

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF STREATLEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD **Actions**
BY VIDEO CALL ON 11 JANUARY 2021 (start 7.30pm)

Present – Mr J Spring (Chairman), Mr N Barnes, Mr M Robertson, Mrs L Coyle, Mr M Jubb, Mr C. Smith, District Councillor A Law

21/001 Preliminaries

- a. **Dispensations**
None.

21/002 Apologies

Ms J Ashmore.

21/003 Open Forum

There were no members of the public present, therefore no Open Forum.

21/004 Minutes

- i. Council resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 14th December 2020, having earlier been circulated, be agreed as the correct record. They will be signed by the Chairman at the next face to face meeting. **Clerk**

21/005 Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

Note: Some items cannot be progressed during the period of lockdown. These items will be maintained but in a lesser font except where there has been an update.

- a. 18/125 g. i. WBC email regarding establishment of footpath from Hill Gardens to Green Hill. A Law has received some objections, including one from a resident who believes there is a covenant in place for the land. A section of woodland behind the pre-school/school is owned by WBC Education Department. No details of a covenant have been found by WBC Property or Education Departments.

The remaining larger area is Open Access Land.

27 evidence forms sent to S Higgins, WBC, on 8 August 2018. The next step is to apply for a public footpath. S Higgins has supplied all forms and will assist with the process. Council instructed the Clerk to proceed with completion of the forms. Clarification received from WBC on 'evidence' required.

Clerk and Mr. Ashton to ask more people to complete evidence forms. 9 received so far - aiming for at least 10. 2 additional signed forms received from Mr. Ashton. **Clerk**

- b. 19/026 iii. The Primary School Eco group is looking for projects. Councillor Coyle has two ideas which need further development:
- i. Scope for inclusion in the wildflower meadow project
 - ii. Plastic recycling. Collection of recyclables currently not collected by WBC.

Ideas put forward included a walking bus and giving assistance to elderly allotment owners. Councillor Coyle was due to meet with Mrs Dineen (School Governor responsible for Eco) but due to the lockdown this was delayed. Councillor Coyle in discussions with SAS. **LC**

20/027 i. Councillor Ashmore referred Councillor Coyle to a scheme from TerraCycle whereby schools could receive money from collecting and

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- recycling otherwise hard to recyclable products. School is currently closed. Ongoing. **LC**
- c. 19/074 i. High Street traffic. WBC carried out a survey of High Street in October 2019. A further survey, including a weekend, was carried out in Spring 2020. District Councillor Alan Law met with the officers who analysed the data. The data volumes were comparable with the private survey carried out (for the Limeswell planning application) in November 2018. One point that came out was that when traffic travelling from Goring was held at the bottom of the High St. due to oncoming traffic, this affected the traffic detection loop and causing a shorter cycle at the lights for the traffic from the Goring direction. The lights can be changed to take this into account, but this may not make a great difference to traffic flows. A further video survey was carried out from Thursday 15th October to Sunday 18th October 2020.
- Once the report is drafted, with its options and recommendations, it will be passed to District Councillor Alan Law and then to the Parish Council for consideration and discussion before consultation with residents. Meeting with officers postponed due to Covid situation.
- 19/141 xi. When plans are in place for Streatley High Street they will be discussed with Goring PC. Ongoing. **JS**
- d. 19/081 f ii. Streatley Hill. People walk on the road to go up Streatley Hill and are apparently unaware of the footpath options. The owners of the property at the bottom of The Coombe have agreed that a sign can be placed on their wall.
- The sign at the top of The Coombe is positioned along the footpath. A sign is required at the start of the gravelled area to point the way to the footpath. WBC will look to place an additional Public Footpath sign at the top of The Coombe. Councillors Jubb and Robertson have proposed wording for signs which has been approved by Council "Alternative Public Footpath to top of Streatley Hill avoiding the main road". Councillor Jubb suggested a series of dots highlighting the route up The Coombe.
- Councillor Barnes has produced graphics for the signs, including SPC logo. A plastic sign, more suitable for external use, has now been delivered. It was agreed to mount this on plywood and attach to the wooden fence. Councillor Robertson to inform owners that the sign will be put up as soon as possible. **MR/NB**
- Repeater signs are required for the two grit bins in The Coombe once the weather improves. **NB/Clerk**
- e. 19/108 d i. New SPC labels attached to 6 salt bins in Streatley. Remaining 4 (Stichens Green x 3, Wantage Road) to be done when weather is dry. The sticker on the bin at the top of The Coombe to be replaced as it is damaged. **Clerk**
- f. 19/139 a ii. The process for listing The Bull public house as an Asset of Community Value is under way and Councillor Jubb sent the completed form to WBC.
- The panel met on 24th November 2020 and determined that The Bull did not meet the criteria for listing as the letting rooms brought it into the hotel

