



Enborne Parish Council

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MINUTES

ENBORNE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY 1 MARCH 2021– 8pm - REMOTE MEETING

Present:

Cllr. John Leeson (Vice-Chair)

Cllr. Natasha Kendall

Cllr. Sam Dibas

District Cllrs. James Cole, Dennis Benneyworth

Laura Farris MP

Clerk: Mrs K Lloyd

In attendance: 2 members of the public.

The Clerk announced that the meeting is being recorded for minute purposes. The recording will be deleted once the minutes are approved.

1. **APOLOGIES**

Cllr. Garrett sent his apologies.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest raised.

3. **WELCOME, LAURA FARRIS MP**

Cllr. Leeson welcomed Laura Farris MP to the meeting.

Laura said how great it is to attend the Parish Council meeting but was sorry it had to be through zoom and that we could not meet physically face to face.

4. **Q AND A FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL TO LAURA FARRIS MP**

Solar Panel Farm.

Cllr. Leeson gave a report on the Poor's Allotment Charity regarding the Solar Panel Farm. He explained that the Solar Panel Farm will double the income for the charity and reduce the carbon footprint of the Parish. The Solar Panel Farm was at the pre-planning advice stage at West Berkshire Council (WBC) but WBC were not very encouraging in their response.

We suspect that planning policy has not yet been updated to accommodate the declaration made by WBC in 2019 regarding the Climate Emergency.

Laura Farris was asked if she would support the Solar Panel Farm and address the inadequacies found in the planning policy with WBC, which would in turn help support this planning application.

Laura Farris said she would be happy to support and write to WBC but could not get involved in planning application decisions as such, but certainly would show support in a general way.

Section 121 of the Law of Property Act 1925 to improve freeholder rights with respect to management charges.

Cllr. Leeson asked about the government promised reform to improve freeholder rights with respect to estate management fees. He reported that about £500 is charged per year to the residents in Spring Gardens by their estate management company while the neighbouring Knoll Gardens estate gets along fine without any estate management company.

Cllr. Leeson asked if there was any progress with this reform. Laura Farris said she was not aware of any progress on changes to this legislation and had not heard any discussions in parliament regarding this. and would investigate this further with Minister for Housing Luke Hall MP.

The Planning White Paper.

Cllr. Leeson asked Laura Farris if Parish Councils will still be a part of the consultation process when considering Planning Applications on the new proposed Planning White Paper.

Laura Farris said the focus of the complaints from the proposed planning white paper when it was first published was the increase in the number of houses each year on top of what was in the WBC plan. Laura had been advised that West Berkshire authority should be pleased by the revisions made in the white paper, which is most likely because most of it is in an AONB. It was also alluded that Parish Councils will continue to be a key part in the consultation process and play an enhanced role in helping to identify pockets of land that would be suitable for development in the Parish.

Cllr. Cole raised the thoughts to Laura Farris of future working from home following the pandemic. Laura Farris said this was an interesting question and talks of working to a hybrid system to save daily commuting had grown following the pandemic. This would also save renting premises for employees if half of the staff could work from home different days. Commuting to London for example is tiring and challenging and if working from home could be offered more this could be life changing, especially for families living in rural areas. She said this question has been raised in parliament. It is impossible to debate until we are out of this pandemic as the short-term focus is for everyone to return to normal life. Probably a year down the line the government may talk more on this subject and said she would like to improve the working life for her constituents.

Laura Farris said she had been lobbying for a flexible commuter season ticket, instead of paying the annual season ticket, they will now make a saving of 40% based on the assumption that people will only use them for no more than three days a week.

Fibre Broadband in the Parish

Cllr. Dibas raised the concern that fibre broadband abilities are limited in the Parish and that even Newbury town did not have proper broadband. He asked what broadband abilities can be offered to work from home? And is there any capital investment for rural places to get proper broadband?

Laura Farris said the 'Department for Digital Culture, Media, and Sports' (DCMS) which is responsible is making some investment but sadly some of the areas of Newbury will not be getting broadband. This can vary considerably. A meeting to discuss this to look again at what they are not delivering is planned and she was fully aware of the importance of this issue but could not pretend it is all good news, but they are trying to find ways around it.

The Parish Council Thanked Laura Farris MP for attending the meeting and answering the questions and for her support regarding the items raised.

MP Farris Thanked the Parish Council for letting her attend the meeting, and then left the meeting.

5. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS- UN-MINUTED**

A member of the public said a thank you to MP Laura Farris for attending the meeting and answering the questions.

6. **MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS**

Councillors **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY** to confirm and adopt the Minutes of the Parish Council remote meeting held on 4th January 2020.

7. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS – SHOWN AS APPENDIX 1.**

21/00167/House Kings Farm, Enborne Row. The Councillors had no concerns and resolved to no objections.
21/10059/House 30 Spring Gardens. The Councillors had no concerns and resolved to no objections.

