



Clerk of the Council

John Boston

8 Chester Close

Newbury

RG14 7RR

e-mail:

clerk@greenham.gov.uk

www.greenham.gov.uk

☎ 01635 529900

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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE GREENHAM PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN ST MARY'S CHURCH HALL, GREENHAM
ON 11 JANUARY 2012 AT 7.30 pm**

PRESENT: Mr A J Forward (Chairman)
Mr P Planterose (Vice-Chairman)
Mr A Agutter
Mr C Austin
Mr P Barnett (from 8.00pm)
Mr W Drummond
Mr D Hale
Mrs P Hay (from 7.40pm)
Mrs S Huxtable
Mr. A Johnson
Mr. D Kenning
Mrs T King
Mrs D Smith
Mr J Swift-Hook

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr J Boston (Clerk)
1 member of the Public (1 member of the Press).

The Chairman opened the meeting by referring to the award of the OBE to Dr Anne Murdoch, Principal of Newbury College. All present joined with him in offering their congratulations.

1. Apologies for Absence. Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Mr A Beal.

2. Declarations of Interest and Statements of Position.

Mr Drummond stated that:

"Any views that I may express about planning matters and other business before this Council tonight are in my capacity as a member of this Council (Greenham Parish) and are based on the information before me tonight. If and when I consider any of the items at any future time in my capacity as a member of West Berkshire District Council, I will consider each item on its merits at that time, taking full account of all the facts and information

which are put before me at that time, as a result of which **I may well form a different view from any view I may express tonight**".

Mr. Johnson stated that:

"Any views that I may express about planning matters and other business before this Council tonight are in my capacity as a member of *this* Council (Greenham Parish) and are based on the information before me tonight. If and when I consider any of the items at any future time in my capacity as a member of Newbury Town Council, I will consider each item on its merits at that time, taking full account of all the facts and information which are put before me at that time, as a result of which **I may well form a different view from any view I may express tonight**".

Mr Swift-Hook stated that:

"Any views that I may express about planning matters and other business before this Council tonight are in my capacity as a member of this Council (Greenham Parish) and are based on the information before me tonight. If and when I consider any of the items at any future time in my capacity as a member of West Berkshire District Council or of Newbury Town Council, I will consider each item on its merits at that time, taking full account of all the facts and information which are put before me at that time, as a result of which **I may well form a different view from any view I may express tonight**".

Mr. Johnson declared a Personal Interest in respect of Item 8. Mr. Austin and Mr. Drummond declared Personal Interests in respect of Item 11.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting. The Minutes of the meeting held on 14 December 2011 which had previously been circulated, were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

4. Matters Arising. The Clerk has heard from Mr. Spires at the Newbury National Trust Association. In response to GPC's comments he said that the Association fully appreciate the concerns of the GPC regarding the targeting of any funds to children within the Parish Boundary. He made the following points:

i/ Should the GPC agree to pass the cheque direct to Newbury National Trust we will guarantee that should we receive a application for a travel grant from any school within the Parish Boundary, or schools where Parish children attend we will guarantee to fund the application in full.

ii/ We will acknowledge to the applicant in writing that the grant has been fully or part funded by GPC.

iii/ We NNT have arranged a special travel rate with Barnes Coaches which will maximise the travel fund and that we will pay the invoice direct on behalf of the school.

iiii/ We will be contacting again by letter every school in West Berkshire to advise them that grants are available.

In discussion the consensus view was that the Association suggestion removed all oversight from GPC. There was no reference to any unspent end-of-year balance, how it would be identified and what would happen to it. It would be difficult to manage as schools as far away as Enborne had up to 15 pupils from Greenham. It was agreed that the GPC position remained as stated in December 2011, but that as an alternative GPC would be willing to pay group membership costs for schools with pupils from Greenham

5. Neighbourhood Security. The Clerk has been informed by TVP that Neighbourhood Police Districts are under review. It is planned that one District will cover Newbury Town Centre and another the surrounding Parishes. The Clerk has written to TVP saying that in his view Greenham has many common issues with Newbury but none with (eg) Shaw or Speen. TVP has responded that it recognises the different needs of different communities and the review of Districts is purely to make better use of resources. Any changes are likely to be introduced in the Autumn.

At this point Mr. Barnett arrived.

Mr Barnett stated that:

"Any views that I may express about planning matters and other business before this Council tonight are in my capacity as a member of *this* Council (Greenham Parish) and are based on the information before me tonight. If and when I consider any of the items at any future time in my capacity as a member of Newbury Town Council, I will consider each item on its merits at that time, taking full account of all the facts and information which are put before me at that time, as a result of which **I may well form a different view from any view I may express tonight**".