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category and most of the income is from the hotel business. There was also a comment that the submission did not include backing from individual members of the public.

MJ

District Councillor Law recommended that Council pursues the matter further.

Councillor Coyle will write to the Goring Gap News thanking The Bull for their hospitality during the recent power outage and will include a note asking for written support for the registration as an Asset of Community Value. Any submissions can be sent to the Clerk.

LC

- g. 19/142 i. Replacement for the rowan tree by the bus shelter. Following advice from the Woodland Trust and another source, a field maple (acer) has been selected. Quotation received from Tree Solutions (£269 for the tree plus £175 for planting). Mr Spencer has agreed to donate £300 and it was agreed that the balance would be paid by the Parish Council. Clerk to chase for a date for planting.

Council has agreed to a plaque subject to approval of wording. Mr Spencer to source plaque.

Clerk

When we have a confirmed plan for planting Councillor Spring to write an article for GGN.

JS

- h. 19/156 i. Councillor Robertson has been asked about life buoys on the footpath (STRE 24) along the eastern bank of The Thames. It was suggested that the lock keeper may be able to help with how this can be achieved. Ongoing.

MR

- i. 20/040 f ii. Clerk to obtain name badges for Councillors Jubb, Smith and Ashmore, plus the Clerk. WBC can provide these.

Clerk

- j. 20/069 c i. Playground Facilities Ltd, determined that the swings did not need attention now but would recommend an inspection every 6 months (£65 per visit). It was agreed to go ahead with 6 monthly inspections. The first visit is scheduled for early March.

**Action
Completed**

Removal of ivy from trees can now be done. Clerk awaiting a call back regarding quote for work.

Clerk

- k. 20/104 xii Councillor Spring to raise issue of speeding traffic at next NAG meeting.

JS

- l. 20/117 a. Councillor Barnes enquired about the use of MS Teams as a means of document sharing. All agreed with piloting this approach. Councillor Barnes to pilot with Clerk and Councillors Jubb, Robertson and Spring.

It was agreed that MS Teams or other cloud storage should be investigated as a document repository and not as a messaging system. Councillors Jubb, Robertson and Spring will be used as 'guinea pigs' for the new system.

It was also agreed that links to the WBC planning documentation and COVID information should be sent rather than actual documents.

NB

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- District Councillor Law to provide introduction to Kevin Griffin, an IT expert at WBC, who may be able to advise on secure storage for documents.
Ongoing.
- m. 20/120 iii. Councillor Jubb offered to pick up with WBC the Vehicle Activated Sign for the Wantage Road now that the building works are complete.
It was agreed that Councillor Jubb should investigate devices that would also record speeds.

Councillor Jubb reported that the cost for signs range from £2,500 to £3,500 plus installation. The cost of installation depends on the work involved but may be up to £7,000. District Councillor Law reported that Upper Basildon had a recent quote for £2,500.

This is in WBC Highways programme for next year. Discussions ongoing. **MJ**
- n. 20/135 ix. Clerk accepted the offer of some trees for the Recreation Ground and possibly the Meadows. 20 small trees (oak, field maple and rowan) were delivered on 28th November and need to be planted by the end of February.

