

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF STREATLEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD **Actions
BY VIDEO CALL ON 4 MAY 2021 (start 7.30pm)**

Present – Mr J Spring (Chairman), Mrs L Coyle, Mr M Robertson, Mr M Jubb, Mr C. Smith.

21/066 Preliminaries

a. **Election of Chairman**

Councillor Spring was elected (proposed Councillor Coyle, seconded Councillor Robertson).

The Clerk received a Declaration of Acceptance of Office from the Chairman.

b. **Election of Vice Chairman**

Councillor Barnes was elected in his absence, having given his agreement in advance (proposed Councillor Robertson, seconded Councillor Smith).

c. **Resignation of Councillor**

The Chairmen has received a letter of resignation from Ms J. Ashmore due to business commitments. The Chairman proposed a vote of thanks to Ms Ashmore for her contribution during her time on the Council. A formal vacancy notice was published on 14th April and notification of the vacancy will be advertised in the May edition of Goring Gap News.

d. **Dispensations**

None.

21/067 Apologies

Mr N Barnes, District Councillor A Law.

21/068 Open Forum

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

21/069 Minutes

- i. Council resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 12th April 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**

21/070 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.

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12 new evidence forms collected. Further attempts have met with some opposition to the footpath.

Clerk

Clerk is in the process of completing the form for the next stage.

- 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. Ongoing as the school has not yet restarted this activity.

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. 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 High Street, due to oncoming traffic, this affected the traffic detection loop and caused 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 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.

19/141 xi. When plans are in place for Streatley High Street they will be discussed with Goring PC. Ongoing.

District Councillor Law was scheduled to meet with WBC officers on 5th May to discuss the data.

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 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, but it does not give clear indication of the

NB

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route for those unfamiliar with the area. Alternative sign now received and to be put up.

Repeater signs are required for the two grit bins in The Coombe. These are available from a different company and will be designed once exact locations have been viewed.

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

Councillor Spring volunteered to attach the label to the bin in Wantage Road and Councillor Robertson to the one at the top of The Coombe.

JS/MR

- 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 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.

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

23 letters of support have now been received. Councillor Spring has written a thank you letter to GGN and has received useful information from CAMRA. All have now been passed to Councillor Jubb to work on the resubmission process.

Councillor Jubb to speak with a local village that has been through this process and then consult with District Councillor Law before resubmitting the application.

MJ

- g. 19/142 i. Replacement tree by the bus shelter was planted on 19 February. Mr Spencer has now received the plaque and arrangements will be made for a photo to be taken. Councillor Coyle to chase this.

LC

Once the plaque is in place and Council has the photo, Councillor Spring to write an article for GGN.

JS

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

Clerk

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

A NAG meeting (via Zoom) was held on 21st April. See item 21/075 f.

**Action
Completed**

- j. 20/120 iii. Councillor Jubb offered to pick up with WBC the Vehicle Activated Sign for 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 this financial year – waiting on details from WBC.

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

A Speed Indicator Device was installed on a post in Wantage Road, close to the Rectory Road junction. The sign was powered and left in place for approximately 3 weeks but has now been removed. Awaiting data from WBC.

MJ

- k. 20/135 ix. Clerk accepted an offer of trees for the Recreation Ground and possibly the Meadows. 20 small trees (oak, field maple and rowan) were delivered, and the majority have now been planted.

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. It was also suggested that the oaks are planted behind the ball area of the Recreation Ground and be protected by fencing.

Four rowan trees have been planted along the fence by the car park and one rowan potted to be grown to replace the tree damaged in High Street.

The remaining maples and oaks were considered too small to plant and have also been potted to be planted next year.

The trees behind the ball games area are growing. It was suggested that additional protection is required. Costs for traditional protection were for 1.8m green mesh protection approx. £25 per tree (may also require stakes), or for 1.8m metal guards – from £100 + VAT per tree. These costs were considered too expensive, and it was agreed that a wooden stake in front of each tree would suffice to fend off stray footballs. Councillor Smith to investigate 4 inch diameter wooden stakes

CS

- l. 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.

The map producers are considering revising them as the advertisements are now out of date. SPC are waiting for the revised version.

**Action
Closed**

- m. 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.