6. Planning. Following uncertainty about use of copyright material in considering planning applications, the Clerk has obtained Land Registry consent to use its copyright material and a licence from Ordnance Survey for the use of its copyright material. There remained some uncertainty over copyright when material is cut and pasted and then amended for clarity. The Clerk will seek advice from BALC.

Applications

<u>No.</u>	<u>Proposal</u>	<u>Recommendation</u>
11/02416/HOUSE	27 Capability Way Rear Timber Decking Mr. J Tanner	Object
11/02283	100 Greenham Business Park Extensions Dalziel Ltd	

Scrutiny of the plans reveals that different plans show different positions for the extensions and that some buildings overlap. Revised plans are awaited.

11/02608//HOUSE Greenham Croft
 Extension
 Mrs K Bolt-Lawrence

This application has been declared invalid. It was agreed that the Chairman would write to Planning and Planning Enforcement outlining the site history and previous incursions onto Common land. Planning will be asked to take action to regularise use of the site.

Note: The full text of GPC's comments on applications may be found by going to www.greenham.gov.uk and following the 'Planning' link.

7. Third Party Use of Consented Buildings. Concerns had been expressed that when planning consent was granted for a commercial development an assessment was made of (eg) traffic implications. However, that assessment was made on the basis of the primary use and consideration might not be given to sub-letting or casual use by other parties. Examples are classrooms and hotel bedrooms being used for conferences. After discussion it was agreed that more imaginative use needs to be made of Conditions when consent is granted. The Chairman and Clerk will seek the views of WBC and report back to GPC.

8. Youth Working Group. The information that was awaited at the December meeting has now been received. Jenny McIntyre (Youth and Community Worker) has offered to attend a GPC meeting and the Clerk has therefore invited her to the February meeting.

9. Finance & Accounts for Payment.

The following cheques were presented for payment:

Mr J Boston – Clerk's salary & expenses	£1143.39
HM Revenue & Customs – Tax & NI	£330.47
Open Spaces Society	£40.00

It was proposed by Mr. Agutter, seconded by Mrs Huxtable and carried unanimously that the cheques listed above be approved for payment.

10. Parish Plan. Mrs Huxtable reported that a meeting was to be held on 12 January at the Church Hall to discuss the Diamond Jubilee celebrations. Representatives from various local organisations had been invited. The Clerk commented that the PPSG Secretary was hoping to provide name badges for those attending and he asked any Councillors who were able to attend to wear their GPC identity badges. It was proposed by Mr. Agutter, seconded by Mr. Planterose and carried unanimously that up to £1000 be authorised for expenditure from GPC funds (not from the ring-fenced PPSG funds) on the Diamond Jubilee celebrations, to be managed by Mrs Huxtable.

11. FindMeAGrant website. The Clerk and Mr Swift-Hook have spoken to Mr. Tagg at GCT regarding the website. The intention is to make the public more aware of what is available and to bring greater transparency. Match funding is available to private or corporate sponsors in an attempt to generate more funding but is not available to local authorities or charities. The Trust is very flexible about how and to what extent GPC could

become involved and work is underway to allow organisations to have separate pages on the website. Mr. Tagg would welcome a meeting to discuss the options in more detail. Mr. Swift-Hook said the advantage of channelling GPG grant funding through the FindMeAGrant website was that it gave greater visibility of GPC's community grants to deserving groups and organisations in Greenham who might not otherwise know of the availability of small grants from GPC, as well as giving grant seekers greater access to individual private donors. It was agreed that the Chairman, Clerk and Mr. Agutter would visit Mr. Tagg to discuss the options further.

12. Newbury Racecourse – the way forward. GPC has written to WBC drawing attention to major departures in traffic matters in the Reserved Matters application from the Outline permission.

13. Roads and Transport. Mr. Hale referred to the ongoing problem with street lights not operating along the A339 and near to Tesco. There has been increasing dissatisfaction with the responsiveness of WBC through the Streetcare system. The Clerk will collate all instances and forward them to the Ward Members. WBC has advised that following recent requests from the bus company and from a customer it is proposed to erect two additional pairs of bus stops in Greenham. The stops are at Pinchington Lane (Pinchington Grange) and Greenham Road (Water Lane) Each of the stops would be basic, comprising a pole, flag and timetable display. The proposals have been cross checked with WBC's Traffic & Road Safety team, with the Traffic Management Unit at Thames Valley Police and with the bus company, and are acceptable to all. GPC welcomed the additional stops.