The Allotment Society would like more trees behind the basketball area of the Recreation Ground, and it was suggested that some are planted along the western fence of the allotments as a screen. Councillor Barnes to discuss with HoSCT. Council noted that oak trees cannot be planted in a field where horses graze.

It was suggested that the oaks are planted behind the ball area of the Recreation Ground and be protected by fencing. **Clerk/NB**
- o. 20/136 iv. Additional footpath maps directing walkers up The Coombe.

Councillor Coyle has agreement in principle from the school to display one. Councillor Ashmore stated that The Bull were happy to display a map. Councillor Barnes provided contact details of R. Bridle to Councillor Jubb to enable him to ask for a copy of the map without advertisements. Awaiting response from R. Bridle. **MJ**
- p. 20/148 a i. The salt bin, flower trough and tree were casualties of the recent car accident. Aviva required invoices/quotes and photographs for the items being claimed.

Tree has been cut down. Replacement green grit bin and salt have been delivered. Replacement flower trough has been identified. Insurance claim for £746.93 sent to Aviva 6th January and is with their engineer for approval. **Action Completed**
- q. 20/148 a ii. HoSCT is looking for a new Trustee who could be a fund raiser for the rebuilding of the wall. Councillor Coyle has approached someone, but they are very busy due to lockdown. She will ask if they would consider in the future. **LC**

District Councillor Law is interested in becoming a Trustee. Councillor Barnes raised this at the HoSCT meeting on 16th December and will pursue with other Trustees. **NB**
- r. 20/149 xiv. Streatley on-street EV charging bollard - initial enquiry.

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Clerk has responded regarding the 4 proposed sites and two potential alternative locations.

The Parish Council will also look at other alternatives. Councillor Spring to contact the Swan and Councillor Ashmore to contact the Bull.

JS

No response so far from the Swan. Marston's Brewery are implementing a scheme of EV charging points across their public houses in the UK. Councillor Ashmore will contact them directly.

JA

- s. 20/160 i. SPC has reviewed the consultation paper on the Local Plan and agrees with its conclusions. District Councillor Law to send his comments to Councillor Spring. Councillor Spring to respond on behalf of the Parish Council. **JS**
- t. 20/161 c i. All to pass comment regarding Planning Application 20/02887/HOUSE 5 Pound Cottages to Councillor Smith who will put together the SPC response. **Action Completed**
- u. 20/161 f i. SODC planning application P20/S2488/FUL. Clerk to submit the response proposed by Councillor Spring. **Action Completed**
- v. 20/161 f iii. Councillor Spring to forward to District Councillor Law correspondence regarding mobile field shelter in Rectory Road. **Action Completed**
- w. 20/162 d. Agreed Governance documents to be placed on SPC web site. Ongoing. **NB/Clerk**
- x. 20/165 x. Clerk to respond to Streatley School re defibrillator. Coombe House have a defibrillator and an agreement has been reached whereby the defibrillator and costs are shared with the school. **Action Completed**

21/006 Report of the West Berkshire District Councillor

- i. Traffic congestion in High Street. The meeting with Highways officers has been postponed due to the current COVID situation.
- ii. WBC Budget Review. A lot of money has been spent on COVID related schemes and there has also been a loss of income due to the pandemic (eg. car park fees), however government funding for COVID has counterbalanced these losses. The budget rules for 2021/22 allow a 2% increase to Council Tax. 3% over 3 years is also permitted to fund social care. It is forecast that Council Tax increases will be of a similar level to 2020/21.

21/007 Planning

a. Decisions made in between meetings (papers previously circulated)

- i. 20.02887/HOUSE 5 Pound Cottages, Wallingford Road.
Addition of side facing dormer to provide additional accommodation in attic space.

