

**Enborne Parish Council**

Deborah Golsworthy, Clerk to the Council

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Tel: 0776 772 3372 Email: enbornepec@newbury.net**MINUTES FOR ANNUAL PARISH MEETING - 21st May 2018, 6.30pm****PRESENT:** Mr Alan Croney, Chairman**In attendance:** Deborah Golsworthy (Clerk)Enborne Councillors:

John Leeson, Mark Darley, Paul Hart, Alix Robinson

Approximately 2 members of the public

West Berkshire Councillors:

Stansfeld and Cole

Jason Pearce – Senior Field Sales Executive, Gigaclear

Nial Francis – Delivery Manager, Gigaclear

1. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

- 1.1 The Clerk apologised for omitting to bring the previous minutes to the meeting. It was agreed that these would be brought to the next meeting on July 23rd 2018 to be actioned then.

2. REPORT FROM CHAIRMAN OF ENBORNE PARISH COUNCIL

- 2.1 The Chairman of Enborne Parish Council in 2017-2018, Councillor Alan Croney, gave a summary of his report on the activities of the Council in 2017-2018. A full copy has been given to all councillors.

He welcomed both residents and speakers for the evening and thanked the Parish Clerk Jacqui Thaw, Councillors and the Vice-Chairman, John Leeson, for their particular contributions over the past year. He welcomed the West Berkshire Councillors present.

Councillor Croney began by speaking about the Parish Plan which has now received full approval. In particular it was noted that Policing has been changed to Newbury; That GDPR was in hand; Town planning has been challenging with Cllr Croney directly involved with the Newbury Town plan and various settlement areas; It was noted that Community street lunches were not feasible due to safety concerns; Cllr Croney passed on his thoughts for the family of Peter Taylor who recently passed away; Cllr Croney is also arranging meetings with other local councils, namely Hamstead Marshall and Kintbury, with a view to discussing community support.

The Chairman's Report concluded by bringing the meeting's attention to the fact that there is a vacancy on the Council and he appealed for an enthusiastic resident to fill the vacancy, working together with residents to improve the locality.

3. WEST BERKSHIRE COUNCIL**3.1** West Berkshire Councillor Cole gave a report on the activities of West Berkshire Council over the last year.

Cllr Cole began by discussing various articles in the Newbury Weekly News concerning West Berkshire council as “not doing anything” and “not being very good”. Cllr Cole defended this by highlighting various projects where the council had excelled including Children’s services that has jumped up 2 places from inadequate to good, in one go; That the Health Academy was providing Family Hubs in relation to Mental Health and Safeguarding issues; In respect of Education it was noted that 95% of West Berkshire schools are good or outstanding, putting them in the top end of the country; Cllr Cole advised that there was a lot of pressure with regards to Housing and getting planning through. That Allocated Houses were on target with a joint venture with Sovereign to build houses as well; Cllr Cole also advised that holes in the Roads were now being filled properly; It was also highlighted that all 5 Adult Services were now rated as good; Mental Health being a prime focus with 15.8m working days lost a year, a metal action group has been established; Homeless issues are being addressed with a property purchased in 2017 by WBC.; Finances will continue to be cut but WBC has no choice in this respect; Funds were cut to CAB but this was discussed with them first hand; A joint Public Protection plan has been established with Wokingham Council, in particular to address issues relating to gambling etc; and a joint Legal collaboration with Bracknell Forest; Savings were noted under Waste and a reduction of the number of WBC Councillors; with Property Investment on target to make the required income; Cllr Cole confirmed that WBC are sustainable – where other councils have been taken over by Central Government.

Cllr Croney made mention of the WBC management, in particular of one officer, in relation to the handling of the White Hart Appeal, whereby the meeting had to be adjourned whilst WBC spoke to their own expert. Cllr Cole responded that he had run 2 appeals that had been very well run. Cllr Croney highlighted that the delegated permission given stated refused, but that the council then approved it and no answer has been given in this respect as to why this happened. Cllr Cole advised he had been unaware of this until today, although Cllr Croney had copied him in. Cllr Cole said he would look into this matter and would ask for a formal answer.

Cllr Croney re-iterated how frustrating the White Hart appeal has been and Cllr Stansfeld advised the two grounds for refusal – Viability and Community Interest – had not both been covered by the planning officer concerned, who only made mention of Viability. Hamstead Marshall put in a complaint about this. In addition the Chief Executive wrote to Cllr Stansfeld also advising this matter was very badly handled.



4. SUPERFAST BROADBAND - GIGACLEAR

- 4.1&4.2 Jason Pearce of Gigaclear gave an introduction to explain that he was here to ensure that those who have committed to Gigaclear broadband are happy and content. He then asked if there were any questions.

Cllr Hart asked how many homes have now gone live but this figure was not available. Mr Pearce was able to advise that 95% of the system has been built. Cllr Hart confirmed his broadband was good and worked fine and that the workers who installed the system were very polite and clean. Cllr Croney made mention that the Social residents had been connected as well. Resident 1 and Cllr Croney made mention of the difficulty of obtaining a way leave across the Church lane leading to the Barn, in relation to connecting to Gigaclear. Resident 2 noted that the cables are very shallow with warning tape showing in places and if they get dug up by mistake will Gigaclear repair these. Mr Pearce liaised with Mr Francis to ask they are so shallow. Mr Francis advised that these should be deeper and confirmed that Gigaclear would repair these if damaged. Cllr Croney concluded by saying he was glad Gigaclear had been the appointed agents for the installation of ultra superfast rural broadband and thanked Mr Pearce and Mr Francis for coming.

Mr Pearce and Mr Francis then left the meeting at 7.00pm.

5. RESIDENT'S QUESTIONS

- 5.1 Resident 1 noted that the strimming of footpaths appeared to be a waste of money.

6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- 6.1 The date of the 2019 Annual Parish Meeting was set as Monday, 20th May, 2019.

The meeting closed at 7.05 pm.

