



**Clerk to the Council**  
*Greenham Control Tower,  
Bury's Bank Road, Thatcham  
Berkshire, RG19 8BZ*

[clerk@greenham.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@greenham.gov.uk)  
[www.greenham.gov.uk](http://www.greenham.gov.uk)  
07435 070014

## MINUTES

### **Greenham Parish Council Meeting in Greenham Control Tower, Bury's Bank Road, Greenham RG19 8BZ on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2023 AT 7.30PM**

Present: Cllr. Steve Jones – Chairman  
Cllr. Julian Swift-Hook  
Cllr. Pragna Hay  
Cllr Michael Wakelyn-Green  
Cllr. Billy Drummond  
Cllr. Chris Austin  
Cllr. Martin Sanderson  
Cllr. Adrian Abbs  
Cllr. Martin Griffiths  
Clerk: Mrs Kim Lloyd

The Clerk announced that the meeting is being recorded to ensure accuracy of the minutes of the meeting. The recording will be deleted once the minutes are approved.

#### **1. THAMES VALLEY POLICE – SUPT. HELEN KENNY**

Superintendent Helen Kenny is the local police area commander for West Berkshire, who gave a comprehensive talk regarding the police team. She was accompanied by Greenham's PCSO (Police Community Support Officer) Tara Jones.

- Supt. Kenny took over at the start of July 2023
- Although PSCOs have no power of arrest, they can attend incidents, patrol, and reassure, tackle ASB (anti-social behaviour) and parking issues. They are responsible for tackling the concerns of the community
- West Berkshire has the lowest level of crime across the Thames Valley 11 areas. Police have deployed significant effort in preventative measures to make the area safe
- Overall Crime is 32% lower than before Covid
- The Neighbourhood Team has 2 inspectors, 4 sergeants, 10 PC's and 22 PCSO with vacancies split over 'Hungerford, Thatcham, Newbury and Pangbourne
- The role of the Neighbourhood Team is about community engagement and patrolling our streets

- Current priority focus is on victim care and support
- They are improving on investigations, especially knife crime and violence against women and girls. Domestic violence crime has increased
- The Nightingales has more Police presence to tackle anti-social behaviour. The PCSO Team have been engaging with residents in the Nightingales to learn to trust the Police and report all crimes
- A section 60 order applied to The Nightingales. (This allows extra power to the Police to stop and search
- They are attending community project events and meeting with partners (i.e. Sovereign Housing, etc) to share working strategies
- Hotspot phones are used to direct police to get people in the right place at the right times
- Engaging with the School to encourage Police trust
- There are currently three high visibility patrols a day in The Nightingales

Cllr. Drummond said that the Neighbourhood Team are never seen on the streets. Supt. Kenny reassured Council that they are out there but agreed they need to get better at being seen and trusted. Sadly, there is now only one local control room across the whole force, and this is the reason they have attended this meeting to engage. PCSO Jones said she had spent a lot of her time in The Nightingales and was more than happy to attend more council meetings to engage with the community to work on building relationships. Posters will be forwarded to the Clerk to add to media tools.

Using experience of local services, Cllr Wakelyn-Green raised concerns about the lack of liaison, and multi-agency working between the Police and the local drug & alcohol service. From the Councillor's professional work in the community, many residents in the Nightingales problematically use alcohol and other drugs, exacerbating local crime. The councillor thought the reintroduction of a local integrated drug diversion scheme would be useful to reduce crime in the community, and improve public health outcomes. Given Supt Kenny's recent start, she was not aware of details of the scheme nor why it was outsourced out of West Berkshire".

The Parish Council thanked Supt. Kenny and PCSO Jones for attending. The Parish Council were looking forward to working more closely together and said if the police have any suggestions where Parish Council could help to let the Council know.

Supt. Kenny asked for everyone to acknowledge all the hard work that goes into keeping our community safe and to [sign up to Thames Valley Police alerts](#) on the Facebook page. To also encourage residents to report crime to the Police as if it's not recorded no patrols will take priority. Supt. Kenny also stated that Thames Valley Police have always investigated burglaries and will continue to do so – despite what has been implied in the national press.

Please use this link to contact your policing team.

<https://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/area/your-area/local-policing-team-contact/contact-your-local-policing-team/>

**2. PUBLIC SESSION** - None

**3. APOLOGIES** – Cllr. Blackborow, Cllr. Barnett, Cllr. Neal, and Cllr. Puffett

**4. DECLARATION OF INTEREST, STATEMENT OF POSITION AND DISPENSATIONS**

Cllr. Abbs is Chairman of Western Area Planning, Executive Portfolio for Environment at WBC and Chairman of the Greenham Common Planning Committee.

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

Cllr. Billy Drummond is the Vice Chairman of WBC, and a member of NTC.

**5. PLANNING – TO CONSIDER THE PLANNING APPLICATIONS, AS SHOWN IN APPENDIX 1**

Cllr. Austin proposed and Cllr. Drummond seconded, all in favour to no objection on both planning applications shown in Appendix 1.

An additional comment was made on 23/01904/FULMAJ, Newbury Racecourse, to request that the water extraction from the borehole is investigated so there would be no future issues.

**6. MINUTES APPROVAL**

The Minutes from the meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> August 2023 are a true representation of the meeting. Proposed by Cllr. Jones, Cllr. Griffiths seconded, Cllr. Abbs abstained, and all others in favour.

**7. FINANCE**

a) The payments were agreed. Proposed by Cllr. Jones, Cllr. Austin seconded, and all in favour.

b) The Bank Reconciliation Statement for 1<sup>st</sup> August 2023 was approved. Cllr. Jones proposed, Cllr. Griffiths seconded, and all in favour.