The Clerk, in consultation with Councillors Spring, Coyle, Robertson, Jubb, Ashmore, Smith and Barnes, determined that Council object to this application on the grounds that Pound Cottages are prominent dwellings in the centre of the village, initially constructed to replace previous historic dwellings of similar architectural features. In this location, Streatley Parish Council raises objection to any property amendment which causes a deviation from the intent to maintain the overall street scene as close to the original view of the village. Such

objection supports the general conservation principles for the village central area as highlighted in the “*West Berkshire Council Conservation Area Appraisal – Streatley*”, with specific reference to Clause 12.4.11, on page 34 indicating that:

“.....the eastern side of Wallingford Road including Pound, Lardon and Chestnut Cottages. Chestnut Cottages, illustrated at Figure 59, replaced a building of the same name which occupied the site in the 19th century. Each of the developments has an architectural integrity. Although they have larger windows than those of the traditional cottages, they share common characteristics such as linear, flat facades, unbroken simple roofs and strong horizontal eaves and ridge lines. The architectural integrity of the developments has begun to be eroded, for example, by the insertion of replacement windows and of front doors which do not match the originals”.

Currently, none of the Pound properties have any visible extensions, roof alterations, window-lights or dormers to significantly deviate from the original overall architectural intent. Hence, Pound Cottages and, similarly the adjacent Chestnut Cottages, provide an architectural presentation as a whole, rather than as individual properties.

Specifically, regarding the direct amendment proposal, extending the vertical face of the property side wall, up to an elevation slightly below the ridgeline of the roof is effectively, a ‘hip to gable’ extension which would present a featureless, high solid wall to the adjacent property and to the street scene as viewed from the crossroads. The minor remaining high-level hipped roof end is not considered to sufficiently act as a diminishing feature. Such a high gable wall would be out of line with adjacent general property detail and detract from the general street view. From the front entrance/garden of the adjacent property, the near full height vertical solid brick face is considered to be an overbearing feature.

Council resolved to ratify this decision.

ii. 20/02937/HOUSE & 20/02938/LBC2 Wood Farm, Stichens Green.

The demolition of single storey 1950's additions comprising a conservatory, entrance lobby, utility room, storage, a wc, an external store and redundant chimney. The removal of a section of wall beneath an east facing window. The relocation and screening of an oil tank. The construction of a single storey extension comprising a new family entrance, boot room, utility room, two wc's and plant room, family room/breakfast area and small rectangular addition to the existing kitchen.

The Clerk, in consultation with Councillors Spring, Coyle, Robertson, Jubb, Smith and Barnes, determined that Council do not object to this application.

Council resolved to ratify this decision.

iii. 20/02971/HOUSE & 20/02972/LBC2 The Old Bakery, 2 High Street.

Chimney 1: re-pointing of existing stack, chimney pot - replace for like where necessary, chimney stack - re-pointing needed, like for like material (lime mortar) and flaunching - replace/repair, like for like materials. To install a wood burning stove including metal flue in the dining room linked to chimney 1. If we do not install the woodburning stove, we intend

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to place a clay pepper pot chimney cap in order to save energy. The chimney breasts in the bedroom fireplaces will be fitted with relevant caps to retain heat (where needed) Chimney 2: works proposed on chimney 1 to be given chimney 2- this will only be done if the inspection when the scaffolding is erected deems it necessary. To install a wood burning stove in the drawing room including metal flue. Roof ridge - replacement tiles like for like if necessary. Re-paint front door with pale pink. Stairwell light. Shower room converted into office including electrical works.

The Clerk, in consultation with Councillors Spring, Coyle, Robertson, Jubb, Smith and Barnes, determined that Council do not object to this application.

Council resolved to ratify this decision.

b. Applications for planning permission

None.

c. Planning matters received since the agenda was circulated (papers circulated prior to the meeting)

i. 20/02780/HOUSE 3 Coombe Cottages

Replacement of existing rotting wood porch with new brick and glazed porch, to be built to match similar examples in neighbouring houses.

Council resolved that Streatley Parish Council do not object to this application.

d. Decisions by WBC

i. 20/02654/LBC2 and 20/02653/HOUSE. Southridge House, Stichens Green.
New Greenhouse

Council did not object to this application.

Note: LBC not required – 2 December.

Approved 30 December.

ii. 20/02596/HOUSE. 3 Hill Gardens.

