



Enborne Parish Council

Clerk to the Council: Kim Lloyd

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MINUTES of the Meeting of Enborne Parish Council

23 September 2024

The Barn, Enborne Church, Enborne

Present:	Cllr. Val Bolan (Chair) Cllr. Peter Tompkins (Vice-Chair) Cllr. Chris Garrett Cllr. Sam Dibas Cllr. Giles Whitefield
Parish Clerk:	Mrs Kim Lloyd
District Councillors:	Cllr. Tony Vickers Cllr. Dennis Bennyworth, from item 7
Public:	41 members of the public

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr. Natasha Kendall sent her apologies and District Councillor Denise Gaines.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST ON AGENDA ITEMS

Cllr. Garrett declared an interest in [24/01053/FUL](#) Land Off, Andover Drove, Wash Water, Newbury RG20 0LZ. Erection of two dwellings with associated parking and landscaping, because he is trustee of the Parish Field.

Cllrs. Dibas and Whitefield are also both trustees of the Parish Field regarding 24/01053/FUL.

Cllr. Tompkins took this opportunity to respond to a complaint made against him from a WBC officer regarding not submitting a declaration of interest when becoming a parish councillor. This was a false accusation; the form was completed, and it could be found in the public domain. Cllr. Tompkins felt that he had no choice but to take legal action against this false accusation to clear his name.

Regrettably this could impact his working relations with his fellow Councillors and affect the Parish Council. The detail of this legal action will be made public in due course when he will be able to fully declare any implications of his declaration of interests.

Another accusation was that Cllr. Tompkins failed to declare his family interest in Long Copse Farm who live adjacent to the land. Cllr. Tompkins said when he originally wrote to the local authority regarding [23/02596/FULMAJ](#) on 7.01.24 to make his objection he wrote in that representation that his family farms the land adjacent to Long Copse Farm. Cllr. Tompkins felt that he did not need to declare this declaration in the previous meeting as he has no financial benefit in the family land adjacent to Long Copse Farm.

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A member of the public thanked the parish council for their continued support in their objection to the Draft Local Plan RSA25, Long Copse Farm allocation. The representations made is a strong foundation for the road ahead. Being a resident with strong interest in this matter in seeing that justice will prevail he congratulated the council of their actions and advocates for more of the same.

It was noted from another resident that Neighbouring parish councils have also objected to 23/02596/FULMAJ Long Copse Farm and asked if EPC can work with them to join forces.

A concern was raised from another resident regarding SSE not digging a trench deep enough and could see this will cause issues in the future and felt it needed raising.

4. MINUTES

The Parish Council agreed that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 20 May 2024, with amendment and the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 24th June 2024 were both a true representation of those meetings.

5. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

5.1 New planning applications to consider.

- [24/01053/FUL](#) Land Off, Andover Drove, Wash Water, Newbury RG20 0LZ. Erection of two dwellings with associated parking and landscaping

There were 23 objections on the website and the Enborne Parish Field Trustees had already made a representation. The Clerk confirmed that the application will be called-in to another committee if approved as it has over 10 objections. It was agreed to comment to say as there were over 23 objections, EPC could not be in support.

EPC could not make further representation to WBC due to only having one Councillor that did not have a declaration of interest in the Parish Field, (this land being adjacent to the Parish Field).

Cllr. Tompkins abstained from considering planning applications in meetings until further notice.

- [24/01828/HOUSE](#) Poplars End, Andover Drove, Wash Water, Newbury RG20 0LZ. Construction of a rear roof dormer extension with the addition of five rooflights to the roof slopes

The Parish Council had no objections, Cllr. Tompkins and Whitefield abstained.

5.2 To receive reports of recent planning decisions taken by WBC

- [24/00433/HOUSE](#) Hampden, Enborne Row, Wash Water, Newbury RG20 0LY New Single Storey Garage. WBC Granted
- [24/00344/FUL](#) Cowleaze Farm, Enborne Street, Enborne, Newbury RG20 0JP. Demolition and part demolition of existing barns, the conversion of existing buildings to provide two dwellings, garaging, and ancillary residential accommodation, together with associated external works and landscaping. WBC Granted.
- [24/00454/HOUSE](#) Peregrine Studio, Enborne, Newbury, RG14 6RP. Proposed garage. WBC Granted

6. WEST BERKSHIRE COUNCIL LOCAL PLAN 2022-39, POLICY RSA25 [23/02596/FULMAJ](#) LONGCOPSE FARM, VANNERS LANE, USE OF LAND FOR THE SITING OF 24 TRAVELLING SHOWPERSONS PLOTS

On 11 September 2024 a statement from District Councillor Tony Vickers was received as shown in Appendix 1.

In response to Cllr. Vickers statement, Appendix 1, Cllr. Garrett proposed the following statement from EPC to be published on the Enborne Parish Council website.

.....

Enborne Parish Council published a statement on the 8th of July 2024 relating to Long Copse Farm. We stand by that statement.

