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## MINUTES

### GREENHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING IN ST MARYS CHURCH, GREENHAM. WEDNESDAY 12<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2023 AT 7.30PM

#### **Present:**

Cllr. Steve Jones  
Cllr. Gary Puffett  
Cllr. Adrian Abbs  
Cllr. Martin Griffiths  
Cllr. Phil Barnett  
Cllr. Martin Griffiths  
Cllr. Sally-Ann Jay  
Cllr. Ken Neal

**Clerk:** Mrs Kim Lloyd

**In attendance:** 3 members of the public.

Cllr. Steve Jones announced that the Clerk is recording the meeting for minute purposes. The recording will be deleted once the minutes are approved.

*{WBC = West Berkshire Council}*

#### **1. Apologies**

Cllrs. Julian Swift-Hook, Billy Drummond and Alison Blackborow had sent their apologies.

#### **2. Public session**

One member of the public raised comments regarding the survey on Greenham Parish Councils website regarding 'Access to Greenham Common'. The member of public said that she felt the questions were leading people to object to the closed off accesses, which are currently closed off to protect endangered species. Terms from the Parish Councils Environmental Policy were highlighted to Council. She also felt the survey did not have enough detail, and to who the questions were being asked. (i.e., dog walkers, runners etc) She felt concerned that Parish Council were considering to ask for closed accesses to be opened up to the public, which would reduce the protection of our habitat.

Cllr. Steve Jones said several residents had knocked on his door complaining about the closed off accesses which led to this straw poll on the website. During and since the pandemic the common has become so much busier, with dog ownership on the rise. Parish Council have a responsibility to all the parishioners and a duty to the parishioners that had, and still are complaining about the closed off areas. This is why a straw poll was carried out. Cllr. Adrian said that this in fact did show 58% of respondents would like to keep the closed off accesses as they stand.

Another member of the public asked for an update on item 11, regarding the response from WBC following the noise at the Racecourse Christmas Carnival.

Another member of the public asked Council if they would consider donating funds for a

Coronation Event on the Diamond Field during the bank holiday Coronation weekend. Cllr. Steve Jones said he believed it is something the Council would support. Parish Council could grant £1,000 under the Parish Council Financial Regulations policy under the Chairman and Clerk emergency funds, if this was not enough an Extra Ordinary Meeting would be needed to be able to advertise to the public on an agenda and considered by full council. It could not be considered at the next meeting as this is post the Coronation event. Cllr. Sally-Ann Jay said she would work with the member of the public on formalising a proposal for Parish Council. Councillors also wanted to see where else funding was coming from. The Greenham Trust was also mentioned for funding, but again felt this might be a little too late with only three weeks until the Coronation. **ACTION: Cllr. Sally-Ann Jay**

**3. Declarations of Interest/ Statements of Positions and Dispensations.**

Cllr. Phil Barnett is a member of West Berkshire Council (WBC) and Newbury Town Council (NTC).

Cllr. Adrian Abbs is a member of WBC and is on the Western Area Planning Committee. Also a Chairman of the Greenham Common Planning Committee. (AA)

Cllr. Steve Jones is a Council representative on the board of Greenham Control Tower.

Cllr. Ken Neal is a Commissioner on the Greenham and Crookham Commons Commission.

**4. To Approve the Minutes of the last Parish Council Meeting**

Cllr. Steve Jones raised grammar amendments. Cllr. Phil Barnett suggested an amendment to item 9. It was agreed to defer the approval of the Minutes to the May meeting to discuss the minute amendments outside of the meeting.

The Clerk asked Councillors to please read the minutes when in draft version, and to address amendments before being presented in the next meeting for approval to save time.

**Proposed.** Cllr. Adrian Abbs

**Seconded.** Cllr. Sally-Ann Jay

**5. Chairman's Report (for information only)**

Cllr. Steve Jones asked if anyone would like to attend the Invitation to Newbury Town Mayor Making Ceremony on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> May at the Corn Exchange at 10am.

He also reported that an email is being circulated showing that it is from Greenham.parish.uk, which it is not!! - requesting to 'Renew your listing in the Greenham Parish Business Directory' and to press on a link. The Clerk had reported it to The National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) and had received a generic acknowledgment email back.

