



Clerk to the Council
*Greenham Control Tower,
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MINUTES

Greenham Parish Council Meeting in Greenham Control Tower, Bury's Bank Road, Greenham. RG19 8BZ
on **Wednesday 14th February 2024** AT 7.30PM

Councillors Present:

Cllr. Julian Swift-Hook, (chaired)
Cllr. Martin Sanderson
Cllr. Alison Blackborow
Cllr Ken Neal
Cllr. Gary Puffett
Cllr. Michael Wakelyn-Green
Cllr. Sally-Ann Jay
Cllr. Phil Barnett
Cllr. Billy Drummond

Clerk: Mrs Kim Lloyd

Public: 8

West Berkshire Council (WBC) Mr Paul Hendry – Countryside Manager.

The meeting was recorded for the sole purpose of producing the minutes of this meeting. The recording will be deleted once the minutes have been agreed.

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr. Steve Jones, Cllr. Pragna Hay, Cllr. Chris Austin, Cllr. Martin Griffiths sent apologies.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST ON AGENDA ITEMS

Cllr. Sally-Ann Jay declared a personal interest in item 8 (iii) as a director of Newbury Community Resource Centre who are supporting the refugees.

Cllr. Sanderson declared an interest in the Racecourse planning applications being a resident of the Racecourse for Item 4.

Cllr. Drummond is a board member of the Greenham Trust regarding Item 8.

Cllr. Barnett a West Berkshire Council (WBC) member on the Western Area Planning regarding Item 4.

Cllr. Swift-Hook declared an interest regarding Item 8 (i) a parish council representative of the grant distribution committee for Greenham Trust and Director of UK Community United regarding Item 8 (ii)

3 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Poplar Trees on Stroud Green

Cllr. Paul Hendry WBC Countryside Manager spoke about the reasons for removing the Poplar Trees from Stroud Green. WBC had been concerned about the trees for the past two winters and they have been closely monitored. The last tree that came down in the recent storm was analysed on the health of the tree, and the safety to the public. Sadly, six trees had to be removed immediately due to public risk, there were some public engagements in the press to alert the public.

The trees were planted in the late 60s, early 70s by members of the public, these trees live for 50/60 years and are therefore at their end of lifespan. All 60 of the trees are showing signs of decay. WBC priority is to reduce the risk to the public and would not remove them without good reason. There will be a community engagement consultation to ask what the public would like to see replanted. Options will be provided and the Parish Council will be notified once WBC starts to help engage the public.

WBC has no other option but to remove these trees, if a tree falls on a member of the public, WBC would no doubt be criticised for their lack of duty of care.

The public members present in the meeting felt strong concerns about the impact to wildlife, especially the starlings and shared concerns over the rapidness that the trees are being removed. Mr Hendry confirmed that they are working with Berkshire, Buckingham, Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust (BBOWT) regarding the wildlife concerns and doing all they could to not harm their habitats, but public safety must take priority.

If you would like to ask further questions and share your comments, please contact WBC trees@westberks.gov.uk.

(Item 11 was moved forward to follow item 4 due to public interest in attendance, all agreed)

4 PLANNING SCHEDULE (Appendix 1)

- [24/00042FULMAJ](#) Hambridge Lake, Hambridge Road. Construction of 5 holiday chalets and clubhouse with access from Hambridge Road, parking, footpaths, fishing stations, bin / cycle stores and landscaping.

The Parish Council object. It was agreed to object on the basis of concerns of flooding due to poor drainage issues and felt this was an over development. Proposed: Cllr. Drummond, Seconded: Cllr. Wakelyn-Green, all in favour.

Cllr. Barnett reminded parishioners that if the application reaches 10 objections it will be called-in to an additional committee for determination.

(Standing Orders were suspended and reinstated to allow a resident to speak of their objection)

It was further agreed to add to the above objection that the proposal is breaching the settlement gap.

A fishing lake would not be possible due to surface water and sewage drainage issues on site.

Noise levels to the adjacent occupants was also a concern.

Cllr. Drummond proposed to the extra suggestions to object, Cllr. Wakelyn-Green seconded. Cllr. Barnett abstained, all in favour.

- [23/02922FUL](#) The Berkshire Stand, Newbury Racecourse, Racecourse Road, Newbury RG14 7NZ Partial demolition of the west section of existing stepped entrance to the Weighing Room of the Berkshire Stand, and erection of a DDA compliant access ramp.