However, it has been suggested that one sentence may be misinterpreted to suggest predisposition or bias on behalf of our district councillors. We did not mean to imply this, and we can confirm when we said, 'Councillors Gaines and Vickers are responsible for the promotion of this site under policy RSA25.', that we did not mean these councillors were acting on behalf of the landowner. We used the word 'promotion' in the context described by the Planning Advisory Service as being the role district councillors have in promoting policies that help to 'deliver the vision set out in the local plan'.

We hope this clarifies the meaning of our statement, we did not mean to cause offence to District Councillors Gaines and Vickers. For that we apologise.

Enborne Parish Council has made strenuous efforts to oppose the inclusion of 24 Show person sites at Long Copse Farm under RSA25 into the Local Plan and to oppose Planning Application – 23/02596//FULMAJ. We have received the strong support of Enborne Residents (especially those primarily effected), all Enborne Parish Councillors and Hampstead Marshall Parish Council in our endeavour.”

.....

Cllrs. Dibas seconded this proposal.

Cllr. Tompkins made comment that this apology proposal had been raised because of a complaint received from a WBC District Councillor on 9/7 regarding the content of a statement released by Enborne Parish Council. Cllr. Tompkins did not agree to the content of the statement being changed and did not agree that an apology was needed. However, Cllr. Tompkins did agree that fellow Councillors wanted to build bridges with the District Councillors.

It was **RESOLVED** from a vote of 3 Councillors in support of the proposed apology statement to be published on the website and 2 Councillors being against, the motion was passed.

Regarding the queries on the site boundary and the wrong application name which was raised to WBC and the Local Plan inspector on 17/8. WBC had responded to the inspector’s request with a revision and as a result of this the inspector is holding another hearing on RSA25.

Cllr. Tompkins raised the matter of a Judicial Review and that one cannot be challenged until the planning application is determined. Cllr. Tompkins hoped to get the District Councillors to support the efforts to oppose the application and policy RSA25. It was said the policy doesn’t have any evidence to support it and feels there is grounds for Judicial Review as there is not a need. Cllr. Tony Vickers was present in the meeting and agreed that he would be happy to meet with EPC before the Local Plan Hearing and would consider stepping back from the District Planning Committee to join forces with EPC following the outcome of the hearing.

Cllr. Tompkins proposed 'at last resort' that EPC take forward a challenge for Judicial Review on RSA25 and 23/02596/FULMAJ. It was confirmed that funding would be made by crowd funding.

Cllr. Vickers said he would support the Council in making a resolution to support a Judicial Review.

It was agreed that with tight time scales if this policy and application is approved, the public can look at crowd funding options as soon as possible without waiting for another Parish Council meeting to pass resolution.

It was **RESOLVED** from a vote of 4 Councillors in support 'at last resort' to take forward a challenge for a Judicial Review if required, with 1 Councillor abstaining.

The Parish Council agreed to re-allocate £5,000 from the 'Footpaths' Reserve Fund to a new Reserve Fund called 'Planning Application Legal Advice' This Reserve will be used to pay for legal advice – **and not for a Judicial Review**.

No updates or reports were received from the new formulated Residents Action Group and their planned steps.

It was confirmed that the next Local Plan Inspector Hearing was on Thursday 3rd October 2024 Councillors Bolan, Garrett and Tompkins will attend, Cllr. Tompkins will speak to the inspector. If anyone would like to make further representation that could help support, please email the Clerk.

The parish council **RESOLVED** to delegate Cllr. Tompkins to lead the challenge to oppose RSA25 and 23/02596/FULMAJ.

Cllr. Tony Vickers said he was meeting with WBC planning officers on 24/09 and will report back to Council following this meeting and he will pursue a meeting with EPC to discuss further.

Members of the public present offered their help and support to EPC.

The Chairman expressed Thanks to everyone in attendance and appreciated the public support offered.

7 LAND WEST OF PUMPING STATION, ENBORNE ROW, WASH WATER

Enforcement was contacted following residents' reports to Parish Council of breached planning application development. The Clerk had heard nothing. Cllr. Tony Vickers in attendance reported that as far as he knew Enforcement had visited site and could not see any breach of planning. The Clerk asked Cllr. Vickers if Enforcement could formally write back to Parish Council their findings after visiting site so the Clerk could forward on to those concerned.

8 NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN (NDP)

No further updates following the last meeting.

9 WATERMILL BRIDGE

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council proposed Judicial Review of the appeal process and decision had failed.

The applicant has three years to submit further requested information. The plans are still to be submitted for the West of the development and everyone will be able to comment on these once published. The development to the East has been given approval.

10 ENFORCEMENT CASE REF. 23/00525/15UNAU, THE PADDOCKS COTTAGE, ENBORNE

Nothing further to report at this stage.

11 FINANCE

Income and Expenditure

The Payments as shown in Appendix 2 and Bank Reconciliation to 1st September 2024 were approved. The Clerk noted the Members Bids 2024/25 Funding was available, Deadline: 31st October 2024, nothing was raised to apply for.

