

Actions

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF STREATLEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD
IN THE MORRELL ROOM, STREATLEY ON 14 NOVEMBER 2022 (start 7.50pm)

Present – Mr C Smith (Chairman), Mr N Barnes, Mr M Jubb, Mr J Spring, District Councillor Alan Law.

22/128 Preliminaries

- a. **Co-option of Councillor**
Deferred to December meeting.
- b. **Dispensations**
None.

22/129 Apologies

Mrs S Anderson, Mr M Davis.

22/130 Open Forum

There were five members of the public present. Their details are appended to these minutes.

The first member of the public attended to listen to the meeting.

The second member of the public attended to update and answer questions on the Miggs proposal for a wheelchair accessible footpath through the grounds of The Bull. A grant application has been made to the AoNB and Mend The Gap. MIGGS are also able to contribute £2000. If there is a shortfall SPC may be asked to contribute or source a grant. Consent has been given by the current manager of The Bull and by the managing agents. See 22/132 p below.

The third member of the public asked if SPC could express concern to WBC RoW regarding the delay to installing the footpath STRE/21. Councillor Smith had spoken with WBC and with District Councillor Law and established the environmental and agricultural work was proceeding and clearance of the vegetation by the fencing contractor had commenced. Bridge works and drainage could not proceed until permission has been received from the Environment Agency. The length of time for this was unknown and WBC have been asked to chase this. However, due to weather conditions and the nesting season, it is unlikely that completion will be until Autumn 2023. District Councillor Law confirmed that the budget for this is in place so there is every intention to complete the work.

The fourth and fifth members of the public attended to ask questions and express views regarding the High Street parking proposals:

1. They were concerned that removing the parking spaces at the top of the High Street would give an increase in the speed of traffic. It was confirmed that this was to improve visibility and reduce standoffs further down the road.
2. Residents only parking at defined times. They felt that residents would be assured of parking if this was a 24x7 restriction.
3. Residents only parking imposition was not considered necessary
4. Concerns about vehicles mounting the pavements and more bollards. Removing the spaces at the top of the High Street is intended to reduce any need to mount the pavement. Bollards that have been removed due to damage will be replaced but WBC will follow national guidelines when installing any additional ones and the footpath width required.

The Open Forum closed at 20:30.

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22/131 Minutes

- i. Council resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 10th October 2022, having earlier been circulated, be agreed as the correct record, and signed by the Chairman.
Clerk

22/132 Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

- a. 19/074 i. High Street traffic.

The Parish Council received WBC Highways proposal on 18 August.

Following a site meeting with Councillors Davis, Barnes and Anderson present, Councillor Davis drafted plans for discussion. The plans have been circulated with the changes resulting from the discussion and showing measurements.

Action Completed

Councillor Smith to draft the response to WBC Highways, reviewing against the plans and to suggest a further site meeting.

CS

Copy of correspondence sent to WBC Traffic Management and Road Safety from High Street residents received 08 November.

JS/CS

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

- b. 19/139 a ii. The initial application to list The Bull public house as an Asset of Community Value was determined as not meeting the criteria for listing as the letting rooms brought it into the hotel category.

A revised submission has been drafted by Councillor Jubb. Clerk has added 'evidence of use by the community' and resubmitted to WBC.

Clerk

- c. 22/039 iv. A metal barrier to replace the chain at the entrance to the Recreation Ground car park.

A grant application for 50% of the cost was awarded by WBC on 29 June.

On 11 July Council agreed to proceed and installation was completed 21 September.

Action Completed

Payment of grant was received from WBC on 11 October.

- d. 22/053 Proposal for relocation of Scout storage cabin. Councillors have visited the cabin location.

Councillor Barnes stated that the Heart of Streatley Trustees were not in favour of this as it would take away light from the wild wood. An issue was raised about the removal of any car parking spaces as there is insufficient parking currently when a football match takes place. The removal of the bank may possibly affect the roots of at least 3 trees causing them to become unstable.

An email was received from Friends of Streatley Rec expressing their concerns about this proposal and suggesting the area adjacent to the swings

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(Northeast corner) as a possible location. This was deemed too small to accommodate the cabin without encroaching on the Public Footpath.

It was determined that the Parish Council would lease the land for this purpose and any planning permission would need to be obtained by the scouts for a no-dig solution.

The cost of a planning application would depend upon the change of use of the land and the size of the building. If SPC submitted the application, they may be given a 50% reduction of the resulting costs.