The Parish Council had no objections

- [24/00086/ADV](#) Tesco Extra, Pinchington Ln, Kingsteignton, Newbury, RG14 7HB. Retrospective installation of 1x 42" LCD media screen size-860(W)x2160(H)mm Screen size-530(W)x930(H) mm 3nos x 1250mm x 700mm flag pole signs, overall 3350mm in height.

The Parish Council had no objections.

- [Draft Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan Update \(2021-2040\)](#) Consultation on the council's draft Local Plan Update (Regulation 18) is now open and will run until midnight on 4 March 2024

The Parish Council agreed to comment that Greenham Parish is the surrounding parish and development will no doubt impact on Greenham's infrastructure including open spaces such as Greenham Common.

Proposed: Cllr. Puffett, Seconded: Cllr. Neal, all in favour.

5 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 10th January 2024 were approved.

Proposed: Cllr. Drummond, seconded: Cllr. Jay, all in favour.

6 FINANCE

- Payments were approved. Proposed: Cllr. Blackborow: Seconded: Cllr. Neal, all in favour
- Bank Reconciliation to 1st January 2024 was approved. Proposed: Cllr. Drummond, seconded: Cllr. Blackborow
- There was no update to the CIL funding, deferred to the next meeting
- The newer version of the Financial Regulations 2019 was adopted. Proposed: Cllr. Drummond, Seconded: Cllr. Jay, all in favour.

7 COUNCIL TAX, GREENHAM LEAFLET INSERT

Greenham's separate leaflet which is inserted into the WBC Council tax bill for 2024-2025 was agreed to be included. The amendment to the venue was considered on where to hold meetings, (there were different views on meeting at either St Marys Church Hall or Greenham Control Tower) The Clerk will amend the leaflet to point the public to the agenda on the website to confirm which meeting place. It was also agreed to include a QR code on the leaflet to the Parish Council Website. Proposed: Cllr. Swift-Hook, Seconded: Cllr. Jay, all in favour.

Action: Clerk to make amendments and submit to WBC before the deadline 29/02.

8 GREENHAM S137 GRANT POLICY AND THE PROCESS THROUGH THE GOOD EXCHANGE (JSH)

- The consideration to amendments to the policy was deferred to the March meeting
- Refugees and Asylum Seekers Living in Greenham grant request from Greenham Trust (GT)
It was confirmed from GT that 14 refugees are living in Greenham.
Parish Council agreed to donate £2,000 from the remaining balance of £2,230 which is allocated to grants in the 2023-2024 budget. Cllr. Drummond proposed and Cllr. Swift-Hook seconded, all in favour.

9 DRONES FLYING IN THE PARISH

The use of drones is increasing. Enforcement is by the police but it was agreed that GPC should speak with WBC. Cllr. Barnett said he had already raised this with WBC and feels that this matter needs further thought on the implications of drones increasing and its safety.

How to fly them safely and legally can be found [here](#).

It was also raised to perhaps erect gates in locations where drone user groups generally meet up as a deterrent.

Action:

- The Clerk will speak with WBC along with the District Councillors on what action can be taken.
- Information will be added to the Greenham Parish Council website on drone user safety.
- The police contact will be confirmed for drone reporting and advertised on the website.

10 POPLAR TREES FELLED ON STROUD GREEN

See Item 3. The resident who had sent an email to Parish Council will receive a response from the outcome of this meeting.

11 GREENHAM COMMON DOG WASTE BINS WASTE COLLECTION

- (i) The Clerk provided an update on the dog waste bins that are currently overflowing on the Common. The Clerk is in close contact with Continental Contractors who is employed by WBC to collect the waste. The Clerk is providing picture evidence to Continental who is monitoring the issues. Notices have been posted advising the public to report overflowing bins to WBC. The Greenham Crookham Common Commission (GCCC) is also monitoring and is discussing if some bins that are not used on the common could be removed to allow more time for the contractors to empty the bins that do overflow. The Clerk had forwarded on a resident's report (in attendance) to GCCC for review when considering this decision. This is an ongoing matter that the Clerk is monitoring and reporting to all concerned.
(Standing Orders was suspended and then reinstated to allow a parishioner to speak who had produced a report on the commons dog waste)
- (ii) A parishioner had provided a report of dog waste on the Common which she had wrote in 2021. The parishioner had been walking the common since and reported that in 2021 she used to collect 1,000 bags a year, but now it's around 3,000 a year. She had spoken to Continental Contractors who collect the waste and it was clear that the Wednesday collection was unnecessary, obviously the Friday pm and a Monday am was needed. The capacity of some of the bins are not bigger enough, and litter was not the cause to the overflowing bins.

