

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF STREATLEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD **Actions
BY VIDEO CALL ON 8 MARCH 2021 (start 7.30pm)**

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

21/029 Preliminaries

- a. **Dispensations**
None.

21/030 Apologies

None.

21/031 Minutes

- i. Council resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 8th February 2021, 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**

21/032 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 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

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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.

A plastic sign, more suitable for external use, has been mounted and attached to the wooden fence, however it does not give clear indication of the route for those unfamiliar with the area. Councillor Barnes to look at an alternative sign.

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 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.

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Councillor Jubb to speak with a local village who have gone through this process and it has been suggested that CAMRA could be asked to get involved.

MJ

District Councillor Law recommended that Council pursues the matter further and would like to be informed when the Council is ready to reapply.

Councillor Spring has written a letter to the Goring Gap News asking the community for written support for the registration of The Bull public house as an Asset of Community Value.

13 letters of support have been received. Councillor Spring to write another letter to GGN thanking those who have already provided letters and encouraging more support.

JS

- 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. Deposit paid for tree. Tree planted 19 February.

**Action
Completed**

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

Councillor Spring to write an article for GGN when the plaque is available.

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. Removal of ivy from recreation ground trees can now be done. Quotation of £350 received. This was accepted and Clerk to ask for work to proceed. Work completed 9/10 February.

**Action
Completed**

A letter of complaint has been received regarding the need to cut the Ivy. Clerk to respond.

Clerk

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

JS

A NAG meeting (via Zoom) has been suggested for 21st April.

- l. 20/117 a. Councillor Barnes to investigate secure cloud storage as a document repository/sharing mechanism.

NB

- 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

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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 financial year. Discussions ongoing.

It was agreed to 'reserve' £3,500 of CIL money for the sign and installation costs.

A Speed Indicator device (currently unpowered) has been installed on a post in Wantage Road, close to the Rectory Road junction, Councillor Jubb to ask WBC Highways what this is and when it will be powered.

MJ

- n. 20/135 ix. Clerk has 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 should be planted by the end of March.

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.

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.

A response has been received from R Bridle with several map designs. Councillor Jubb to respond asking if the Streatley footpaths can be clearly shown.

MJ

- p. 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 at the next HoSCT meeting on 9th February.

NB

A skills matrix has been designed and completed by all Trustees. A copy to be sent to District Councillor Law for completion.

Councillor Coyle to speak with Councillor Barnes regarding questions from a potential fund raiser.

The next meeting to be held before the end of March.

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- q. 20/149 xiv. Streatley on-street EV charging bollard - initial enquiry.
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**
- r. 20/162 d. Agreed Governance documents to be placed on SPC website. These have been included in the updated version of the website published on 6th March. **Action Completed**
- s. 21/012 i. Councillor Smith to write to Goring PC backing the letter by the Allotment Society asking if any space is available for allotments. Response received stating that there was no space available in the recently approved areas of development, but this would be kept in mind for any future developments. SAS are now in direct contact with Goring PC. **Action Completed**
- t. 21/024 b. Councillor Ashmore will arrange to meet FoSR to discuss the issues raised in the Recreation Ground report. The grass cutting contractor to be asked to level the mole hills and fill the rabbit holes when the grass is next cut. **Clerk**
- u. 21/026 ii. Clerk to report to WBC the manhole leaking water outside Elm Lodge that, due to the extreme weather, is freezing and causing a hazard. This has now been fixed. **Action Completed**

21/033 Report of the West Berkshire District Councillor

- i. A full council meeting held on 2nd March confirmed the budget for 2021/22. There will be an increase of 1.99% from 2020/21 with no additional spending required for social care.
- ii. The results of the Settlement Boundary review were presented to a Planning Advisory Group meeting. This will be sent to Parish Councils for endorsement or otherwise. There is no apparent change for Streatley although there are two small differences as a result of Ordnance Survey changes. These include an area by The Swan and another by the quarry in Wantage Road.

21/034 Laura Farris MP

Laura Farris MP joined the meeting at 20:05. She explained that she had met a few Parish Councils in person but many more via Zoom. She found it helpful to talk to Parish Councils and have an insight into village life.

