at Botmoor Way and one hour at Sheephouse Way). During this time they had only five vehicles travelling south to north on both roads in the hour (four travelling out of the village north to south in Sheephouse Way). Two of the five were speeding (40%) on both roads.

Unfortunately, Norris Field road was not suitable to deploy data collecting equipment.

Cllr. Mcallister raised the question to ask if the cables that capture speeds could be deployed on the Norris Field road. The Clerk was asked to enquire.

ACTION: Clerk

The captured data will be downloaded by the Traffic and Road Safety Team and analysed. This data will be shared with the Parish Council and minuted once received.

7. **STILE –CHAPEL COTTAGE**

The Clerk received a response from West Berkshire Council saying their 'Rights of Way' team are down to half a team since September, but the senior officer had asked their Ranger team to inspect and take a view. No further update. The Clerk will keep chasing. **Action: Clerk**

8. **PLANTING ADDITIONAL TREES IN THE PARISH**

Cllr. Murphy is still waiting to hear back from the agents for land owners - On-going.

9. **GROUNDS MAINTENANCE**

The Clerk asked if the members of the Parish Council had any preference to the new contractors starting date. After discussion, it was agreed to leave the decision to the new contractors to confirm a starting date.

The Clerk reported the previous contractors were now informed and the relationship between them and the Parish Council was left amicable with no payments outstanding.

10. **PLAYGROUND/ CAR PARK /RECREATION GROUND, RENT INCREASE UPDATE**

Following the last Parish Council meeting, Cllr. Murphy was asked to contact the landowner's agent to ask the landowner to re-consider reducing the proposed rent. Cllr. Murphy had measured the three parcels of land and they amount to:

Car Park = 0.09 of an acre,

Play Area = 0.18 of an acre,

Football Field 0.37 of an acre.

The total is 0.63 of an acre.

To then contrast their charge. Cllr. Murphy informed the agent of the 12 acres of land that is rented at a price of £91 per acre and noted that the cost of agricultural land had fallen below £7,000 per acre for the first time in quite a while.

Following Cllr. Murphy's correspondence through E-mail. On the 21/01 the agent replied offering the rent to remain at £300, increasing to £350 to 1st March 2025 on a combined lease.

The legal fees are also to be paid by Chaddleworth Parish Council.

All members of the Parish Council agreed to the new terms through E-mail. The question was then asked from the agent if the Parish Council is employing a solicitor to act on their behalf.

A discussion took place in the meeting and it was agreed not to employ a solicitor. The Clerk was asked to contact the agent confirming this and to forward the lease for review and signatory.

Members then resolved unanimously that Cllrs. Murphy and Ballard would review and sign the lease when received from the Clerk. **ACTION: Clerk/Cllrs. Murphy and Ballard.**

11. **VILLAGE HALL CAR PARK**

Cllr. Murphy raised the matter of the village hall car park surface. Mud has 'leached' through the aggregate/surface dressing and needs attention.

After a discussion based on what materials could be used to repair the surface. Cllr. Murphy was asked to write to the landowner's agent asking what restrictions there were on materials that could be used to repair the surface and what would be deemed acceptable.

Action: Cllr. Murphy

12. FINANCE

a) Bank Accounts

Balances on 29 January 2020

Parish Council	£16,890.08
Bakers Trust	£6,648.34
Football Field	£1,211.82
Reserve Account	£1000,00

b) Payments to be approved in meeting.

S/O	Kim Lloyd (Parish Clerk) 25 DEC 2019	£429.78
S/O	Mrs H Anderson (Litter picking) 25 th NOV 2019	£20.00
S/O	Chaddleworth Village Hall 25 th NOV 2019	£23.00

The Clerk reported £1000,00 transfer (as agreed in Min item 14 on 7/01/2020) from the CPC account into the Reserve account had been processed through visiting Metro, the Clerk was pleased to report a much easier process than the Parish Council's previous bank supplier.

13. STANDING ORDERS REVIEW

After a full discussion it was agreed to leave the standing orders as they stand apart from a few minor alterations. The Standing Orders were reviewed by the Clerk and the Parish Council. The outgoing Councillor's points were considered, it was agreed following the Clerks advice to write a separate planning application policy.

The Clerk is also reviewing a Dispensation policy for the Parish Council to determine Councillors declaration of interests. The Clerk will have both policy's ready for review before agreeing to adopt in the Annual Parish Council Meeting in May.

ACTION: Clerk

14. COUNCILLOR QUESTIONS AND REPORTS

Cllr. Mills reported a water surface drain cover is loose outside No 1 Nodmore. The Clerk was asked to contact WBC.

Cllrs. Murphy and Ballard attended the Fighting Plastic Waste in West Berkshire at Council offices on 09/01. Both reported that they were disappointed in the Councillors debate.

Cllr. Homersham attended the Community Conversations /Environment Strategy at Shaw House on 3/02. Please see Appendix 1 as shown for Cllr. Homersham's report. Members of the Parish Council thanked Cllr. Homersham for attending.

Cllr. Murphy attended the Neighbourhood Watch meeting on 03/02. Ministry of Justice, Police Crime Officers and Victim First Support was in attendance. The main points covered were drug taking, missing people (reported to be 356 per year in West Berkshire-136 of these being under 14) and burglary had also increased to 75%.