The amount of litter also dropped on the common is increasing. The parishioner walked. 2 miles on the common recently, 39 items of litter were collected. It was felt that a litter bin should be placed in the Car Park at least to alleviate some of the litter found on the Common. The Parish Council will consider this at their next meeting.

It was suggested for the parishioner to join the community engagement working group.

The parishioner was thanked for all she did regarding trying to keep the common clear of waste.

Some Councillors felt that parish council still should consider taking over the management of the dog waste on the common. This was agreed to add to the next agenda for further discussion.

- (iii) Cllr. Blackborow raised concerns over the amount of dog walkers on the common, especially commercial walkers, regarding one person walking a number of uncontrollable dogs and not being able to pick up all of their waste.
BBOWT had already reported that they were aware of this problem on the Common but there is no rules or enforcement to deal with this. Dog wardens will be asked to talk to the walkers with uncontrollable dogs. The common is a public open space and everyone is allowed to walk the common, however the GCCC has a provision in the common act that you may not operate a business on the common and felt this is something the commission could deal with.
Action: The Clerk to confer with GCCC to find out if anything further could be done regarding dog walkers.
Action: Cllr. Barnett to investigate if anything legally can be done by WBC and report back to the Clerk ready for the next meeting.

12 DIAMOND FIELD NEW BUILD CONSULTATION

5% of the parish has responded to the survey so

far, the deadline is Friday 16th February. A full report will be presented in the March meeting when the consultation is closed. Some of the feedback was:

- Majority did not know where the current porta cabin is.

- 60 +years were the main responders.
- Good to have things on for the younger generation to join and do in the area.

It was confirmed that the recent reported repairs at the portacabin have been rectified. The ongoing repairs will be considered more when known if a new building will go ahead following the consultation.

13 PARISH ASSEMBLY – 25 APRIL 2024

10 speakers are confirmed for the event. The Parish Council Chairman will open the evening with the annual parish council statement. The following 9 speakers have confirmed.

- Newbury and Crookham Golf Course
- Greener Greenham Group
- The Community Group Project
- Greenham Scouting Group
- Control Tower Café
- Control Tower history – Mr Manley
- St Marys Church (to be confirmed)
- Greenham and Crookham Common Commission (GCCC)
- Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Wildlife Trust (BBOWT)

The Clerk said no one has shown interest in having a display table as yet.

Thoughts on Parish Council Table displays:

- Income and expenditure for 2023-2024
- Councillor profiles
- Map of the Parish
- Diamond Build information {if proceeding with the build following the consultation}
- WBC, report a problem information – (i.e. Dog waste)
- Photographic Competition.

The Parish Council agreed to £200 towards Tea/Coffee and biscuits to the public taken from the community engagement budget. Cllr. Drummond proposed, and Cllr. Swift-Hook seconded, all in favour.

Action: The Clerk will draft an agenda before the next meeting for review.

14 80th ANNIVERSARY OF D-Day LANDINGS - 6 JUNE 2024 (JSH)

The Control Tower is hosting the event. Cllr. Blackborow was nominated to be the representative for this event who will try and attend the next Newbury Town Council working group meetings.

15 REPORT FROM THE LAST COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT MEETING, 24/01/2024 (AB)

The report was circulated before the meeting, no further questions were raised.

16 PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE (MS)

A date will be proposed to meet using zoom to discuss a proposal of a new website.

17 CLERK CORRESPONDENCE

Nothing further to report.

18 CHAIRMAN REPORT

Nothing further to report.

19 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT

It was requested if the District Councillors could provide a report on WBC and Parish activities that could be circulated before the meeting.

Action: Cllr. Barnett and Cllr. Drummond to investigate a WBC/Parish report circulated before monthly meetings.

20 PARISH COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

- Cllr. Blackborow reported that she had been in contact regarding a removal of a tree in Westwood. This was checked with WBC that it was officially felled due to ash-dieback.
- 23rd March 2024 is the next Great British Spring Clean Litter pick.
- Cllr. Blackborow and Cllr. Wakelyn-Green visited the Community Clean-up Day which was organised by Sovereign, being a part of the 'Safer Street Fund', a Government Home Office Initiative
- Cllr. Wakelyn-Green and Cllr. Sanderson attended the Core Knowledge for new councillors training at Shaw House in February. It was raised regarding Councillors having separate emails from Council business. The Clerk confirmed it was only three councillors who used their personal emails and the Clerk was waiting for the outcome of the website as emails could be linked up to the website. The Clerk advised that they can register with Information Commission Office (ICO) to cover Freedom of Information (FOI), but this is down to the individual's own data collection. see [ICO Self Registration](#). However, the Parish Council does subscribe as a Council.
- Health and Safety Item was requested to be added back onto forthcoming agendas.
- Cllr. Blackborow said there is a meeting with the Newbury and Crookham Golf Club on 20/02 to maintain engagement.