**Action
Completed**

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- A skills matrix has been designed and completed by all Trustees. A copy to be sent to District Councillor Law for completion. **Action Closed**
- n. 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. Marston's Brewery are implementing a scheme of EV charging points across their public houses in the UK. **JS**
The Swan are willing to have a charging point in their car park. Councillor Spring is meeting to discuss on 5th May. **JS**
- o. 21/024 b. Councillor Ashmore has met with FoSR to discuss the issues raised in the Recreation Ground report. Temporary filling has been carried out by Councillor Barnes, but the molehills are still appearing. **Action Completed**
The grass cutting contractor to be asked to level the mole hills and fill the rabbit holes when the molehills stop appearing.
- p. 21/039 e. A request has been received asking the Parish Council to support widening of the footpath from Place Manor to Elm Lodge. Councillor Jubb to email WBC Highways and seek support from MIGGS. Councillor Jubb waiting on a response from MIGGS. **MJ**
- q. 21/0149. Clerk to circulate Rights of Way consultation emails to all Councillors. **Action Completed**
Clerk to circulate Councillor Spring's comments.
- r. 21/054 d vii. Insurance quotes. Clerk to accept quotation for 3 year LTP from BHIB (Aviva). **Action Completed**
The existing insurers, Zurich, asked if they could attempt to match the Aviva price but were unable to offer the same terms.
- s. 21/054 d viii. Councillor Barnes to put Grants and Donations policy on to SPC web site. **Action Completed**
- t. 21/055 a. Annual Parish Forum. **Action Completed**
Councillor Spring to provide a presentation on the main activities over the last two years, Councillor Barnes a report on SERG, Councillor Jubb on Highways and Traffic.
Clerk to provide planning application statistics. **Action Completed**
Clerk to tweet, inform GENIE and put a notice on the Notice Board.
Councillor Barnes to put a message on the SPC website. **Action Completed**
Presentations and the Zoom recording are available on the website.
- u. 21/055 c. Death of a National Figure. Clerk to send presentation to Councillor Spring. **Action Completed**
Councillor Spring to respond to the church for a combined plan for this type of event. **JS**

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- v. 21/056 h. WBC Highways are aware that The Bull Inn has been hit by a lorry once again with damage to the north east corner.

Council agreed that further action is required to protect The Bull and Elm Lodge which are listed buildings. Councillor Jubb to ask that WBC Highways formally review the HGV route into Streatley.

MJ

21/071 Report of the West Berkshire District Councillor

District Councillor Law did not submit a report.

21/072 Planning

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

None.

b. Applications for planning permission

None.

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

None.

d. Decisions by WBC

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

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

Council did not object to this application.

Approved 16 April.

- ii. 21/00410/HOUSE Rosewood House, The Coombe.

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

Council did not object to this application.

Approved 26 April.

- iii. 21/00521/HOUSE Redwood, Townsend Road

Construction of a single storey garden office and gym.

Council did not object to this application but requested conditions on approval to the effect that the building "cannot be used as residential accommodation" and "only to be used by the resident of the property as a home office and gym".

Approved 29 April.

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

None.

f. Other planning (and licensing) matters

- i. 20/03083/FULMAJ. West Lodge Streatley (out of Parish).

Construction of a new 2 storey dwelling with associated detached double garage, with demolition of the existing 5-bedroom dwelling and garaging taking place within 6 months of the completion of the new dwelling.

Council did not object to this application.

Refused 14 April.

21/073 Finance Matters

a. Payment of Accounts between meetings

- i. £79.34. Q1 Foundation. Helpline apps and calls February (80% paid by GPC).

Council ratified payment of the above invoice.

b. Payment of Accounts received by Council

- i. £14.39. H. Preston-Barnes. Zoom invoice May/June.
- ii. £743.99. BHIB. Council insurance 2021-22.
- iii. £13.06. N. Barnes. SERG Database costs March – April 2021.
- iv. £14.23. N. Barnes. Invoice for replacement sign bottom of The Coombe.
- v. £247.20. BALC/NALC Annual subscription.

Council resolved that the above invoices be approved for payment.

Clerk

c. Receipts

- i. £235.66. HMRC. Q4 VAT reimbursement.

Council acknowledged receipt of these payments.

d. Other Finance Matters

- i. Council approved the bank reconciliation as of 30th April 2021 (previously circulated).
- ii. Council acknowledged payment of the Clerk's salary by direct debit on 1st May.
- iii. Council received the Internal Audit Report for 2020/21.
- iv. Council discussed and agreed the actions resulting from the Internal Audit report. Clerk to update list of actions with Council decisions.
- v. Council received and approved the accounts for the year ending 31st March 2018. The Chairman signed the document on behalf of the Council.
- vi. Council received and approved the 2018/9 End of Year Bank Reconciliation to accompany the Annual Return. The Chairman signed the document on behalf of the Council.
- vii. Council received and approved the Annual Governance statement for 2018/9. The Chairman signed the document on behalf of the Council.
- viii. Council received and approved the Accounting Statements for 2020/21. The Chairman signed the document on behalf of the Council.
- ix. Council noted that the PWLB half yearly loan repayment of £4,977.75 is due to be paid by direct debit on 24th May.
- x. Council discussed the annual donation to Streatley Hill Preschool. It was agreed that a donation of £400.00 be provided for this year (proposed by Councillor Robertson and seconded by Councillor Coyle). **Clerk**
- xi. Council acknowledged that no CIL payment is due for 1st October 2020 – 30th April 2021.

