

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF STREATLEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD      **Actions****  
**BY VIDEO CALL ON 12 OCTOBER 2020 (start 7.30pm)**

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

**20/125 Preliminaries**

- a.    **Dispensations**  
None.

**20/126 Apologies**

District Councillor A Law.

**20/127 Open Forum**

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

**20/128 Minutes**

- i.    Council resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> September, 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**

**20/129 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 lockdown this has been delayed. Councillor Coyle in discussions with SAS.

**LC**

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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**

Councillor Coyle does not believe that the ECO Council has restarted following lockdown. Ongoing.

- 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. Clerk to chase for response to latest correspondence.

**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.

WBC video survey is booked from Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> October for Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

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Councillor Ashmore to respond to the adverse comments regarding levels of traffic congestion reported on Facebook. No action taken as posts quietened down. **Action Completed**

- 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.

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 have proposed wording for signs.

Councillor Barnes to look at producing graphics for the signs to include SPC Logo. **NB/Clerk**

Repeater signs required for the two grit bins in The Coombe.

- f. 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 damaged. **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.

Email received from WBC acknowledging receipt of request to list The Bull Inn as an asset of community value. We will be notified when a date has been set for the Panel to meet. **MJ**

- 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.

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Clerk and Mr Spencer met with Tree Solutions on 22 September. Tree Solutions to provided details of availability and costs of Acer trees with a plan to plant in November. Clerk to chase proposal/costings from Tree Solutions.

**Clerk**

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

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 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.

**Action  
Completed**

Posts installed 24 July. Metal barrier gate installed 24 September.

- 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. Awaiting confirmation of installation date.

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

**Clerk**

- m. 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. Quotation of £1184 + VAT received for work required. It was agreed to go ahead with this work and that the new swing could be taken from CIL money.

**Clerk**

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- 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. **NB**
- n. 20/104 xii Councillor Spring to raise issue of speeding traffic at next NAG meeting. **JS**
- o. 20/115 b ii. Councillor Spring to investigate whether the planning conditions for the flat at Kiddington Cottage (Application number 14/02305) are being followed.
- Accommodation is not allowed under the granted planning application. WBC Planning were informed and deemed that there was no breach of planning permission. **Action Completed**
- p. 20/116 d v. Clerk to contact Philip Hood to confirm position of internal auditor for 2020/21. **Clerk**
- Email sent 15 September. No response yet received. Clerk to chase.
- q. 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 Councillor Spring.
- It was agreed that MS Teams or other cloud storage should be investigated as a document repository and not as a messaging system. **NB**
- It was also agreed that links to the WBC planning documentation and COVID information should be sent rather than actual documents.
- r. 20/119 vi. Following notification of TPOs for 4 trees in The Coombe Councillor Robertson suggested contacting the WBC Tree Officer about including two large beech trees at Coombe Lodge. **Clerk**
- Email sent 29 September. No response so far.
- s. 20/119 xi. Reopening of Morrell Room. Council decided to take the advice of NALC to continue with virtual meetings. Clerk to inform Morrell Room. **Action Completed**
- t. 20/119 xvii. Unleased land at top of High Street. Clerk to arrange inspection and quotation for any work.
- RBC Tree Services visited 21 September. Quotation of £700 (ex VAT) received for work to remove fallen tree, trim tree damaged by fall, remove branch of tree likely to fall on highway, trim trees overhanging garages of adjoining properties. The quotation excludes the repair to the fence which RBC are prepared to do once extent of damage is uncovered. **Clerk**
- Council agreed to proceed with the work.
- u. 20/119 xix. National Hill Climb Streatley Hill warm up event 26th September 2020. Clerk to email reminding WBC that the Whitchurch Hill diversion will still be in place on the day of this event.
- WBC were aware and were also concerned.
- Clerk to also contact the neighbourhood police as there may be parking issues. **Action Completed.**

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Neighbourhood police will pass this onto the rest of the team and make them aware. Unfortunately, they cannot promise attendance at the event however they will try to pay passing attention on the dates. If any parking causes any obstruction to the road or other road users, then please feel free to call 101 to make a report and report to West Berkshire Council.

**Action  
Completed.**

- v. 20/119 xx. Consultations on reform of the planning system. Councillor Spring has reviewed the documentation and reported that there is no feedback required.

**Action  
Completed**

- w. 20/120 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 (WBC) and the Police.

E. Cox has passed to a colleague who will inspect the footpath when time permits.

Both WBC and TVP Neighbourhood Police requested that we ask residents to either report on 101 or on TVP website so that situation/number of occurrences can be monitored.

