

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF STREATLEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD      **Actions**  
BY VIDEO CALL ON 14 SEPTEMBER 2020 (start 7.30pm)**

**Present** – Mr J Spring (Chairman), Mr N Barnes, Mr M Robertson, Ms J Ashmore, Mr M Jubb.

**20/109 Preliminaries**

- a.    **Dispensations**  
None.

**20/110 Apologies**

Mrs L Coyle, District Councillor A Law.

**20/111 Open Forum**

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

**20/112 Minutes**

- i.    Council resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> July, 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**

**20/113 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. 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. Mr. Ashton to try to collect more signatures. **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.

Councillor Coyle to discuss directly with Mrs Dineen (School Governor responsible for Eco). Ideas put forward included a walking bus and assistance to elderly allotment owners. Councillor Coyle to meet with Mrs Dineen on 14<sup>th</sup> January. Due to sick leave of the headteacher, and the additional duties for the Governors, this has been delayed. Councillor Coyle in discussions with SAS. Ongoing. **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 product. **LC**

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- c. 19/039 iii. Additional lease and permission for gate for West Streatley House.  
Council had agreed that the lease should be updated subject to all costs being met by the leaseholder. Leaseholder's solicitors have confirmed that costs will be met provided the lease is agreed.  
A clause in the existing lease prevents use of the leased land as a primary access and this has been pointed out to the leaseholder's solicitor. The Council's response regarding access in the new lease was passed to the solicitor who reworded the clause in the lease and sent it to the leaseholder's solicitor, but the amended lease was rejected.

Ms Parratt met with Councillors Spring and Barnes on 17<sup>th</sup> March to find a way forward and following the meeting a response was forwarded to Ms Parratt's solicitors and they have re-presented the draft lease.

Advice has been requested from lawyers regarding issues with the boundary fence of the leased land. Discussed as a Part 2 item.

**Clerk**

- d. 19/074 i. High Street parking. District Councillor Alan Law had arranged with WBC to undertake a traffic survey of High Street. This took place on 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> October 2019. Cameras were placed at the traffic lights and at the bottom of High Street, to provide firm evidence of volume of vehicles and direction of travel, to be compared with previous traffic surveys. WBC would analyse the data and suggest options for improvement as required. Views on these options can then be sought from the public. A further survey, including a weekend, was due to be carried out in Spring 2020. District Councillor Alan Law met with the officers who are analysing the data and drafting the report. The data volumes are comparable with the private survey carried out (for the Limeswell planning application) in November 2018. One point that has come out is that when traffic travelling from Goring is held at the bottom of the High St. due to oncoming traffic, this is affecting 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.

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 local residents.

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

A further traffic survey was planned for 17- 20 September 2020. This has been postponed due to the closure of Whitchurch Hill and the abnormal traffic flow resulting from the diversion. This will be rescheduled once the Whitchurch Hill work is completed and the diversion is lifted.

Councillor Ashmore to respond to the adverse comments regarding levels of traffic congestion reported on Facebook.

**JA**

- e. 19/081 f ii. Streatley Hill. People walk on the road to go up Streatley Hill and are apparently unaware of the footpath options. Councillor Robertson to look at options for signage of available footpaths.

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The owners of the property at the bottom of The Coombe have agreed that a sign can be placed on their wall. The Clerk to ask advice of Elaine Cox regarding the detail for the sign.

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. A response has been received from E Cox. WBC will look to place an additional Public Footpath sign at the top of The Coombe. Wording for the sign at the bottom can be composed by the Parish Council.

Suggestion for wording '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. E. Cox could not make a recommendation, but they often use Brisco Signs & Graphics (Bristol). Councillors Jubb and Robertson to propose and gain agreement to wording and requirements ahead of obtaining a quotation.

Councillors Jubb and Robertson to meet to discuss suitable wording

**MJ, MR**

f. 19/108 d i. New SPC labels attached to 6 salt bins in Streatley. Remaining 4 to be done when weather is dry. **Clerk**

g. 19/139 a ii. The process for listing The Bull public house as an Asset of Community Value to be investigated. Councillor Jubb has the information. Council agreed that we should proceed with the listing of The Bull. Councillor Jubb has sent the completed form to WBC. They may not be able to progress this during the crisis as some of the records are still in paper format therefore not accessible.