Councillor Barnes has discussed this decision with Heart of Streatley Trustees who are no enthusiastic.

Discussion then concentrated on the screening as it would take time for a hedge to grow to the required height. The Scout group leader was asked to go away and investigate alternative screening such as timber cladding. This suggestion was rejected by The Scout Group who would prefer just to paint with an anti-vandal finish.

As it was difficult to determine formal ownership of the football cabin, it was decided to place an article in the next GGN informing people that it will be removed. Notices to be posted on the outside and inside of the cabin also.

Clerk

e. 22/076a. A plan for purchase of plants and planting tubs has been received. It was agreed to proceed.

Clerk

f. 22/076a. Clerk to purchase replacement trough and plants for High Street.

Clerk

g. 22/109 b. Councillor Barnes to set up secure Cloud storage for use by the Clerk and Council.

NB

To make this transparent with change of Clerk it requires a debit card in the name of the Parish Council. It was agreed that the Clerk should investigate how this might work. Ongoing.

Clerk

h. 22/116 Clerk to report on WBC Problem web site:

- the wooden steps at the eastern end of STRE 1/2 have rotted
- the two bottom steps at the northern end of STRE 27/1 have rotted. WBC responded that this would require Traffic management in place to effect repairs
- the Thames path around Cleeve Lock has been diverted.

Action Completed

i. 22/116 Clerk to chase WBC RoW regarding progress with footpath Hill Gardens to Green Hill.

WBC RoW officer responded that he been waiting for a copy of the WBC ownership deed packet for the woodland south of the school from within WBC, but it does not appear to be easy to obtain.

He will check to see if we can proceed without finding it – he does have the Land Registry title register for WBC's land ownership but for completeness had wanted to see the original packet if possible.

Action Completed

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- j. 22/116 Clerk to find out if there is to be a Parish Forum this year. **Action Completed**
To be scheduled for February 2023.
- k. 22/116 Clerk to check the school and High Street floodwater/drains and report to WBC if not draining as expected. **CS**
This has been superseded by an email from the school regarding flooding within the school grounds with water draining away very slowly. District Councillor Law has contacted WBC and Councillor Smith is speaking with Thames Water. WBC have been asked to look at drainage from The Coombe down through Streatley Hill and the High Street.
- l. 22/116 Clerk to respond to letter from member of the public asking about High Street parking changes. **Action Completed**
Response sent 12 October.
- m. 22/120 d iv. Clerk to chase WBC regarding queries relating to the process followed for Appeal: APP/W0340/W/21/3286654 relating to Planning Application: 21/01179/FULD. **Action Completed**
Following a detailed review of the planning history and appeal decision, WBC Planning has not found any viable grounds to challenge the decision.
- n. 22/120 f i. Clerk and Councillor Smith to review WBC Material Planning Considerations against SPC Planning guidelines documentation. **Action Completed**
SPC document and updated and replaced on SPC web site.
- o. 22/122 a. Clerk to purchase a poppy wreath ahead of Remembrance Sunday. **Action Completed**
- p. 22/122 b. SPC to provide financial assistance with MIGGS proposal for disabled access around The Bull once detailed costs received. **CS**
A quotation of £5750 + VAT received from a builder A grant application for the costs has been submitted to AoNB and to Mend The Gap. SPC have been asked if they could commission the work and hence recover the VAT. Councillor Jubb suggested that permission should come from the owners as well as the leaseholder as it could result in removal of the path upon expiry of the lease.
- q. 22/123 a. Bag of ragwort to be removed from Recreation Ground. This will be dealt with. **NB**
- r. 22/123 d ii. Clerk to seek quotes for repair and restoration of benches and picnic tables in the Recreation Ground. To include Wallingford Road bench. **Clerk**
- s. 22/125. Clerk to investigate available grants for Street Lighting LED replacements. Ongoing. **Clerk**

22/133 Report of the West Berkshire District Councillor
District Councillor Law reported:

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1. He attended the service of thanksgiving for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in Newbury.
2. WBC have set up a cost-of-living hub in conjunction with Greenham Trust.
3. A further £694,000 has been made available to the Household Support Fund. This currently supports 2400 households and provided 4000 free school meals in school holidays.
4. The weekly food waste collection service has started.
5. Considering Year-to-date expenditure WBC are predicting a £7m overspend on budget. This has mainly arisen due to an increase in demand for adult social care.
6. The budget process for 2023/23 has started.
7. The Local plan - Progress has stalled over the last 18 months due to a change in regulations. The final version is now ready for presentation to Council (1 December) and will then be sent to the Secretary for State.
8. There are a lot of local flooding issues being reported following recent heavy rains.