She explained that MPs do not get involved in planning matters but can help where local links are not working – for instance with West Berkshire Council.

21/035 Open Forum

This item was delayed until Ms Farris was able to join the meeting. There was one member of the public present whose details are appended to these minutes.

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He attended to update the Parish Council on the position with the campaign to save Streatley Youth Hostel. The campaign is now called Friends of Streatley Youth Hostel.

Since lockdown started, Streatley Hostel has been open on an exclusive use basis only. Little progress has been made with future investment and the YHA have agreed to allow another 12 months to explore investment opportunities. A draft vision statement has been produced which will be used to raise money to fund a feasibility study of future opportunities. The aim is to raise around £20,000 by several means to fund the study. The study is due to be completed by July when a plan, with tangible costed options, is to be presented to the YHA board.

The Parish Council were asked whether they would support, and have their name added to, this document. See 21/041 iv.

Ms. Farris and District Councillor Law both support the document and agreed to have their names added.

District Councillor Law and Ms Farris left the meeting at 20:40.

21/036 Planning

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

None.

b. Applications for planning permission

i. 21/00363/HOUSE Oriel House, Townsend Road

Two storey front extension, new entrance porch and minor internal alterations.

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

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

i. 21/00410/HOUSE Rosewood House, The Coombe.

Erection of octagonal summerhouse to replace an existing permitted development greenhouse.

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

ii. 21/00521/HOUSE Redwood, Townsend Road

Construction of a single storey garden office and gym.

Council resolved that: Streatley Parish Council do not object to this application but request conditions, if approved, to the effect that the building “cannot be used as residential accommodation” and “only to be used by the residents of the property as a home office and gym”.

d. Decisions by WBC

i. 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,

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utility room, two wc's and plant room, family room/breakfast area and small rectangular addition to the existing kitchen.

Council did not object to this application.
Approved 10 February.

- ii. 20/02537/HOUSE Thatched Cottage High Street.
Newly constructed oak timber framed car port.

Council did 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.

Amended plans received 22 January. Council did not object to these amendments.
Approved 18 February.

- iii. 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 did not object to this application.
Approved 19 February.

- iv. 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 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.

Council did not object to this application.
Approved 24 February.

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

- i. 20/02776/HOUSE The Warren, Rectory Road
Remodelling and extension of west wing.
Council do not object to this application.
- ii. 21/00076/HOUSE Mad Hatters, Wantage Road.
Retrospective application for the erection of a lean-to carport at side of existing garage.
Council do not object to this application.

f. Other planning (and licensing) matters

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- i. Councillor Smith mentioned the planning application for the Biodiversity site, Wallingford Road, Goring, which may have a visual impact for Streatley. Council noted that the deadline for submission of comments had passed already.

21/037 Finance Matters

a. Payment of Accounts between meetings

£88.72. SSE. Street lighting energy January (paid by direct debit).

Council ratified payment of the above invoice.

b. Payment of Accounts received by Council

- i. £14.39. H. Preston-Barnes. Zoom invoice March.
- ii. £350.00. T. Jocelyn. Ivy removal Recreation Ground.
- iii. £40.00. H. Preston-Barnes. ICO registration annual fee.
- iv. £25.43. H. Preston-Barnes. Hi-vis vests for SERG marshalling.
- v. £107.04. S. Carter. Reimbursement of sand for sandbags.
- vi. £210.00. Tree Solutions. Planting of acer.
- vii. £59.08. Q1 Foundation. Helpline calls January.

Council resolved that the above invoices be approved for payment.

Clerk

c. Receipts

None.

d. Other Finance Matters

- i. Council approved the bank reconciliation as of 28th February 2021 (previously circulated).
- ii. Council acknowledged payment of the Clerk's salary by direct debit on 1st March.
- iii. Council discussed and agreed an extension to funding for SERG until end of June 2021.
- iv. Council discussed and agreed to increase the Clerk's salary to £7,500 with effect from April 2021.
- v. Council discussed and agreed a one-off payment to the Clerk's salary of £750 in recognition of the additional hours worked over the previous 12 months. Payment to be made in April 2021.
- vi. Council ratified receipt and onward payment of GGN foodbank donation of £1,000.
- vii. Council agreed to adopt the latest version of the Financial Regulations.
- viii. Council reviewed and agreed the draft Document Retention Policy.