**Action  
Completed.**

- x. 20/120 iii. Councillor Jubb offered to pick up with WBC the speed indicator device for the Wantage Road now that most of the building works are complete.

It was agreed that Councillor Jubb should investigate devices that would also record speeds. **MJ**

**20/130 Report of the West Berkshire District Councillor**

No report received from District Councillor Law.

**20/131 Planning**

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

- i. 20/02157/HOUSE Applewood, Townsend Road.  
Erection of new oak frame garage and home office.

The Clerk, in consultation with Councillors Spring, Coyle, Robertson, Jubb, and Barnes, determined that Streatley Parish Council do not object to this application but requested conditions are placed on any approval to the effect that the building 'should not be used as residential accommodation' and 'is only to be used by the resident of the property as a home office and garage'.

Council resolved that: Streatley Parish Council ratify this decision.

- 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

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existing building or comply with the village design statement for that area (Zone 3) of the village.

Amended plans received 25 September.

The Clerk, in consultation with Councillors Spring, Coyle, Robertson, Jubb, Barnes and Ashmore, determined that Streatley Parish Council object to this amendment on the same grounds as the original application.

Council resolved that: Streatley Parish Council 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. 20/01602/FULD Duzac, The Coombe.  
Replacement chalet bungalow.

Streatley Parish Council do not object to this application but comment that SPC are aware of neighbours' concerns raised directly with WBC.

Amended plans received 7 October. Alterations to the design to remove rear balconies and reduce length of proposed development.

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

- ii. 20/02204/HOUSE 6 Hill Gardens.  
Demolition of existing conservatory/sunroom; proposed single storey rear extension.  
Modifications to existing window and door openings.

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

Clerk to post note to notify neighbours of application.

**Clerk**

**d. Decisions by WBC**

- i. Enforcement Enquiry 18/00305/05NOAC. 1 Icknield Cottages, High Street.  
Windows fitted to this development are not in accordance with the planning application, or with the planning permission. Reported by Streatley Parish Council 5 June 2018.

WBC has now closed the file and no further action or investigation will take place. 28 September.

- ii. 20/00795/HOUSE The Lodge, Rectory Road.  
New gates and gate posts (car and pedestrian) to the front of the property.

Streatley Parish Council did not object to this application.  
Withdrawn.

- iii. 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.

Streatley Parish Council did not object to this application.  
Approved 8 October.

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

- i. 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.

Streatley Parish Council do not object to this application.

- ii. 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.

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.

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

Streatley Parish Council do not object to this application.

- iv. 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 ANOB.

Streatley Parish Council do not object to this amendment to the application.

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

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.

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

- i. Councillor Robertson reported building work adjacent to the garage at the front of Mad Hatters, Wantage Road. The Parish Council are not aware of a planning application for this work. Clerk to report to WBC Planning Dept. **Clerk**

**20/132 Finance Matters**

**a. Payment of Accounts between meetings**

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- i. £91.72. SSE. Street Lighting Energy August (Direct Debit).
- ii. £2701.86. Fresh Air Fitness. Deposit Children's Gym Equipment.
- iii. £257.50. Morrell Room. WBC Grant for COVID Cleaning products.

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 October.
- ii. £1509.00. Field Seymour Parkes. Advice regarding West Streatley House.
- iii. £374.60. HMRC Q2 Payment.
- iv. £14.01. N. Barnes. Streatley.org hosting annual charge.
- v. £1252.80. IJ Fencing. Supply & install metal barrier gate at recreation ground.
- vi. £306.37. SSE. Street Lighting maintenance – September quarter.
- vii. £94.58. SSE. Street Lighting Energy September (Direct Debit).

Council resolved that the above invoices be approved for payment.

**Clerk**

**c. Receipts**

- i. £257.50. WBC. Grant for COVID cleaning products for Morrell Room.
- ii. £15435.50. WBC. Second half 2020/21 Precept payment.

Council acknowledged receipt of these payments.

