



Freeman

Acting Clerk to The Parish Council: Louisa

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Cllrs Present:

Cllr. Piers Storey (*Acting Chair for this meeting only*)

Cllr Tony Coard

Cllr Turner

Cllr Copcutt

Parish Clerk: Louisa Freeman

Members of the public: 3

Monday 1st July 2024

AGENDA

1. CODE OF CONDUCT

Cllr. Storey reminded everyone present of the Council's Code of Conduct which has been recently published on the website for reference. The Code of Conduct covers attendance of both virtual and in person meetings, as well as correspondence to and from the Parish Council, and to and from any member of the public. Cllr Tweedie advised that the Code of Conduct provides guidance to all attended of Parish Council meetings to ensure they are held in an orderly, dignified and effective manner. It also provides to ensure that members of the public have opportunity to have their views and opinions heard. The Code of Conduct also determines that anyone in breach of guidelines could be asked to leave a Parish Council meeting. Full and further details of the Code of Conduct can be found on the website.

2. APOLOGIES

Cll Tweedie, Cll Freeman and Cll Armstrong sends their apologies.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Storey stated a declaration of interest in the planning application notices.

4. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

There were no matter arising from the previous meeting and the minutes from May 6th, 2024, which were approved and signed.

5. OPEN FORUM

The Chair asked those members of the public who were in attendance if they wished to raise any issue. Cllr. Hooker mentioned the elections and any forthcoming updates would be shared with all relevant parties. Planning application for the Post Office in East Garston has raised concerns with the local Parishioners - notably due to age being 150 years old. The first application was one of approval and then objection by the committee on basis of size and design which was then re-submitted. Approval to knock down the existing building was granted - planning, conservation and PC all gave approval for the application however the footprint and design was changed and appealed the decision for approval. All planning for GS is going through well currently.

6. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Cllr. Storey shared that there were no planning applications to consider at time of publishing agenda, but three decision notices to be aware of:

2023 23/02204/FUL - East Shefford House, Great Shefford, Hungerford, RG17 7EF New photovoltaic panels with associated hedge screening - GRANTED

24/00964/AGRIC Hay barn Barn Approximately 350 Metres North East Of Great Shefford House, Church Street, Great Shefford, Hungerford Application to determine if prior approval is required for a proposed: Alteration to Hay barn. DECISION - prior approval is NOT REQUIRED for the proposal.

24/01054/NONMAT - 1 The Mead, Great Shefford, Hungerford, RG17 7DD Non material amendment to approved 23/01121/HOUSE Front wall of the extension to be built above the ground 0.5m further forward than initially approved - APPROVED.

7. FINANCE

To approve and authorise payments as appropriate with RFO.

To review minutes of the Finance committee meeting held 24th June 2024

9 items on the finance sheet - Invoices submitted to the internal audited.

8. VILLAGE ISSUES

New Grounds maintenance contract (Tactical)

Litter Pick (21st July 2024) - Cllr. Turner shared the news that the Litter pick has all been organised and equipment (adults and children) arranged for collection from Newbury Council. She is still waiting on a poster to be completed for the event by a daughter of one of the members of the Parish community, Sarah - whom is completing this to earn an environmental badge the Brownies. We are hoping to have tea and coffee available as well as cake for those who help out. Once this is done Cllr Turner will share this on our village website, the local school and the Brownie community. The rubbish collection will be done by the council themselves due to regulations.

Speed Awareness Scheme and traffic update

Cllr. Storey suggested to catch up with Cllr. Tweedie on the proposed dates for the Speed Awareness Group. It was noted by Cllr. Turner that despite several months of canvassing for new members - no new potential members had come forward or have emailed the PC clerk to find out further information. We do have a new member whom expressed an interest at the previously PC meeting whom will be invited to attend the new group shortly. Cllr. Coard shared that he knew a number of people whom would be happy to help and would be keen to see when new dates were being proposed. Cllr. Storey and Cllr. Discussed The Great Shefford website and communication of events in and around the village and perhaps could be confusing if you were not familiar with what's going on in the village as it does contain a lot of information. Promoting and celebrating activities via the website is key to the communication of what's going on in the village in the future as well as going on content.

SAGLUV Update

Cllr. Storey updated that a fellow member had been gaining great traction with the water board and placing them under scrutiny. Another meeting on the 15th of July, in relation the drop of groundwater and private drain issues. And how updates are going to be shared. Cllr. Coard shared that this meeting is a pre-meeting. The water board

now have a proposal to follow from Lambourne to Eastbury with 50M in Great Shefford itself. The pump has been re-instated at the Great Shefford Pub. Funds have been confirmed for allocation for use. The communication has been good to date but all agreed the pressure needs to be maintained for traction of work to continue. It was referenced that Cllr. Freeman had issued a survey to date around the matter but uptake has been very little to date which was disappointing. Please could those whom have a POV and facts that they could share on the matter should get in touch with the PC.

Playground equipment (new bench/football posts)

Cllr. Storey shared that a bench was being investigated after the previous one was vandalised in the park which was disappointing - future ones should be fixed into the ground to discourage and future damage. Football posts and nets were discussed as being aged and needing replacing after some minor repairs recently but ongoing vandalism is still an issue in the park. Budget is available for quotes and costs were being looked into.

Entry Fencing to the Village

Cllr. Storey discussed replacement of the fence and what style and material should be used for aesthetic reasons. Cllr. Coard suggested more durable material should be used in the future in keeping also with the village - it was agreed that key clamp fencing costs should be looked into by Cllr. Coard.

Flood Alleviation Scheme Update

Cllr. Storey commented on the new set up of the working party and had been in touch with Steve Ackrill on the topic - diggers on site equates to funds being released. £80,000 of GS village funds were still available but the actual figure has an additional £3,000 available so the total is £83,000. Options to consider: the PC take over the flood alleviation and therefore management of the funds OR for Mr Ackrill to wrap up the scheme up and close this down. This was discussed as a group and the decision taken to support the closing of the scheme down. As the scheme has a charity status affiliated to this it was discussed if the £3,000 could be transferred to the PC for village needs and use OR donated to a charity. Cllr Copcutt suggested that the additional funds be used towards flood alleviation needs such as equipment. It was agreed to discuss the options with Mr Ackrill and how the funds could and should be spent.

ACV

This needs to be reviewed with the PC for the next meeting - concerns were raised around the look and maintenance of the Great Shefford and recent attempted break in.

11. MATTERS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS

Items raised during the Open Forum item 4 - none

Cllr. Coard raised the usage and traffic on both the Website and the GS village Facebook pages which Cllr. Storey agreed that some decisions should be agreed around communication usage which West Berkshire also has been doing some work around this area such as its own West Berkshire Facebook page as an example which GS should consider for PC only related news. The experience on the website has been looked into alongside the GS branding across the website.

Parish Clerk Vacancy is still open and available, and a solution needs to be found for Cllr Freeman to move away for doing this role also which is around a 8Hrs a week commitment for this role.

Change of village PC Chair needs to be actioned in September and a PC vote will taken.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be on Monday 4 September 2024 starting at 7.30pm