12 CLERK'S REPORT

Dates for your diary:

- **Monday 30th September 2024 – Environment Advisory Group Open Forum** at 5.30 pm (option to join online or in person) - [West Berkshire Council - Agenda for Environment Advisory Group Open Forum on Monday, 30th September, 2024, 5.30 pm](#)
- **Tuesday 29th October 6.30 – 8.30 pm – District Parish Conference**, Council Chamber at Market Street Offices. Refreshments from 6.00 pm. The Environment Delivery Team will be providing an update on the Council priority of 'Tackling the Climate and Ecological Emergency' and how Town and Parish Councils can get involved and be supported.
- **Wednesday 6th November 12.30 – 1.30 pm** (online meeting) – **West Berkshire Town and Parish Climate Forum** – last meeting of the year
- The Clerk reported that one parishioner had contacted Parish Council to express their strong objection to Parish Council spending taxpayers' funds on opposing planning application 23/02596/FULMAJ Long Copse Farm and RSA25 policy. The parishioner expressed that they had complained to the WBC monitoring officer. No formal complaint had been received from WBC to date. EPC was also accused of using copyright pictures taken from Parish Council archives. The said picture was used on the recent circulated 'Save Enborne' Flyer. The Clerk confirmed to the complainant that no data had been exchanged between Parish Council and the group that formulated this flyer.
- It was agreed that the new registered address for the Parish Council is now;
The Barn,
Church Lane
Enborne
Newbury
RG20 0HB
and not the Clerks address.

13 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

No Reports from Ward Members submitted this month

The following items were raised from Councillors:

- A complaint reported to Council of dumped soil behind No. 3 Spring Gardens had now been removed.
- Cllr. Bolan attended the Newbury Southwest Community Forum on 20/09. It was reported that the speed equipment that can be loaned from WBC had been broken. A volunteer had offered to carry out a speed survey in Enborne Road once the equipment is working again. Cllr. Bolan again expressed what good work the police were doing in the area.
- Cllr. Tompkins asked if the EPC website could be more accessible for visual impaired or disabled parishioners and asked if Parish Council could seek some advice on this.

14 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- CCBs Rural Affordable Housing Service (item left on the agenda as a reminder to consider when the NDP is resumed)
- Website accessibility

15 DATES OF FUTURE PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS (all at 7.30pm)

- November 4th Cricket Club

An earlier meeting will be held if needed regarding *23/02596/FULMAJ* Long Copse Farm and Policy RSA25. Please see the [website](#) for information of future meeting dates.

APPENDIX 1



TV statement to EPC
re Showpersons site.p

APPENDIX 2

Payments approved

Invoice No /Ref	Details	Name of Payee	Amount
31.07.2024	Clerk Salary, July	Kim Lloyd	
31.07.2024	Employee/er Tax & NI for July	HMRC	£ 132.20
31.07.2024	Clerk Pension for July	Berkshire Pension	£ 208.00
23.07.2024	Clerk Payroll, July, 2211	SME Accounting Services	£ 12.00
31.08.2024	Clerk Salary, August	Kim Lloyd	
31.08.2024	Employee/er Tax & NI for August	HMRC	£ 132.00
31.08.2024	Clerk Pension for August	Berkshire Pension	£ 208.00
31.08.2024	Clerk Payroll, August	SME Accounting Services	£ 12.00
30.06.2024	Storage, June (DD)	Newbury Storage	£ 79.41
31.07.2024	Storage, July (DD)	Newbury Storage	£ 79.41
31.08.2024	Storage, August (DD)	Newbury Storage	£ 79.41
30.09.2024	Storage, September (DD)	Newbury Storage	£ 87.00
29.07.2024	Legal advice, first letter to WBC Re. objection to 23/02596/FULMAJ	Irwinmitchell	£ 4,420.20
09.07.2024	BALC Annual membership, 0530	Membership	£ 171.30
17.06.2024	Annual Data Protection	ICO	£ 35.00
01.08.2024	Vision ICT, V.Bolan New Hosted Email Account	Email Account	£ 24.00
26.07.2024	Polly Units and Software (Bee monitoring unit)	ArgiSound	£ 2,232.00
21.08.2024	Shipping cost for Polly Unit	ArgiSound	£ 16.97
12.08.2024	Parish Council Laptop	Sam Dibas (Currys)	£ 1,099.00
02.09.2024	NDP Grant award unspent, refund requested	Groundswork	£ 1,150.00
30.06.2024	Service Charge QTR 1	UTB	£ 18.00
30.09.2024	Service Charge QTR 2	UTB	£ 18.00
02.09.2024	Legal Advice to Long Copse Farm (2nd ltr to WBC Re. Application name)	Irwinmitchell	£ 413.40
Receipts			
04.06.2024	VAT 2023-2024 account year Refund	HMRC	£ 3,355.57