Glazed timber infill to existing porch, timber cladding to front gable, blocking up of existing openings and insertion of windows and bifold door.

Council did not object to this application.

Approved 6 January.

iii. 20/02637/HOUSE Lardon Lodge, Wallingford Road.

Construction of rear single storey extension and part-conversion of attached garage to create an enlarged, open-plan kitchen/family room and new utility room. New pitched roof with roof windows over new extension, ex-utility room and garage with existing front gable of garage retained and integrated into new roof. Installation of larger window in front wall of ex-utility room. Installation of new bi-fold patio door in rear wall of ex-kitchen. Associated internal alterations.

Council did not object to this application.

Approved 11 January.

e. Applications debated at previous meetings still pending WBC consideration.

i. 20/02537/HOUSE Thatched Cottage High Street.

Newly constructed oak timber framed car port.

Council do not object to this application but wished to comment that they agreed with the comments from the Conservation Officer that the pitch of the roof should be lowered.

- ii. 20/02721/LBC2. Elm Lodge Wallingford Road.
Internal alterations to existing listed building.

Council do not object to this application.

- iii. 20/02776/HOUSE The Warren, Rectory Road
Remodelling and extension of west wing.

Council do not object to this application.

f. Other Planning (and Licensing) Matters

- i. Councillor Coyle reported that many trees had been cut down at West Lodge, Reading Road, on the borders of Streatley and Lower Basildon. District Councillor Law suggested contacting the Conservation officer at WBC as this is an area of particular interest to WBC.

LC

District Councillor Law left the meeting.

21/008 Finance Matters

a. Payment of Accounts between meetings

- i. £240.00. Reading Borough Council. Repair of fence between leased and unleased land.
ii. £210.00. Reading Borough Council. Cutting down damaged tree on High St.

Council ratified payment of the above invoices.

b. Payment of Accounts received by Council

- i. £339.00. Savills on behalf of Thames Water. Allotment rent 2021 (to be reimbursed by SAS).
ii. £14.39. H. Preston-Barnes. Zoom invoice January.
iii. £374.40. HMRC Q3 payment.
iv. £106.29. SSE. Street Lighting Energy December (to be paid by direct debit).

Council resolved that the above invoices be approved for payment.

Clerk

c. Receipts

- i. £1,712.72. HMRC. Q3 VAT reimbursement.

Council acknowledged receipt of this payment.

d. Other Finance Matters

- i. Council approved the bank reconciliation as of 31st December 2020 (previously circulated).
ii. Council acknowledged a transfer of £3,000 from deposit to current bank account.
iii. Council approved the Q3 comparison as of 31st December 2020 (previously circulated).
iv. Council acknowledged payment of the Clerk's salary by direct debit on 1st January.

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- v. Councillor Spring presented the draft budget for 2021/2 which was considered by Council. Council resolved to agree a budget of £32,101.
- vi. WBC had informed the Parish that the estimated tax base for 2021/22 would be £8.41 (previous year £8.32). Having agreed the budget and taken the reserves and surplus into account, Council considered the precept request and resolved to agree to an increase of £883 on the previous year to £32,101. Clerk to submit precept request.
Clerk
- vii. Council acknowledged Q3 VAT return of £1,712.72.
- viii. Council approved the following annual donations:
 - a. £250 Streatley Parochial Church Council.
 - b. £500 Heart of Streatley Charitable Trust.
 - c. £200 MIGGS.
- ix. Council approved the continuation of funding support for SERG activities during the current lockdown.

21/009 Specific Matters for Discussion/Decision:

Note: Some regular items where there is nothing to report during the period of lockdown have been omitted from the agenda.

a. Website/IT

- i. Councillor Barnes is in the process of updating the base software of the web site as this has now been upgraded. Whilst doing this he is making some minor modifications and reorganisation. He welcomes any suggestions from Councillors on design or layout.

b. Emergency Planning/SERG.