Cllr. Ballard made enquires on recycling options outside the village hall. As it is classed as commercial waste it cannot be recycled. A discussion took place to look into options of buying separate recycling bins and employing a contractor.

Cllr. Ballard reported confirmation from the Village Hall insurers that they would not insure power from the hall regarding the logistics of the Fete. Cllr. Murphy said it was being discussed to add old pictures in the hall for the fete along with teas sales.

Cllr. Ballard reported on the 1st April the work will start on the roof repair. Reserves maybe left in the village hall account following the roof repair. The Village Hall Committee would like to thank the Parish Council for all their support.

Chris Jordan had raised thoughts on purchasing a projector and screen to help increase bookings for the hall. The Clerk said perhaps the Parish Council could consider buying or contributing towards one, as it could be used by Parish Council to view full planning applications as there was no hard copies sent anymore.

Cllrs Ballard and Murphy said they are doing the work to the lights in the village hall and Chris Jordan is looking at adding a kitchen hatch to cover the kitchen to hide caterers when an event is on, again hoped this may help increase bookings.

15. CLERK CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk received Thank you letters.

One from the Downland Volunteer Group (Handybus) thanking the Parish Council for their contribution of £100.00, they said that the catalytic converter was stolen from the handybus and so had repair bills that they were not expecting. The Parish Council donation was very welcome.

The Village Hall Committee thanked the Parish Council for the donation of £900.

The Clerk will chase Sovereign Housing Association regarding the overgrown trees at the school.

16. MATTERS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION.

None.

17. DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS.

To confirm the date of the next Parish Council meeting on Tuesday 3rd March 2020.

It was agreed to move the April meeting to the week before on Tuesday 31st March due to the village hall roof repair commencing on the 1st April.

Closed

Appendix 1 – Report on Community Conversation - Environment Strategy.

Feedback from the Community Conversation at Shaw House on 3rd February at 6pm. Following West Berkshire Council's declaration of a **Climate Emergency** last July, they have been drafting an Environment Strategy and have released the draft for public consultation.

You can find the draft and a summary draft on this link:

<https://info.westberks.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=36647>

I would encourage all to respond to the consultation (survey) which closes at 5pm on 21 February. The survey should take approximately 15 minutes to complete and **your feedback/suggestions will be used to shape the final strategy.**

The Conversation was facilitated by WSP who are a global consultancy service specialising in providing energy and environmental advice for sustainable infrastructure.

Community Conversations are being held to engage with communities before the strategy is finalised, to talk about some of the actions everyone may need to take to enable West Berkshire to reach a carbon neutral 2030 target.

Attendees were split into three groups to discuss their thoughts on the following areas and feedback at the end of the session:

1. Energy
2. Transport
3. Waste

Energy

- There is a need to incentivise individuals to invest and support Solar/wind power etc.
- There is a need for education and communication of the benefits to the environment and financial benefits that can be gained by investing/switching to sustainable energy sources.
- There is an opportunity to use the existing Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE) to exploit nuclear power for West Berkshire.
- Due to high levels of historical and listed buildings in the West Berkshire area, there is a consensus that there is a need to pressure the Planning and Conservation departments to communicate and compromise to reach agreements that favour both efficient energy management whilst preserving the history of buildings.
- There is a need for putting pressure on central government to change standard new build planning regulations to include the use of solar panels and underground water reservoirs etc.
- There is a need for major funding to enable grants to facilitate retrofitting existing residential and industrial buildings with sustainable energy sources. There was a suggestion that funding could be raised by increasing taxes on fossil fuels. This income would go to central government and so isn't a way of West Berkshire funding themselves. Again, pressure onto central government is required to make these changes.

Transport

- Compared to other counties, West Berkshire suffers from a higher percentage of Transport Carbon Emissions than Industrial or Residential sectors. Normally Industry is the larger contributor. This is due to the M4 and A34 running straight through the county. Therefore, tackling this area is made more difficult where West Berkshire Council is concerned.

- There was a large emphasis on increasing cycle paths (possibly incorporating disused railway lines) and increasing the use of electric bicycles to encourage people to take a longer journey by bike rather than car.
- There was a need for a review of planning on rural developments where public transport links are limited. This currently encourages more commuters using cars to commute to town centres rather than living within the towns where lower carbon travel options are more readily available.
- The idea of enforce car sharing by taxing those that don't car share to reduce congestion.
- The need to improving school bus infrastructure and charge/tax those who don't use this service rather than those that do.

Waste

- Positive feedback was given that education and schemes in school's can be powerful with regards to recycling items that are currently not recycled by the council. For example through private companies such as Terracycle <https://www.terracycle.com/>. And the suggestion that the council partnership with companies and introduce schemes through schools.
- There is a need to put pressure on central government to enforce responsible producing of products (ban the use of non-recyclable materials).
- An increase in general education plus within schools with regards to food produce and meal preparation to emphasise 'Eat local and seasonal' to encourage a lower import of food from all over the world which is again a contributor of carbon emissions.
- Differing recycling systems county by county are not benefiting from economies of scale that could be gained by having one central operation UK wide. Unfortunately, different areas on the country face different challenges which makes this difficult. For example, Kensington require more regular collections due to the restricted storage space available for waste opposed to more rural areas of the country. One size does not fit all.

Cllr. Georgie Homersham-Smith

04/02/2020