**MJ**

Councillor Jubb to follow this up with WBC.

h. 19/142 i. Replacement for the Rowan Tree. Advice sought from Woodland Trust and another source on the type of tree and when to plant. Response received on 6 February giving lists of suitable trees. Clerk wrote to Mr Spencer to seek his preference and he has expressed his preference for a Field Maple and has provided a budget for this. He also asked if he could install a plaque (which he would fund). Council to discuss.

A few organisations were contacted for supply and planting. The ideal planting season is November to February. There is no reason not to plant outside of this time, but stock may not be available. The usual size for public places is 2-2.5m tall. One supplier, Tree Solutions, is speaking with their preferred suppliers to see if there is a good specimen available now. No response so far. Clerk to speak with suppliers ahead of the planting season.

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

**Clerk**

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

**JS**

i. 19/153 c ii. Councillors Barnes and Jubb to investigate a line of benches along the fence by the Recreation Ground car park. Following the recent

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illegal encampment in Goring the Clerk and Councillor Barnes are investigating other methods of protecting the fence and the recreation area. All Councillors agreed in principle to the idea of a series of posts on the car park side of the fence. A quote was received from IJ Fencing for posts and a galvanised gate with a hidden lock mechanism. All agreed to proceed with this work. Posts installed 24 July. Alternative metal gate ordered and due to be installed in late September.

**NB/Clerk**

It was also agreed that we should enquire about a facility with our current solicitors to enable fast access to eviction advice should we have an illegal encampment. Response received with options.

**Action  
Completed**

- j. 19/153 c iii. The Parish Forum suggested gym equipment for children. Councillor Robertson to investigate. Fresh Air Fitness can supply monkey bars and chin-up bars. District Councillor Law said that there are some member's bids, with matched funding, available from WBC; the deadline for submission was 20<sup>th</sup> March. District Councillor Law indicated that if we can provide a quote for Children's Play Equipment by 14<sup>th</sup> July, he would be able to submit as a Member's bid. Clerk to seek revised quotation from Fresh Air Fitness and submit.

A grant of £2,174 has been awarded. Matched funding to come from the Parish Council and work to be completed within 12 months.

The Parish Council agreed the installation plan and to proceed with supply and installation of the equipment.

**Clerk**

- k. 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. The recent flooding has delayed action on this. Ongoing.

**MR**

- l. 20/024 e i. Councillor Barnes noted the September 2020 deadline for accessibility changes to the website.

**Action  
Completed**

- m. 20/040 f ii. Clerk to obtain name badges for Councillors Jubb and Ashmore, plus the Clerk. WBC can provide these. Photo required from Councillor Ashmore.

**Clerk**

- n. 20/069 c i. Circulate list of recommended RoSPA actions, investigate the amount of work required and who might be able to do it. Details of work required circulated. Three organisations approached regarding repairs. Met with a playground maintenance organisation on 11<sup>th</sup> September. Awaiting quote for work required.

**Clerk**

Removal of ivy from trees can be done after August. Clerk to seek quote for work.

**Clerk**

The basketball net is in a poor state as a result of suspected vandalism. It was agreed to remove the remains and leave as a ring.

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- o. 20/086 c i. Write to the Golf Club suggesting a Give Way sign and double white lines at the exit as well as sending a note to all members reminding them of the road priority.  
A Give Way sign and double white lines have been installed at the exit.  
Councillor Spring to write a letter of thanks. **Action Completed**
- p. 20/100 i. District Councillor Law had some questions regarding the handling of the funds for the lottery grant (Q1F/SERG) which would be raised by Councillor Barnes at the SERG meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> July. **Action Completed**
- q. 20/100 iii. The SERG MOU was for 3 months from April. This should be extended for a further 3 months. Agreement reached by all parties. **Action Completed**
- r. 20/103 a i. Councillor Barnes to summarise and circulate details of the HoSCT meeting. **Action Completed**
- s. 20/104 xii. Councillor Spring to respond to G Smith regarding speeding traffic.  
Councillor Spring to bring up at next NAG meeting. **Action Completed**  
**JS**
- t. 20/105 i. The reflectors on the traffic island on the Wallingford Road, by the entrance to the road to Cleeve Court had been flattened. Clerk to report to WBC. Reported and actioned by WBC. Bollard was flattened again on 11<sup>th</sup> September and this has been reported to WBC. **Action Completed**
- u. 20/105 ii. Clerk to investigate a larger rubbish bin at the Recreation Ground. WBC contractors have no capacity to empty additional or larger bins. A separate contract could be set up with another contractor. Price per bin would be much higher. Clerk removing excess rubbish weekly. **Action Completed**
- v. 20/105 iv. Councillor Barnes to check if tables need to be booked at The Swan bar/garden. **Action Completed**