8. **FINANCE**

Members **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY** to confirm the March payments as shown below.

Statement of Accounts
Accounts for Payment MARCH 2021

Expenditure brought forward 20-21 £8,780.20

Payments

Cheque No	Payee	Description	Amount
BACS	Kim Lloyd	Clerk Salary - Feb	
BACS	Kim Lloyd	Clerk Salary - March	
BACS	Kim Lloyd	Clerk Salary - NJC inflation increase adjustment	
SO	Newbury Self Store	Storage - Feb	£ 74.32
SO	Newbury Self Store	Storage - Mar	£ 74.32
BACS	HMRC	Clerk Income Tax -Dec /Jan	£ 230.80
BACS	Vision ICT	Website Hosting	£ 423.60
			£ 1,726.92

Receipts

Total Receipts £ -

Financial Position to date

Balance carried forward 31/03/20	£	81,333.10
Income for year 20-21 to date.	£	17,995.00
Less payments for year 20-21 to date		£10,507.12
Total including Reserves	£	88,820.98

The CASHFLOW for March was noted, and no questions were raised.

9. **BANK ACCOUNT UPDATE**

The Clerk reported sufficient funds are now deposited in the Unity Trust Bank (UTB) account and all payments can be paid from this account. The last standing order for Newbury Storage was paid the end of February. Once the Clerk has proof of this and then receives the next NatWest bank statement the Clerk will then raise a cheque for the balance of funds left in NatWest to UTB. Then the NatWest Bank account can be closed.
ACTION: Clerk.

10. **ASSET REGISTER**

The Clerk had emailed a revised Asset Register to the Councillors before the meeting. All Councillors present agreed to adopt the 2021 Asset Register.

11. **COUNCILLORS / CLERK / ANY FURTHER REPORTS/QUESTIONS**

Cllr. Leeson confirmed he will attend the WBC District Conference.

Cllr. Kendall said the amount of litter in the Parish is awful and asked if the Parish Council could locate litter pick equipment. The Clerk said WBC loan litter pick kits to Parish Councils. Cllr. Kendall said it was something to investigate in doing once the lockdown was over.

A member of the public suggested contacting the Scouts to help with litter picks. Cllr. Kendall said she would contact the local Scouts but said sadly some areas the Scouts would not be able to litter pick as it was too close to the road with vehicle drivers speeding making it very dangerous.

Cllr. Dibas reported a farmer had blocked a footpath because dogs were chasing his sheep. Residents had made complaints, and it had caused problems over lockdown for walkers.

Cllr. Cole said the farmer was entitled to block the footpath because it is a permissive footpath, but he was aware the farmer is trying to organise improvements to the footpaths. If the footpaths blocked were public, then the members of the public would need to report this to WBC.

12. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next Parish Council meeting is Monday 26 April 2021 at 8.30pm.

To note. The Poor's Allotment Charity Meeting will commence at 8pm also on Monday 26 April 2021.

Meeting ended at 9.10pm.

APPENDIX 1

Planning Applications, Appeals and Enforcement Notices for consideration at the Parish Council March 2021

Planning applications can be viewed by members of the public on the West Berkshire Council's website

[West Berkshire Planning Applications On Line Simple Search Link](#)

Planning applications for consideration at meeting

Reference	Type	Location	Description	Observations
21/00167	House	Kings Farm, Enborne Row, Wash Water.	Proposed single storey rear utility/kitchen/garden room extension with associated internal alterations	No Objections
21/00159/	House	30 Spring Gardens	Replace existing tiled roof to lean-to rear extension with leaded roof including alterations to rear openings. External landscaping to create new terraced areas in garden along with the erection of a new 2.1m high fence to the western boundary	No Objections

West Berkshire Council Planning Application Decisions and Planning Inspectorate Appeal Decisions

Reference	Type	Location	Description	Decision
20/02842	FUL	Falkland Cricket Club	Proposed pitched roof single storey pavilion containing a hall, kitchen, storage and sanitary facilities for use of the 1st Wash Common Scout Group. The existing pavilion at Battery End will be demolished once the new building is commissioned and the space will allow for the development	Granted
20/02591	House	Sapley Enborne Street	Demolition of conservatory, first floor side extension, single storey rear extension, 2 storey side extension, alterations and garden hobby room	Granted

For Information

Reference	Type	Location	Description	Decision
APP/W0340/W/20/3250812	Appeal	Oakdene, Andover Drove, Wash Water	<p>The appeal is made under section 78 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 against a refusal to grant planning permission.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The appeal is made by Mr M Bingham against the decision of West Berkshire Council. The application Ref 20/00169/FULD, dated 23 January 2020, was refused by notice dated 23 March 2020. <p>The development proposed is proposed new two storey pitched roof dwelling in the garden of Oakdene, Andover Drove. Demolition of existing garage and extension of existing driveway at Oakdene.</p>	Appeal Dismissed