21/074 Specific Matters for Discussion/Decision:

a. Return to Face to Face meetings

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The Council discussed the fact that legislation allowing remote meetings expires on 7th May with restrictions on face to face meetings of more than 6 people currently scheduled to be lifted on 21st June.

It was agreed to hold the June meeting on 21st, subject to the Morrell Room being available and the restrictions being lifted as expected. The July 12th meeting would proceed as normal. Clerk to check with Morrell Room and ensure that dates are publicised.

Clerk to put together a full Risk Assessment. Councillor Smith offered to digitise the proposed socially distanced floor plan.

CS/Clerk

21/075 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

No report as Councillor Barnes was not in attendance.

b. Website/IT

The website has been updated with information agreed at the April meeting.

c. Allotment Society.

Councillor Smith reported:

- i. The annual meeting was held at the end of April.
- ii. Due to security concerns the Allotment Society are not interested in a stile to allow retrieval of stray balls.
- iii. There is still a requirement for more land as there are 16 people on the waiting list. As there is no land available in Streatley they are looking at the Goring side.

d. Emergency Planning/SERG.

Councillor Spring reported that it was agreed at the last meeting to wind up SERG unless and until a further need arises. All outstanding responsibilities are being passed to Q1 Foundation. Any data held will be retained for the immediate future but will be anonymised.

e. Recreation Ground

No report was received from FoSR. Council agreed that it would be advantageous to resurrect the group. Councillor Coyle to speak with the chairman and seek volunteers from the school and preschool.

LC

f. Neighbourhood Action Group

Councillor Spring reported on the meeting held on 21st April.

Various issues reported in several local parishes:

- large groups of young people gathering in public areas such as recreation grounds and playing fields
- litter associated with the above
- vandalism, especially in Pangbourne and Purley
- parking on pavements, particularly in Pangbourne
- speeding
- general antisocial behaviour but not usually serious enough to warrant any police action.
- electric scooters on the pavement, mainly in Pangbourne.

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In addition to saying that much of the above applied to Streatley, Councillor Spring mentioned:

- the pedestrian struck by a car on the pavement in High Street (which had not been reported to TVP)
- motorbikes and bicycles being ridden in a dangerous manner on public footpaths
- reinforcement of the posts and gate at the Rec to (hopefully) prevent access by travellers and joyriders
- graffiti on NT land. TVP said that this appears to be an isolated incident and do not intend to take any action unless it happens again.

TVP have been kept busy dealing with several serious matters in places such as Burghfield, Tilehurst and Mortimer so the request for them to patrol Streatley Rec more frequently is classified as low priority.

The next meeting will be held on 14th July. Councillor Jubb to attend.

g. St Mary's Church

Councillor Spring reported that painting of the external ironwork had been completed. The external woodwork has been treated.

h. Traffic and Highways

Councillor Jubb has received one letter from WBC regarding use of SID.

21/076 Correspondence (not dealt with elsewhere in the agenda)

Correspondence (not dealt with elsewhere in the agenda)

- i. 13th April. WBC Press Release. WBC pays out grants to support local businesses to reopen.
- ii. 13th April. WBC Press Release. WBC's Housing Strategy for 2020 – 2036 is approved.
- iii. 14th April. WBC Press Release. Funding secured for carbon reduction projects in the community.
- iv. 15th April. WBC Press Release. Educafe wins bid to become West Berkshire's Diverse Ethnic Communities Support Agency.
- v. 15th April. WBC Press Release. Carbon reduction project at The Downs Schools completed ahead of schedule.
- vi. 19th April. The Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust. Update - April 2021.
- vii. 19th April. WBC. Updates to West Berkshire community transport services in Newbury and Thatcham.
- viii. 20th April. G. Jenkins Streatley Preschool treasurer. Update from Streatley Preschool.
- ix. 22nd April. BHIB. Insurance Documents.
- x. 22nd April. North Wessex Downs. Newsletter April 2021.
- xi. 22nd April. SSEN. Resilient Communities Fund.
- xii. 23rd April. BALC. April 2021 Newsletter.
- xiii. 23rd April. WBC. Invitation to join West Berkshire Community Climate Forum.
- xiv. 26th April. Open Spaces Society. Grant a Green campaign.
- xv. 30th April. WBC. Greening Campaign meeting notes: 20.04.21.
- xvi. 4th May. WBC Press Release. West Berkshire Museum and Shaw House reopen to the public in late May.

21/077 Items Raised by Councillors

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Councillor Spring reported that one expression of interest had been received for the Councillor vacancy. An advert will appear in the next Goring Gap News.

21/078 Open Forum

None.

21/079 End of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chairman confirmed that the next meeting would take place on Monday 21st June 2021 (note change of date to enable a face to face meeting). This will be in the Morrell Room. The meeting closed at 8.55 pm.

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

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