21 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Greenham S137 Grant Policy and the process through the Good Exchange (JSH)
- CIL update
- Gates to deterrent drone user groups (item 9)
- Parish Council to manage Dog Waste Collection on the Common (item 11)
- Litter waste bin in the common car park (item 11)
- How to manage uncontrollable dogs on the common (Item 11)
- Website options (Item 16)
- Councillor emails.
- Parish Community Assembly update/agenda
- Health and Safety

22 DATE OF THE NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

13th March 2024 @ 7.30pm, Venue will be confirmed nearer the date.

APPENDIX 1

West Berkshire Council Planning Application Decisions and Planning Inspectorate Appeals

Reference	Type	Location	Description	Decision
23/02906	NONMAT	History 2, Newbury Racecourse, Racecourse Road, Newbury	Application for a Non-Material Amendment Following a Grant of Planning Permission 14/03109/OUTMAJ - Section 73: To vary condition 32: No more than 250 dwellings shall be completed prior to the completion and opening to traffic of a new bridge, to 421 dwellings. Of approved reference 09/00971/OUTMAJ for redevelopment of Newbury Racecourse to provide new and enhanced leisure, racing, administrative and visitors facilities; new hotel and hostel; replacement children's nursery; permanent retention of the Mill Reef Stand; replacement maintenance buildings, yard and workshops; replacement golf club house and apartment, floodlit driving range and remodelling of golf course; up to 1,500 dwellings. Amendments: Amendment to the approved Raceday Movement Plan	Approves
23/02879	LDOCON	Land Bounded by Lindenmuth Way and Jones Drive, Communications Road, Greenham Business Park, Thatcham	Application for approval of details reserved by condition 11 (SuDs) of approved 22/01338/LDO - Application under Local Development Order for redevelopment of land off Communications Road for two detached units, Use Classes B1(c) (Light Industrial), B2 (General Industrial), and/or B8 (Storage and Distribution), access, new, new sub-station, parking and boundary treatments. (Resubmission of application reference 21/03095/LDO, approved 23 December 2021 with amended plans to site layout and minor changes to building dimensions).	Approved
23/02858	LDO	Land Bounded by Lindenmuth Way and Jones	Application under Local Development Order for Redevelopment of land off	Prior notification

		Drive, Communications Road, Greenham Business Park, Thatcham	Communications Road for two detached units, Use Classes B1 (c) (Light industrial), B2 (General industrial) and/or B8 (Storage and distribution, access, new sub-station, parking and boundary treatments. (Revised scheme: amendment to southern elevation of Unit 1 to include two additional docking bays, with retaining walls and reconfiguration of parking spaces and associated works).	is not required
23/02728	TELE56	Telecom Cabinet, Mandarin Drive, Newbury,	Application to determine if prior approval is required for a proposed: Base Station telecommunications installation. Proposed installation of a CS 25.0m FLI Cypress Tree on a new 6.4mx6.4mx1.2m pad foundation, together with 6No. Antennas, 1No. Ø300mm dish, 1No. Ø600mm dish, 1No. Cabinet, 1No. meter cabinet and associated ancillary works.	Prior Approval is required
23/02646	Hosue	20 Aintree Close, Newbury, RG14 7TX,	Removal of existing conservatory and replacement of new single story rear extension on same footprint.	Granted
23/02366	LDOCON	Land To The South Of Buckner-Croke Way, Greenham Business Park, Greenham, Thatcham RG19 6HW	Approval of details reserved by Conditions (1) Design Guidance, (5) Tree Protection, (8) Contaminated Land, (9) External Lighting (Ecological Sensitive Boundaries), (10) External Lighting (Floodlights), (11) Sustainable Surface Water Drainage, (13) Noise Assessment, (14) Odour Assessment and (16) Travel Plan of approved application 22/01880/LDO: Application under Local Development Order for extension of an existing B8 Storage and Distribution depot site to increase the area of hardstanding and associated landscaping and boundary treatment.	Split Decision Approves in part and Refuses in part