**8. SANDLEFORD – GPC & NTC JOINT WORKING GROUP**

The Clerk was asked to contact Newbury Town Council (NTC) to confirm that Greenham Parish Council would like to re-engage with the joint GPC and NTC Working Group regarding the Sandleford development.

Cllr. Sanderson said he would join the members on the working group which included, Cllrs. Barnett, Neal and Wakelyn-Green. **ACTION: Clerk**

**9. DIAMOND FIELD, NEW BUILDING PROJECT**

Cllr. Abbs said he would draft a public consultation and circulate to Parish Council before the next meeting.

Cllr. Abbs said he had a contact who could help provide advice on project managing a community hall building and felt GPC should engage with him. Cllr. Neal's plan will also be considered when received.

Cllr. Abbs proposed and Cllr. Griffiths seconded, all in favour. **ACTION: Cllr. Abbs**

Cllr. Griffith felt a smaller build on the current footprint is more appropriate to get this project moving. Cllr. Drummond said GPC have funding secured from WBC, and we only have one chance at this.

## **10 FIRE BREAKS ON THE COMMON (AB)**

An email was noted from a resident regarding fire breaks on Greenham Common which was answered by the Clerk via BBOWT. (Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust)

## **11 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

No further updates currently. Cllr. Blackborow is looking at dates to hold the next meeting.

## **12 DRAUGHT BUSTERS, WEST BERKSHIRE**

Draught Busters are a voluntary group and aim to give fast, practical assistance to households at risk of fuel poverty. They are grateful for help from donors. The Parish Council resolved to allocate £10,000 from Parish Council reserves 'in principle' to help towards this scheme prior to the Winter. Cllr. Jones proposed and Cllr. Sanderson seconded, all Councillors unanimously agreed. This will need to be on the October agenda to establish a criterion for this scheme.

## **13 CHAIRMAN REPORT**

Nothing to report

## **14 CLERK REPORT**

- The Clerk reported that all bus shelters and benches have now been cleaned, removing graffiti from two of the bus shelters on 25<sup>th</sup> August by Externiture. The noticeboards were not included when this was requested. The Clerk had gone back to Externiture to ask for this to be carried out.
- Various overgrowth had been reported to WBC, who have a backlog. They said they will get around to cutting it asap.
- Due to vandalism on three young trees planted in Stroud Green, Cllr. Blackborow (not in attendance) had previously proposed for Council to buy three tree guards. The Parish Council agreed for the Clerk to use the Clerks emergency fund if the quote is received from WBC before the next meeting.
- A resident had asked for the War Memorial weeds to be removed. Cllr. Jones said he would speak with the Control Tower management to find out if 'Community Payback' could carry out the maintenance. **ACTION: Cllr. Jones.**
- The Clerk reported that the dog bins are being reworked due to unknown bin ownership. It was agreed that Tactical Facilities Management was to take over the contract in a previous meeting, but the number of bins registered has now changed. WBC are working with TFM to correct the list. Since, the Clerk received an email from the WBC Countryside Team asking if GPC would take over the ownership of 35 bins. The Clerk also heard that dog waste collections could be moved over to Parish Councils responsibility? Cllrs. Abbs and Drummond said they would investigate this further with the Countryside Team. **ACTION: Clerk/Cllr. Abbs/Cllr. Drummond**

## **15 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS**

Cllr. Drummond had received complaints regarding the speed on the A339 and beyond. Also, he is investigating resurfacing of local roads.

## 16 PARISH COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Cllrs. Wakelyn-Green, Blackborow, and Neal attended the WBC Climate Forum. The next Climate Forum meeting is on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2023.

## 17 HEALTH AND SAFETY

None.

## 18 MATTERS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION

- Diamond Field, New Building Project
- Newbury Racecourse Playground gate. (Cllr. Sanderson)
- Dog waste bins collection
- Draught Busters criteria contribution

### APPENDIX 1

Reference	Type	Location	Description	
<a href="#">23/01904</a>	FULMAJ	Newbury Racecourse Racecourse Road Newbury RG14 7NZ	Detailed application for the construction of an irrigation reservoir, fencing and ancillary works	No Objection
<a href="#">23/01886</a>	FUL	Adjacent Parish – Park House School Andover Road Newbury RG14 6NQ	Installation of new air source heat pumps with 3 timber hit'n'miss enclosures.	No Objection

### West Berkshire Council Planning Application Decisions and Planning Inspectorate Appeals

Reference	Type	Location	Description	Decision
23/01629	NONMAT	Telecommunications Facility, The Paddocks, Hambridge Road, Newbury	Application for a Non-Material Amendment Following a Grant of Planning Permission 23/00171/FUL - Installation of 4no. air conditioning condenser units on a galvanised stand on concrete strip base footings, all enclosed by palisade fencing. Amendments: The new external fenced plant enclosure is no longer required and a new scheme has been developed on the inside of the building that achieves the same objectives with one additional louvre on the north elevation next to 3 existing louvres	Approves
23/00904	ADV	Cloverleaf Cars, Unit E, The Triangle, Newbury	Sign A - illuminated 'Kia' totem sign. Sign B - non illuminated blank fascia. Sign C - illuminated 'Kia' logo sign. Sign D - non illuminated blank fascia. Sign E - illuminated 'Snow' dealership letters. Sign F - non illuminated blank fascia. Sign G - non illuminated blank fascia. Sign H - non illuminated welcome sign. Sign I - non illuminated parking sign.	Grants