**20/114 Report of the West Berkshire District Councillor**

District Councillor Law provided an update on the High Street traffic survey (see 20/113 d above).

**20/115 Planning**

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

- i. 20/01552/HOUSE The Lodge, Rectory Road.  
New driveway sliding wooden gates, new pedestrian wooden gate and brick gate posts to the front of the property.

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

Council resolved that: Streatley Parish Council ratify this decision.

- ii. 20/01602/FULD Duzac, The Coombe.  
Replacement chalet bungalow.

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The Clerk, in consultation with Councillors Spring, Coyle, Jubb, Barnes and Ashmore, determined that Streatley Parish Council do not object to this application but comment that SPC are aware of neighbours' concerns raised directly with WBC.

Council resolved that: Streatley Parish Council ratify this decision.

- iii. 20/01705/HOUSE Betteridge House, Streatley Hill.  
Demolition of the existing outbuilding (at rear of garage) and construction of new extension linking the house and detached garage to provide improved access/entrance to the house, along with internal alterations to modernise the layout of the house.

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

Council resolved that: Streatley Parish Council ratify this decision.

- iv. 20/01867/HOUSE West Streatley House.  
Section 73A: Variation of Condition 6 - Hours of work of approved application  
20/00221/HOUSE: The demolition of the side extension (utility room) and the rebuilding of the extension to be more in keeping with the architectural style of the main house.

The Clerk, in consultation with Councillors Spring, Jubb, Barnes, Coyle, Robertson and Ashmore, determined that Streatley Parish Council object to this application on the grounds that deliveries during current working hours are causing a great deal of disruption to traffic flow along the High Street, with long queues in both directions. Extending working hours over the times when volumes of traffic are already causing long delays is unacceptable, especially as this would include the peak morning and evening rush hours.

Council resolved that: Streatley Parish Council ratify this decision.

**b. Applications for planning permission**

- i. 20/01940/LBC2 West Streatley House.  
The addition of a kitchen vent through the roof of the rear extension.

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

- ii. 20/01313/HOUSE. Kiddington Cottage, Aldworth Road.

New pool building and pool with associated landscaping. Amended plans received 1<sup>st</sup> September.

Streatley Parish Council objected to the original application on the grounds that the pool house is unnecessarily large and does not conserve or enhance the surrounding AONB.

Following discussion Council resolved that: Streatley Parish Council do not object to this amendment to the application.

Councillor Robertson questioned whether the planning conditions for the flat at Kiddington Cottage (14/02305) are being followed. Councillor Spring to investigate. **JS**

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

- i. 20/02113/HOUSE 10 The Coombe.  
Retrospective planning application for timber storage sheds at front of property.

Following discussion Council resolved that: Streatley Parish Council object to this application on the grounds that the positioning of the buildings is not in keeping with the existing street scene or the ANOB status. No other properties within the road have buildings to the front of the main dwelling.

**d. Decisions by WBC**

- i. 20/01176/COND1. West Streatley House, High Street.  
Conditions associated with 20/00222/LBC. The demolition of the side extension (utility room) and the rebuilding of the extension to be more in keeping with the architectural style of the main house.  
Streatley Parish Council did not object to this application  
Approved 24 July.

- ii. 20/01180/COND1. West Streatley House, High Street.  
Approval of details reserved by conditions 3 (samples), 4 (rainwater goods), 5 (CMS), 6 (hours of work), 7 (delivery hours) and 8 (contract for demolition and re-build) of approved application 20/00221/HOUSE, which granted planning permission for: The demolition of the side extension (utility room) and the rebuilding of the extension to be more in keeping with the architectural style of the main house.  
Streatley Parish Council did not object to this application  
Approved 24 August.