**6. Clerks Report (for information only)**

***Actions from previous meeting***

The small amount of funding left in the WBC **Parish Plan Grant budget** for any projects which are listed in an approved Community Plan is sadly not allowed to be used for a Greenham Neighbourhood Development Plan consultation.

The Clerk reminded Cllr. Adrian Abbs to tighten the noticeboard at Tesco's bus shelter.

**ACTION: Cllr. Adrian Abbs**

West Berkshire Council reported that the **Dual Waste Bin** is now in place at the top of Greenham Road.

The new **Bench on Stroud Green** is being dealt with by the Grounds Maintenance Officer, Caroline Booth at WBC who is waiting to have the installation of the Bench approved by WBC. It was agreed that GPC will pay for the bench and take ownership of it. GPC had approved a maximum of £1,000 in the last meeting.

Ms Oxley from St Mary's Church emailed Council with a Thank you for the two new solar lights in the Church car park which are working very well.

The two new Salt Bins as raised in the last meeting had been ordered from Wills and Ainsworth for Woodlands View Road.

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### **Correspondence**

**20/03 Email** from Michele Purcell, Group Scout Leader, Berkshire Scouts regarding their interest in the Diamond building to use for scouting meets. A Scouting funding (Youth Investment Fund) that GPC might be eligible for up to £150k had been mentioned.

**10/03 Email** from Greenham Trust – GT Escalator 2023 grant funding. For 2023 Greenham Trust has launched 'The Escalator' where funds could be raised up to £50,000 in matched funding in just one week. The Clerk thought this might be worth investigating towards the new proposed Diamond Building.

**21/03 Email** from a resident, regarding his support on the closed off areas on the common.

**12/03 Email** from a resident regarding dog fouling at Marchant Close. Cllr. Drummond said he is monitoring, and the Clerk had replied to the resident informing them of this.

**04/04 Email** from Susan Ellis - Re: Invitation to the West Berkshire Heritage Forum AGM 26th April 2023 – Cllr. Billy Drummond said he would attend.

Cllr. Sally-Ann Jay asked the Clerk to check if West Berkshire Heritage formally did list, the score board (SAJ) located on the Diamond Playing Field as there was no acknowledgment of this when requested. **ACTION: Clerk**

The Clerk said she had received invoices from Externiture for cleaning and checking the bus shelters, noticeboards, and benches. Also included was a clean of the Defibrillators. The Clerk noted they visit every 6 months and thought this was costly. Council agreed to make this an agenda item for May.

Cllr. Steve Jones asked the Clerk to investigate Insignis Cash Solutions

<https://www.insigniscash.com/local-authorities/> to find out if this is a better option for Parish Council Accounts. **ACTION: Clerk.**

## **7. Finance**

### **(a) To approve the April payments.**

Cllr. Steve Jones said that it looked like the £9.28 is included in the £9.46 payments for SSE shown on the schedule. The Clerk will double check the bank statement. Allowing this small amendment, Cllr. Steve Jones **Proposed** and Cllr. Adrian Abbs **Seconded**. All in favour to approve the April payments.

### **(b) To approve the bank reconciliation statement to 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023.**

The Clerk had not included the Bank Reconciliation in the meeting pack, only a hard copy in the meeting was presented. The Clerk was asked to circulate the April Bank Reconciliation with the Statements after the meeting and defer approval to the Bank Reconciliation to the May meeting. **ACTION: Clerk.**

### **(c) To approve a mobile phone for the Clerk for Parish Council business. (AA)**

Cllr. Adrian Abbs said he had investigated a mobile phone for the Clerk and provided some options. It was proposed to set aside £100. Cllr. Steve Jones **Proposed** and Cllr. Martin Griffiths **seconded**, all were in favour. **ACTION: Cllr. Abbs**

### **(d) To consider expenditure for a salt bin on Capability Way. (BD)**

Cllr. Billy Drummond was not in attendance to update Council but Cllr. Steve Jones said this had already been discussed and agreed in principle. Cllr. Adrian Abbs **proposed** and Cllr. Ken Neal **seconded**, all were in favour. **ACTION: Clerk**

### **(e) To consider a third Solar light to go outside the Paddock room door at St Mary's**

**Church.** Cllr. Sally-Ann Jay said it doesn't only benefit the Church but also benefits the public right of way. Cllr. Barnett agreed, saying it provides access to the back of Pigeon Farm and into Newbury for residents. Cllr. Steve Jones **proposed** and Cllr. Sally-Ann Jay **seconded**, all were in favour.