- i. Councillor Barnes reported that there has been one SERG meeting in the last month. A cascade system is in place to ensure that all households in the village will receive important Covid related information in a form that they are most comfortable with (email, text, WhatsApp, telephone call or printed document).
- ii. The Helpline is up and running again with an increased number of calls.
- iii. The Goring surgery is organising the distribution of vaccine and volunteers are assisting with marshalling.

21/010 Reports on:

Note: Some regular items where there is nothing to report during the period of lockdown have been omitted from the agenda.

a. Heart of Streatley Charitable Trust

- i. There has been one brief HoSCT meeting over the last month. They are awaiting quotes for the work on the wall. There is debate regarding the requirement for a buttress on the church wall when the damaged wall is removed.
- ii. HoSCT await response from insurers regarding the section of wall and fence damaged in the road traffic incident in High Street.
- iii. The Green Gym will remove ragwort from the meadows in April.

b. Neighbourhood Action Group

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- i. Councillor Spring has received and circulated information regarding COVID related scams. Information to be passed on to others, including Genie.
- ii. Councillor Spring has received a note from the Police Commissioner regarding a survey about an increase in Council Tax to support the police.

c. St Mary's Church

- i. Services are currently held using Zoom. This will be reviewed later in January.
- ii. The clock has been serviced.
- iii. Thames Water have undertaken a water check.

d. Traffic and Highways

- i. Road closure in Goring. The non-local diversion is via Wallingford although Manor Road/Station Road and Thames Road routes are available for light vehicles.
- ii. Parking at the top of Streatley Hill. This was reported to the Police and West Berks Highways. Concerns were expressed regarding the numbers of people visiting the area, the lack of adherence to COVID regulations. Councillor Jubb to write to the National Trust at Basildon Park expressing SPC's concerns about this behaviour on their properties in Streatley.

MJ

21/011 Correspondence (not dealt with elsewhere in the agenda)

- i. 15th December. Open Spaces Society. December newsletter.
- ii. 17th December. SODC. Adoption of Local Plan 2035.
- iii. 18th December. RBFT, Berkshire West CCG & ICP. Patient newsletter.
- iv. 18th December. WBC. Parish precepts.
- v. 18th December. WBC Press Release. Financial support for businesses impacted by new restrictions.
- vi. 21st December. BALC Annual General Meeting invitation.
- vii. 22nd December. WBC Press Release. Libraries to provide order & collect, at home service and limited computer use.
- viii. 23rd December. Ridgeway National Trail update.
- ix. 28th December. Going Forward Buses. Going forward into tier 4.
- x. 30th December. Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust. Open letter to communities.
- xi. 1st January. J. O'Brien. Use of Streatley Rec for football training.
- xii. 4th January. WBC Press Release. Public consultation on proposed submission for Minerals and Waste local plan.
- xiii. 5th January. WBC. Consultation on proposed term dates for 2022/23.
- xiv. 8th January. G. Mancini, WBC. Newbury town centre study.
- xv. 8th January. Going Forward Buses. National lockdown.

21/012 Items Raised by Councillors

- i. Councillor Smith has been asked by the Allotment Society if SPC is able to follow up their letter to Goring PC asking if any space is available for allotments. It was agreed that Councillor Smith should write to Goring PC. Clerk to provide contact details. **Clerk/CS**
- ii. Councillor Robertson has been approached by neighbours regarding the keeping of goats at a property on Wantage Road. He asked whether a licence was required and if one had been obtained. Councillor Coyle volunteered to speak with the owners. **LC**

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- iii. Councillor Robertson enquired about the exact area leased by West Streatley House. Councillor Smith enquired about the land owned by the Parish Council to the south of High Street. Clerk to send him information including a map of the plots and a sample lease. **Clerk**
- iv. Councillor Spring reported that the speed warning sign on the A329 facing Moulsoford is continually flashing, regardless of the presence of vehicles. Clerk to report. **Clerk**

21/013 Open Forum

None.

21/014 End of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chairman confirmed that the next meeting would take place on 8th February 2021. This will be a virtual meeting using Zoom technology. The meeting closed at 9.05 pm.

Future meetings: 2nd Monday of the month except August when there are no meetings.