- iii. 20/01182/COMIND. Streatley Farmhouse, Wallingford Road.  
Outbuilding: Upgrading of former farm office building to improve thermal insulation, replace the windows, install a third and build a new partition. Stable Kitchen: Create a new ground floor kitchen in the existing flat.  
Streatley Parish Council did not object to this application.  
Approved 28 August.

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

- i. 20/00795/HOUSE The Lodge, Rectory Road.  
New gates and gate posts (car and pedestrian) to the front of the property.  
Streatley Parish Council do not object to this application.

- ii. 20/01449/HOUSE. The Brambles, Wantage Road.  
Rear extension up to existing retaining wall and roof alterations to existing house.

Streatley Parish Council object to this application on the grounds that the extension is disproportionate to the existing building and that the materials do not complement the existing building or comply with the village design statement for that area (Zone 3) of the village.

**f. Other Planning (and Licensing) Matters**

None.

**20/116 Finance Matters**

**a. Payment of Accounts between meetings**

- i. £14.39. H. Preston-Barnes. Zoom Invoice

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- ii. £86.77. Q1 Care. Helpline Apps and calls for June. (80% to be paid by Goring PC).
- iii. £1071.00. Field Seymour Parkes. Legal advice leased land.
- iv. £12.74. N. Barnes. SERG Database costs for May/June.
- v. £1326.00. IJ Fencing. Posts for Recreation Ground.
- vi. £208.68. M&C Landscapes. Grass Cutting July.
- vii. £103.29. SSE. Street Lighting Energy July (by Direct Debit).

Council resolved that: Streatley Parish Council ratify approval of payment of the above invoice.

**b. Payment of Accounts received by Council**

- i. £14.39. H. Preston-Barnes. Zoom Invoice September.
- ii. £75.00. North Wessex Downs Landscape Trust Annual Donation.
- iii. £7.91. Q1Care. Helpline costs 1-3<sup>rd</sup> July.
- iv. £196.68. M&C Landscapes. Grass Cutting August.
- v. £57.56. K. Morton. Zoom invoices used for SERG March – July.

Council resolved that the above invoices be approved for payment.

**Clerk**

**c. Receipts**

- i. £417.60. Goring Parish Council. Contribution to DBS checks for Volunteers.
- ii. £26.69. Goring Parish Council. Contribution to database costs.
- iii. £57.85. Goring Parish Council. Contribution to Helpline Apps and calls for June.

**d. Other Finance Matters**

- i. Council approved the bank reconciliation as of 31<sup>st</sup> July 2020 (previously circulated).
- ii. Council approved the bank reconciliation as of 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020 (previously circulated).
- iii. Council acknowledged payment of the Clerk's salary by direct debit on 1<sup>st</sup> August.
- iv. Council acknowledged payment of the Clerk's salary by direct debit on 1<sup>st</sup> September.
- v. Council agreed to appoint Philip Hood as internal auditor for 2020/21.

**Clerk**

**20/117 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 website now met the 'accessibility' requirements. He is working on a change of layout that more easily allows additional pages. He also enquired about the use of MS Teams as a means of document sharing. All agreed with piloting this approach.

**NB**

**b. Emergency Planning/SERG.**



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Councillor Barnes reported that the results from the surveys (volunteers and users of the service) along with lessons learned have been collated and a 60 page document drafted. A summary/synopsis will be generated for a wider audience, including the Parish Council. There are elements where the Parish Council will be required to agree methods of working. The document is expected to be available for debate at the November meeting.

**20/118 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 Barnes reported that the previous Chairman has now moved away from the village and he has taken over as Chairman on an interim basis.
- ii. Three new trustees have been appointed which brings the total to 8.
- iii. A surveyor has examined the wall and provided a long list of recommendations indicating that the whole wall needs attention. The work will be broken down into tasks, the first of which is to improve the temporary blocks holding up the damaged section of the wall close to the church. The surveyor has suggested removal of the ivy as this may be causing damage, but it is feared that the ivy may be holding up the wall.
- iv. Grants and sponsorship will be looked at for funding the work required.
- v. A Zoom meeting to be held to get people together and draw up some plans.