**(f) To consider new pieces of accessible play equipment. (BD)**

This will be deferred to the May meeting as Cllr. Billy Drummond was not in the meeting to provide details.

**8 Planning Applications - See Appendix 1**

**23/00689 78 Burys Bank Road.** Greenham Parish Council object to the application as it relies on the necessary parking outside the property boundary on the common. If the carport were repositioned to allow for required parking off the common, the objection would be withdrawn.

**23/00699 11 Greenlands Road.** Parish Council had no objections.

**9 Request for a Table Tennis Table on Stroud Green**

Council received an email from a resident asking Council to consider a Table Tennis on Stroud Green to compliment the fitness equipment there. After a discussion it was asked for the Clerk to ask the resident of what construction they were thinking of and how they felt this might be maintained. (i.e., providing bats and balls). The Clerk will invite the resident to attend a parish council meeting so Council could hear more of the details. The approval of permission from the Secretary of State for planning would also need to be attained. The Clerk will let the resident know about this.

**ACTION: Clerk**

**10 Request for land for Allotments**

A resident wrote to Council to ask if Allotment land could be found in the Parish. The Council has been pursuing allotment land for several years. Cllr. Sally-Ann Jay said that Parish Council should consider asking for land every time a suitable planning application is received that shows potential for extra land for allotments. After a full discussion, it was agreed for the Clerk to contact WBC Head of Planning to ask if any sizeable development land could be considered for Allotments in Greenham.

**ACTION: Clerk**

*{Councillors unanimously agreed to suspend Standing Orders}*

A member of the public was invited to speak regarding item 11, who asked what the update was on the noise levels from the Racecourse Christmas Carnival and their future plans.

*{Cllr. Steve Jones proposed to reinstate Standing Orders and Cllr. Ken Neal seconded}*

**11 To consider the response from West Berkshire Council regarding the planned enforcement towards future noise pollution at the Racecourse Christmas Carnival**

Council had received a reply from WBC regarding the question of what enforcement they were planning if another Christmas Carnival was held. (a copy of which was passed to the resident in attendance). The Clerk since had asked for a copy of the letter that WBC said they had sent to the Racecourse detailing the areas of concern that arose. WBC also have held a post event safety advisory group meeting with the racecourse.

Cllr. Steve Jones asked the Clerk to remind the Racecourse Chief Executive to send the promised data regarding noise levels from the Carnival following a meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup> December 2022 accompanied with Cllr. Gary Puffett. This meeting was arranged after receiving complaints from residents of the noise levels over the duration of the event.

**ACTION: Clerk**

**12 Diamond playing field building**

Cllr. Adrian Abbs said that he believed a working group had been formed with Cllr. Sally-Ann Jay to lead the group and that Cllr. Ken Neal was going to do a drawing plan. He said that WBC have agreed to consider approving £120k from S106 funds towards the project. Along with this funding to pursue Greenham Trust and the Scout organisation funding option as mentioned under Clerk Report for additional funds. He asked if Council thought if it would be advisable for a self-assembly unit to be placed there for the current period to use while the new build is being investigated?

Cllr. Martin Griffith said that this project has been spoken about for the last few months and felt that nothing had been resolved and proposed that the working group is formally

established and a meeting is held asap.

Cllr. Sally- Ann Jay raised her concerns that WBC could take ownership of the project, with GPC not having any say over what the community would like to use it for, and wanted to ensure who will actually take ownership of the new building and who will manage it.

Cllr. Peter Barnett said he and Cllr. Billy Drummond was a part of a meeting with WBC Jon- Winstanley, (Environmental) Service Director, who wanted to identify what has happened so far, and what is being proposed. GPC Ward Members wanted to ensure the £120k would be allocated towards the new build and for the purpose of what the community wanted, and to certainly encompass what the local community groups wanted to use it for. It would be a WBC planning application that went to committee and WBC could put the resources into the project to manage it. Cllr. Adrian Abbs clarified that the land is owned by WBC and that they cannot give or sale it to the parish. Perhaps WBC could consider a lease option to GPC?

Cllr. Ken Neal said it is turning out to be a bigger project than expected and GPC need to urgently meet with all the stakeholders. Cllr. Gary Puffett agreed that a meeting needs to be set asap.