14. S.106 Including S.106 Highways Improvements. Nothing to report.

15. Stroud Green and the Diamond. The Clerk has now received costings from WBC for the installation of signs at Stroud Green. It is intended that the wording will invite people to enjoy the Green but draw attention to the Byelaws, which can be found on both the GPC and WBC websites, and will specifically mention driving, parking and playing golf. Costings are: mapping and design = £2410 and production/delivery of 2 signs = £2308. The total cost for 2 signs is therefore £4718 with further £1154 each for any further sign. The Clerk noted that the cost of production/delivery is on a par with the planned notice boards. If it is intended to go ahead with signs a decision is needed on how many should be provided and at what locations. The Clerk suggested that ideally, 3 would be needed located at the swing park, the triangle at the Racecourse entrance and the Racecourse Road/Greenham Road junction. WBC has suggested joint funding of the signs, and has asked for an indication of how much GPC might be able to contribute.

The Clerk continues to liaise with WBC over bollarding of Stroud Green. WBC has negotiated a reduced price of around £38,000 for bollarding of the whole area but this still works out at £44 per post. WBC has suggested that any action be deferred to April when a Members' Bid could be submitted for up to £20,000. The Clerk has suggested that as the Racecourse development will put significant pressure on the Green, S.106 funding should be available.

It was agreed that no decision should be taken until there was greater clarity on sources of funding, type of obstacle to be used, and cost of bollarding. If it is possible to bollard the

whole of Stroud Green then there may be no need for expenditure on signage. GPC repeated the concern expressed in December 2011 about the possible cost and felt prices were unreal.

16. West Berkshire Consultations. The consultations are:
- a. LDF/Core Strategy (ended 16 December 2011)
 - b. Individual Savings Proposals (ends 20 January 2012)
 - c. Admission Arrangements 2013-14 for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools (ends 30 January 2012).

Mr Swift-Hook urged Councillors to respond to the current WBC consultations on proposed budget cuts because if people don't respond to the consultation WBC can claim that the proposals are considered acceptable by GPC Councillors.

A further consultation announced on 11 January was the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment 2011 (JSNA) Domestic Violence, Reducing Inequalities, Mental Health and End of Life Care. Response is requested by 5 February 2012.

The Clerk has submitted the GPC Comments on the Core Strategy.

17. Use by WBC of Proprietary Software. Mr. Kenning said that thanks to the interventions and time spent by Mr. Swift-Hook the problem, which was mainly related to legacy documents, was now understood.

18. Tesco. The Clerk has written to Tesco (Chief Exec) and a response is awaited. It was suggested that if Tesco continues to be unresponsive the photo of the store should be removed from the GPC website homepage and replaced by one more in keeping with the Parish.

19. Forthcoming Events. The AGM of the Newbury Family Counselling Service will be held at the Methodist Church Hall, Northbrook Street on **28 January** at 1.30pm. WBC is supporting the Holocaust Memorial Day organised by the West Berkshire Minority Ethnic Forum. An exhibition will be held in the Kennet Centre from **30 January to 4 February**. CPRE and NALC are holding a workshop describing the planning implications of the Localism Act on **20 February** at the Rugby Club. The Chairman, Clerk and several Councillors are attending. The closing date or the next round of bids from GCT through the FindMeAGrant website is **13 April**.

20. Exchange of Information. Mr. Agutter referred to the practice of some residents of Pinchington Grange removing their 6' rear fences in order to give an open view of the lake. He wondered who was responsible for safety measures at the lake. The Chairman will check the planning conditions. Mr. Kenning referred to the forthcoming Neighbourhood Watch meeting at West Berkshire Council Offices in Market Street on Monday 13 February 2012 at 7.30 pm. This meeting is open to all members of Neighbourhood Watch schemes and there will be a talk on the Civil War and First Battle of Newbury. Mr. Austin reported that the Commons Commission had formally asked WBC to cede control of the car park area at the Control Tower to the Commission. In line with previous GPC resolutions, this request will be endorsed by GPC. Mrs Hay referred to the 40th Anniversary of the arrival in the UK of the Uganda Asians, many of whom were accommodated at RAF

Greenham Common. There was general agreement that there should be some form of recognition, perhaps on a National basis. Mr. Barnett was saddened that many floral tributes had been taken from the Churchyard over the Christmas holiday period.

Date of Next Meeting. The Meeting closed at 9.30 pm. The date of the next meeting is on 8 February 2012 at St Mary's Church Hall at 7.30pm.

A J Forward
Chairman
8 February 2012

Abbreviations:

BALC - Berkshire Association of Local Councils
GPC - Greenham Parish Council
NTC - Newbury Town Council
WBC - West Berks Council