**d. Other Finance Matters**

- i. Council approved the bank reconciliation as of 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020 (previously circulated).
- ii. Council acknowledged payment of the Clerk's salary by direct debit on 1<sup>st</sup> October.
- iii. Council acknowledged Q2 VAT return of £1053.90.
- iv. Council receive and approved the half yearly budget comparison as of 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019 (previously circulated).
- v. Council received and approved the half yearly Reserves Summary (previously circulated).
- vi. Council agreed to order a Remembrance Wreath. **Clerk**
- vii. Council agreed to display event poppies in the High Street from 1<sup>st</sup> November. **NB/JS**  
Clerk to order additional cable ties. **Clerk**

**20/133 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 to document layout of SPC website and all passwords. **NB**
- ii. Councillor Barnes to review SPC website content on a quarterly basis to ensure it is up to date. **NB**

**b. Emergency Planning/SERG.**

Councillor Barnes reported a low level of calls to the Helpline although not all have been recorded.

A summary/synopsis of lessons learned will be available for approval by the Parish Council at the November meeting.

A 'Keep West Berkshire Open' banner is due to be delivered on 14<sup>th</sup> October and will be displayed on the fence by the meadows.

**20/134 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. A sewage pipe that flows under the south meadow has been blocked and leaking sewage into the meadow and through to Church Lane. Thames Water have cleared it twice. The clean-up is still to be done.
- ii. Two new trustees are attempting to find an engineer to advise and assist with the planning of the work required for the wall.

**b. Neighbourhood Action Group**

Councillor Spring reported that:

- i. The road through Aldworth is closed this week.
- ii. The potential closure of the High Street on Remembrance Sunday is not a good idea.
- iii. Lewendon Hill will be closed on 22<sup>nd</sup> October.
- iv. The trees left at the corner of Wantage/Wallingford Roads have been reported to WBC.
- v. Several people have been arrested near Compton for illegal activities on The Ridgeway.

**c. St Mary's Church**

There will be a service on Remembrance Sunday – details still to be finalised. It is possible that there will be a longer service outside with a shorter one inside.

The cast ironwork around the church is still being repainted.

The hedge adjacent to the allotments has been pruned.

**20/135 Correspondence (not dealt with elsewhere in the agenda)**

- i. 17<sup>th</sup> September. Open Spaces Society. September update.
- ii. 18<sup>th</sup> September. WBC Press Release. Public consultation begins on West Berkshire's draft Housing Strategy 2020 – 2036.
- iii. 21<sup>st</sup> September. SODC. Local Plan Proposed Main Modifications Consultation
- iv. 22<sup>nd</sup> September. SCAS. Covid Learning Report.
- v. 24<sup>th</sup> September. Going Forward buses. October update.
- vi. 1<sup>st</sup> October. WBC. District Parish Conference – Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2020.

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- vii. 1<sup>st</sup> October. WBC Press Release. WBC to invest £43M over next three years on schools and education services.
- viii. 2<sup>nd</sup> October. S. Sherwood. Streatley Hill Climb.
- ix. 6<sup>th</sup> October. J. Paynter. Free Trees for your Parish.  
Council agreed to request some trees for Recreation Ground and possibly the Meadows. **Clerk/NB**
- x. 6<sup>th</sup> October. Redlynch Leisure. Playground Equipment and Safety Surfacing for Streatley.
- xi. 6<sup>th</sup> October. WBC Press Release. WBC launches Test and Trace £500 Support payment for workers on low incomes who are required to self-isolate.
- xii. 8<sup>th</sup> October. CCB. Invitation to AGM - Thursday 5th November 2020.
- xiii. 8<sup>th</sup> October. WBC Press Release. Have your say on draft Leisure Strategy.

**20/136      Items Raised by Councillors**

- i. Councillor Spring reported on the four candidates for the Parish Councillor vacancy. He has managed to speak with three of the candidates and has received limited response from the other one. His inclination would be to offer the position to the first applicant. All councillors agreed to leave the decision to Councillor Spring. **JS**
- ii. Councillor Spring reported that he had been contacted by M. Westenbrink, Operations Director of The Swan, regarding the visit by an Enforcement Officer regarding excessive use of the overflow car park. The car park has been used by members of the public walking in the area, using the river etc. The area has now been cleared and employees are no longer allowed to park in that area.
- iii. Councillors Jubb and Robertson suggested additional maps directing walkers up The Coombe. The current map, behind the bus shelter, has an information item blocking the display of the footpath from the top of The Coombe. The maps could be placed where people could easily view them; the school and The Bull were suggested. Councillor Coyle to speak with the school and Councillor Ashmore with the Bull. **JA/LC/MJ**

**20/137      Open Forum**

None.

**20/138      End of Meeting**

There being no further business, the Chairman confirmed that the next meeting would take place on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2020. A decision will be taken nearer the time as to whether this is a physical or virtual meeting. The meeting closed at 9.00 pm.

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