Cllr. Ken Neal suggested contacting the Newbury Weekly News to do an article on it to try and gain more public support. Cllr. Sally-Ann Jay said she had fourteen members of the public already on a what's app group that could be interested in joining the working group.

It was unanimously agreed to establish a working group at the May meeting. Cllr. Sally-Ann Jay will formulate a Terms of Reference to be circulated to Council before the next meeting. It was agreed that Cllr. Sally-Ann Jay will chair the working group, with Cllr. Adrian Abbs to stand in for when Cllr. Sally-Ann Jay was unable to meet.

**ACTION: Cllr. Sally-Ann Jay**

**13 To consider the response from BBOWT regarding the data to the closed public rights of way on the Common**

Cllr. Adrian Abbs said there is no more demand for more access following the recent survey on the website.

Data had been received from Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust (BBOWT) which was circulated to Council before the meeting.

Cllr. Ken Neal said that the Parish Council representees for the Greenham and Crookham Common Commissioners (GCCC) could always raise this matter with the Commission and could vote an action for BBOWT to provide further data. Cllr. Adrian Abbs suggested that GPC just ask for more regular data on the protection of species regarding the closed off zones that then can be passed over to the parishioners that query why they cannot use these areas. Cllr. Steve Jones still felt that the areas that are closed off to the public are disproportionate to the whole area of the common.

Cllr. Martin Griffith asked where Council were going with this as the majority of the Parish was happy for the closed off accesses to be left as they stand.

It was felt following the four GCCC quarterly meetings that a report from the Parish Council representative could be presented to Council.

**14 To consider a Parish Council What's App Group**

This was considered, but Cllr. Steve Jones did not want to be included in a Parish Council What's App group. The Clerk said the only way for it to work is for everyone to be involved.

**15 Councillors Reports (For information only)**

Cllr. Adrian Abbs reported that he is not chairing the WBC planning committee meetings anymore.

Cllr. Adrian Abbs has been asked if Hot Air Ballooning could be carried out on the Diamond Playing Field and would like this considered in the future.

Cllr. Sally-Ann Jay proposed that a welcome letter to the new residents at St Marys Gate from the Parish Council is carried out, and asked for this to go onto the May agenda.

Cllr. Phil Barnett said he had already circulated a welcome letter to the St Marys Gate

residents from their ward member from WBC.

**16 Health and Safety**

Nothing reported.

**17 Matters for future consideration.**

Periodically inspection and cleaning of the Parish Street Furniture – June agenda  
Welcome Letter to new residents at St Marys Gate.

*Meeting closed at 9.35pm.*

**APPENDIX 1**

**Planning applications to consider.**

Reference	Type	Location	Description	Website link
23/00689	House	78 Burys Bank Road, Crookham Common, Thatcham RG19 8DD	Proposed single side extension and open porch to rear. New detached car port.	<a href="#">Click here for details</a>  Objection
23/00699	Ful	11 Greenlands Road, Newbury RG14 7JS	Single storey front extension	<a href="#">Click here for details</a>  No Objections

**For information.**

**West Berkshire Council Planning Application Decisions and Planning Inspectorate Appeal Decisions**

Reference	Type	Location	Description	Decision
22/00174	OUT	Land West Of Ecchinswell Road Bishops Green Newbury Hampshire	Outline application for up to 42 dwellings (Use Class C3) with associated open space and vehicular access off Ecchinswell Road, Bishops Green. All matters reserved except for access.	Granted
23/00520	LDOCON	Land Bounded by Lindenmuth Way and Jones Drive, Communications Road, Greenham	Application for Approval of Details Reserved by Conditions 1 and 10 of planning permission 22/01338/LDO - Application under Local Development Order	Split Decision/ Approves in part and Refuses in part
23/00171	FUL	Telecommunications Facility, The Paddocks, Hambridge Road, Newbury	Installation of 4no. air conditioning condenser units on a galvanised stand on concrete strip base footings, all enclosed by palisade fencing	Granted
23/00107	House	4 Peckmoor Drive, Greenham, Thatcham, RG19 8BX	Single Storey Oak Framed Orangery Extension to Rear.	Granted
23/00116	ADV	The Old Gas Holder, Hambridge Road, Newbury, RG14 5AW	Various Large Flex face illuminated signs	Granted