**b. Neighbourhood Action Group**

Councillor Spring reported that there had been no meetings, and none were planned for the foreseeable future. He had received several emails highlighting scams naming organisations such as Royal Mail, BT, HMRC, TV Licensing and Amazon. He asked that the elderly and vulnerable be reminded to be careful.

**c. St Mary's Church**

The church has had its 5 yearly inspection and no significant problems were found.

The cast ironwork around the church is being repainted.

**20/119 Correspondence (not dealt with elsewhere in the agenda)**

**Correspondence (not dealt with elsewhere in the agenda)**

- i. 16<sup>th</sup> July. WBC Press Release. New way for residents to directly invest in a greener future is now live.
- ii. 17<sup>th</sup> July. S Higgins WBC. CA17 Notice, land around Streatley Farm RG8 9PX: documentation from landowner to prevent dedication of (additional) public rights of way.
- iii. 23<sup>rd</sup> July. Open Spaces AGM News.
- iv. 28<sup>th</sup> July. North Wessex Downs Annual Review 2019/2020.
- v. 29<sup>th</sup> July. Friends of the Ridgeway. Summer Newsletter.
- vi. 4<sup>th</sup> August. WBC Tree Officer. TPO 201/21/1004 – Trees at The Coombe. Councillor Robertson suggested contacting the WBC Tree Officer about including two large beech trees at Coombe Lodge.

**Clerk**

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- vii. 6<sup>th</sup> August. WBC Press Release. West Berkshire Council awards £53,860 in grants for community projects.
- viii. 6<sup>th</sup> August. WBC Press Release. WBC Support Hub thanks Community and Volunteer Groups for lockdown support to residents.
- ix. 6<sup>th</sup> August. North Wessex Downs. Newsletter.
- x. 7<sup>th</sup> August. WBC Definitive Map Officer. CA17 DECLARATION Notice, land around Streatley Farm.
- xi. 16<sup>th</sup> August. K. Morton. Reopening of Morrell Room. Council decided to take the advice of NALC to continue with virtual meetings. Clerk to inform Morrell Room. **Clerk**
- xii. 16<sup>th</sup> August. Going Forward Buses. New Timetable from 1<sup>st</sup> September.
- xiii. 19<sup>th</sup> August. Great British September clean.
- xiv. 24<sup>th</sup> August. WBC. Highways patching programme 2020/21.
- xv. 25<sup>th</sup> August. North Wessex Downs Landscape Trust. Spring newsletter.
- xvi. 26<sup>th</sup> August. M. Macgregor. what3words.
- xvii. 3<sup>rd</sup> September. R Kapp. Unleased land at top of High Street. Clerk to arrange inspection and quotation for any work. **Clerk**
- xviii. 7<sup>th</sup> September. Event Secretary. National Hill Climb 2020.
- xix. 8<sup>th</sup> September. G. Dowding WBC. National Hill Climb Streatley Hill warm up event 26<sup>th</sup> September 2020. Clerk to email reminding WBC that the Whitchurch Hill diversion will still be in place on the day of this event. **Clerk**  
Clerk to also contact the neighbourhood police as there may be parking issues. **Clerk**
- xx. 8<sup>th</sup> September. BALC. Consultations on reform of the planning system. Councillor Spring to review this documentation. **JS**
- xxi. 9<sup>th</sup> September. West Berkshire Countryside Society. Autumn Newsletter.
- xxii. 11<sup>th</sup> September. WBC. Cultural Heritage Strategy 2020-30 / consultation survey.

**20/120      Items Raised by Councillors**

- i. Councillor Robertson reported that a trail bike had been ridden straight up The Coombe and continued up the footpath and steps through the woods. Clerk to report to E. Cox and the Police. **Clerk**
- ii. Councillor Spring enquired whether we should hold a working party to clear Green Hill this year. It was agreed to leave it until next year.
- iii. Now that most of the building works are complete, Councillor Jubb offered to pick up with WBC the speed indicator device for the Wantage Road. **MJ**

**20/121      Open Forum**

None.

**20/122      End of Meeting**

There being no further business, the Chairman confirmed that the next meeting would take place on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2020. A decision will be taken nearer the time as to whether this is a physical or virtual meeting. The meeting closed at 9.15 pm.

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