21/038 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 reported that the new version of the website is now live.

b. Emergency Planning/SERG.

- i. Councillor Barnes reported that the last meeting was held on 19 February with the next planned for 16 March.
- ii. The first session of the second round of vaccinations will be on 13 March.

c. Allotment Society.

There are 16 people on the waiting list for allotments.
Councillor Smith reported that the Allotment Society would like to have more trees planted behind the ball games area, but these will need protection. They are also considering high level netting across the gap between the trees. This may cost in the region of £1,000 and require planning permission.

21/039 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. Councillor Ashmore is the new secretary for HoSCT.
- ii. The trust has received around £44,000 in donations following the letter drop around the village.
- iii. Work is progressing on the section of wall close to the church.
- iv. Work will soon start on the section of wall damaged in the road traffic accident of last year, using contractors engaged by the insurers.
- v. To allow any damage to the wall at the corner of Church Lane to be assessed, the ivy will need to be removed by cutting the stems and leaving it to die back.

b. Recreation Ground

A report has been received from Friends of Streatley Rec. There are low overhanging branches where a new path has been created by walkers in the south eastern corner, avoiding the large puddle.

The gate to the enclosed playground appears to be broken. Clerk to investigate. **Clerk**

c. Neighbourhood Action Group

- i. Councillor Spring had nothing to report other than the proposed meeting on 21st April.

d. St Mary's Church

- i. Services are held fortnightly alternating between Goring and Streatley churches. Attendance is limited and booked online or attendance via Zoom.
- ii. There will be services in both churches on Mothering Sunday and Easter Sunday.
- iii. The cast ironwork is being painted.
- iv. Delivery lorries for the wall repair have on occasion blocked access along Church Lane.

e. Traffic and Highways

- i. A request has been received to support widening of the footpath from Place Manor to Elm Lodge. Councillor Jubb to include this in his email to WBC Highways. **MJ**

21/040 Correspondence (not dealt with elsewhere in the agenda)

- i. 10th February. Tom Claridge, Office Manager to Laura Farris MP. Attendance at Parish Council meeting.
- ii. 11th February. Play Safety. Notification of RoSPA play area inspection in April.

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- iii. 15th February. The Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust. Patient and public newsletter - February 2021.
- iv. 17th February. WBC Press Release. WBC's COVID Marshalls receive positive reaction from public.
- v. 18th February. C. Evans WBC. Emergency active travel scheme consultations.
- vi. 19th February. WBC Community Coordinator. Lost Thames Water id cards.
- vii. 19th February. WBC Community Coordinator. Announcing £200,000 "Surviving to Thriving" fund for charitable organisations.
- viii. 25th February. Going Forward Buses. School reopening – changes.
- ix. 26th February. Open Spaces Society. Update.
- x. 4th March. T. Worthington. Ivy removal from Recreation Ground.
- xi. 5th March. WBC Press Release. WBC to host free online budget briefing and surgery for businesses on 12 March.
- xii. 8th March. S. Cook. Graffiti in Bull Meadow.

21/041 Items Raised by Councillors

- i. Councillor Coyle is concerned about the number of trees being cut down in and around The Coombe.
- ii. Councillor Ashmore reported that the gate at the bottom of Lardon Chase is not shutting properly. The Clerk has already sent a note to the National Trust who have said it will be repaired before the cows return at the end of April.
- iii. Councillor Spring reported that the internal auditor had recommended a process for grants and other donations. This is being drafted.
- iv. Council discussed support of the document for the feasibility study for Streatley Youth Hostel. All Councillors decided that they would like to see the draft before making a final decision but would like the study to consider the issues with traffic/parking and the benefits to Streatley residents. Clerk to circulate draft. **Clerk**
- v. Councillor Ashmore volunteered to be the point of liaison with the Youth Hostel campaign. Clerk to inform the campaign lead. **Clerk**

21/042 Open Forum

None.

21/043 End of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chairman confirmed that the next meeting would take place on 12th April 2021. This will be a virtual meeting using Zoom technology. The meeting closed at 10.15 pm.

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