The second and third members of the public left at 21:06.

District Councillor Alan Law and the fifth member of the public left at 21:10.

22/134 Planning

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

- i. 22/02408/FUL Kiddington House, Aldworth Road, Streatley.
Surface dressing existing track to provide adequate access to residential property.

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

Council resolved to ratify this decision.

b. Applications for planning permission

None.

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

None.

d. Decisions by WBC

- i. 22/01973/COND1 The Brambles, Wantage Road, Streatley.
Conditions relation to approved application 21/01398/HOUSE.
Part Approved/Part Refused 12 October.
- ii. 22/02158/FUL Woods Farm Water Treatment Works Stichens Green.
Development of toilet facilities building at Woods Farm Water Treatment Works.
Streatley Parish Council did not object to this application.
Approved 2 November.
- iii. 22/02248/FUL Warren Cottage, Rectory Road.
Section 73: Variation of Condition 2 (Approved Plans) of previously approved application 21/02908/HOUSE: Proposed detached summer room & bike store; front canopy; first floor dormer window; changes to fenestrations and roof tiles.
Streatley Parish Council did not object to this application.
Approved 9 November.

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

- i. 22/01799/FULMAJ Streatley Farmhouse, Wallingford Road.

Create an enclosed garden by constructing a 2.25m high brick and flint wall along the western edge, a 2.25m high brick wall on the southern edge and a 2.25m lowering to 1.7m brick wall on the eastern edge. These will replace the roadside timber fence and trimmed hedges.

Streatley Parish Council does not object to this application.

- ii. 22/02327/HOUSE Greenlands House, Townsend Road.

Demolition of conservatory, garage conversion, single and two story rear extension, loft conversion including a rear dormer, alterations to the fenestration, rendering the external façade, and garden home office.

Streatley Parish Council does not object to this application subject to no objection from neighbours but would request a condition is added to any approval that the garden home office cannot be used as residential accommodation.

- iii. 22/02147/HOUSE 5 Cleeve Court.

Proposed conservatory to infill existing first floor balcony.

Streatley Parish Council does not object to this application.

f. Other planning (and licensing) matters

- i. 22/02508/TPW The Bull, Reading Road.

Various Tree works.

Streatley Parish Council were not informed of this application but support the work.

- ii. 22/02776/TPC The Swan

Various Tree works.

Streatley Parish Council were not informed of this application but support the work.

- iii. Councillor Spring mentioned the planning training being offered by WBC and offered to attend if at a convenient time. **JS**

22/135 Finance Matters

a. Payments made between meetings.

None.

b. Payment of Accounts received by Council

- i. £23.98 (£19.98 + VAT). H. Preston-Barnes. Reimbursement for Remembrance poppy wreath.
- ii. £330.13 (£275.11 + VAT). Enerveo. Street Lighting Maintenance Q2 2022-3.
- iii. £165.88 (138.23 + VAT). Enerveo. Street Lighting rechargeable repairs Q2 2022-3.
- iv. £4,977.75. PWLB. Loan Payment 2/2 2022 (Paid by Direct debit).
- v. £108.00 (£90 + VAT). M&C Landscapes. Grass cutting September.
- vi. £187.59 (£178.68 + VAT). SSE. Street Lighting Energy October (Paid by Direct Debit).

Council resolved that the above invoices be approved for payment.

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c. Receipts

- i. £1,440.64. WBC. Grant towards Car Park barrier.
- ii. £897.41. Q2 VAT reimbursement.

Council acknowledged receipt of these payments.

d. Other Finance Matters

- i. Council received and approved a bank reconciliation as of 31st October (previously circulated).
- ii. Council acknowledged payment of the Clerk's salary on 1st November.
- iii. Council acknowledged that there is no CIL payment due for the period 01 April – 30 September 2022 (due to lack of local house building).

22/136 Specific Matters for Discussion/Decision:

a. The budget for FY 2023/24

The first draft of the budget for 2023/4, having previously been circulated, was discussed. Councillor Spring raised several questions. It was agreed to add a budget item of £600 for IT equipment and reduce the Street Lighting replacement programme to £2000 (balance could be taken from CIL monies).

Clerk

b. YHA consultation team

Councillor Smith reported on his recent interview with the consultant.

c. Donation offered for use of the Recreation Ground

A monthly donation has been offered by a personal trainer using the Recreation Ground. It was agreed to accept the donation. Clerk to respond.

Clerk

22/137 Reports on:

a. Heart of Streatley Charitable Trust

Councillor Barnes had nothing to report.

b. Website/IT

Councillor Barnes had nothing to report.

c. Allotment Society.

The Allotment Society have nothing to report.

d. Recreation Ground

No report was received from FoSRG.

e. Neighbourhood Action Group

Councillor Spring had nothing to report.

f. St. Mary's Church

Councillor Spring reported

- i. The autumn clean-up has been completed.
- ii. The clock has been serviced.
- iii. The Parish Council were well represented at the Remembrance Day service, which was generally well attended.

g. Traffic and Highways

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Councillor Jubb reported that correspondence had been received from a private company regarding installation of EV charging points. After further investigation it meant that any installation would involve land owned by WBC so there would need to be agreements in place. It was agreed that it was preferable to wait until WBC issue an offer of installation.

The first member of the public left at 21:40.

22/138 Correspondence (not dealt with elsewhere in the agenda)

- i. 11 October. G. Jenkins. Streatley Hill Preschool - update to the Parish Council.
- ii. 11 October. WBC. West Berkshire Libraries annual report 2021-22.
- iii. 11 October. Enevero. Cessation of Night Patrol March 2023.
- iv. 13 October. Age UK. Winter Financial Help for West Berkshire Residents.
- v. 17 October. North Wessex Downs. Bookings Now Open for our Annual Forum 25 November.
- vi. 18 October. WBC. Invitation to join West Berkshire Parish Climate Forum.
- vii. 18 October. E. Cox. WBC. Streatley Footpath 21 – update.
- viii. 18 October. CCB. AGM Invitation 2022 & Launch of Rural Hubs.
- ix. 20 October. WBC Press Release. West Berkshire Cost of Living Hub launches next week.
- x. 20 October. Event Notification: Race to the Stones - 8th and 9th July 2023.
- xi. 20 October. WBC. Community Clean-Up Days - Helpful links and resources.
- xii. 20 October. Liberty Charge Ltd. EV Charge points - Fully funded model.
- xiii. 20 October. WBC. Grounds maintenance service costs 2023 (Dog bin emptying etc).
- xiv. 25 October. BALC. October newsletter.
- xv. 25 October. WBC. Planning Enforcement Training.
- xvi. 27 October. North Wessex Downs Landscape. Trust Autumn 2022 Newsletter.
- xvii. 28 October. Open Spaces Society. Open Space Magazine Autumn 2022.
- xviii. 29 October. Going Forward Buses. Timetable update.
- xix. 31 October. The Chilterns Classic June 3rd, 2023, Event Plan.
- xx. 4 November. WBC Electoral Services. The six-month election rule.
- xxi. 4 November. WBC Transport Services. Free Christmas Shopper Service on Saturdays in run up to Christmas.
- xxii. 7 November. WBC Press Release. What's happening on our journey to net zero?
- xxiii. 8 November. WBC. Invitation to join our WBC Parish Climate Forum: 7 December.
- xxiv. 8 November. WBC. Winter Preparedness - Level 1.
- xxv. 9 November. The Conservation Volunteers. Working with The Conservation Volunteers.
- xxvi. 10 November. WBC Press Release. Free Bus Travel this festive season across West Berkshire.
- xxvii. 10 November. Laura Farris. Pension Credit Campaign.
- xxviii. 11 November. Friends of the Ridgeway Autumn 2022 newsletter.
- xxix. 14 November. Streatley School. Flooding problem.

22/139 Items Raised by Councillors

- i. Councillor Jubb informed the Council that Beale Park had been ram raided the previous week with maintenance equipment stolen. Fortunately, the enclosures for animals were not affected.

22/140 Open Forum

The fourth member of the public asked:

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- i. The rationale for Residents only parking during the week and not at Weekends as summer weekends often present parking issues?

Councillor Smith responded that 7-day Residents only parking had been discussed and was a possibility.

- ii. How this would be policed?

It is intended that the High Street would come under the service contract that WBC already has in place.

He stated that he does not find problems parking during the week except during the summer months.

22/141 End of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chairman confirmed that the next meeting would take place on Monday 12th December 2022 in the Morrell Room at 7:50pm.

The meeting closed at 21:54.

The fourth member of the public left at 21:54.

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