

MIDGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

C/o 33 Camden Close, Calcot, Reading RG31 7AG

Email: clerk@padworthparishcouncil.gov.uk

Tel: 0118 348 58440

Meeting Minutes

Meeting held 22nd March 2021 at 7pm via Zoom Video Conferencing

ATTENDEES:

Chair: Tony Markham	Vice Chair: Alex Bingley
Councillors: Anthony Fenn	Clerk: Christine Heath
District Councillor: Graham Pask	Members of Public: 7

- 1. Apologies**
There were no apologies received
- 2. Declarations of interest and dispensations**
There were none
- 3. Approve minutes of the meeting of the 18th January 2021 Part I and Part II**
The minutes were approved and entered into the minute file
- 4. Outstanding actions from the previous meeting**
All actions were completed
- 5. Correspondence received**
All correspondence was received by email and forwarded to the Councillors
- 6. Salt Bins**
All 4 bins in the parish are approximately half full no further action required
- 7. COVID Scams**
A number of COVID scams have been identified, particularly those requesting payment for vaccinations. **All COVID vaccinations are free.** It has been reported that an email from the Chairman requesting money has been received by other Councillors. These are **fake** and should not be opened or responded to. Anyone receiving such emails should ‘block’ the sender.
- 8. Village Hall**
The Chairman thanked Mr and Mrs Norris for their tireless and selfless work during difficult circumstances.

Mrs Norris – current trustee of the Village Hall provided the following update.

MIDGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

C/o 33 Camden Close, Calcot, Reading RG31 7AG

Email: clerk@padworthparishcouncil.gov.uk

Tel: 0118 348 58440

8.1 Appointment of new trustees

Since the voting on the future of the village hall, three residents have been co-opted as trustees, the current trustees will step down at the Village Hall AGM in April 2021.

8.2 Funding

Grants totalling £10k+ have been obtained, with a possible £2k also being available in the near future.

8.3 Maintenance

Electrics have been inspected and repairs carried out. Two faulty heaters have had to be disconnected. Some other minor repairs are required to the roof and floor. The new trustees will be responsible for addressing these repairs and finding alternative heating solutions. They now have adequate funds to support them.

Mrs Norris thanked the PC for supporting them financially during this difficult period, and confirmed that the £500 set aside for further assistance was no longer required.

9. Penny Post

This is an on-line newsletter covering Hungerford, Marlborough, Wantage, Lambourn, Newbury, Thatcham & Theale, which contains local news. It was **RESOLVED** that the PC subscribe to the newsletter and provide a link on the parish website.

ACTION – Clerk: subscribe and add link to website

10. Clerk's report

10.1 Financial Update

Balance as at 18th January 2021

Treasurers		£ 750.00
Savings		£ 12,008.51
		<u>£ 12,758.51</u>

Income

Interest received Jan/Feb/Mar		0.29
		<u>0.29</u>

Payments

Salary Jan/Feb	468	
	<u>£468.00</u>	<u>0.29</u>

Balance as at 15th March 2021

Treasurers Account		£ 1,000.09
Savings Account		£ 11,290.71

MIDGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

C/o 33 Camden Close, Calcot, Reading RG31 7AG

Email: clerk@padworthparishcouncil.gov.uk

Tel: 0118 348 58440

10.2 Preparation for next meeting

- Vote Chairman/Vice Chairman
- Sign Dispensation Forms
- End of year accounts review for sign off
- STO, Financial Regs, Code of Conduct, Complaints Procedure review for sign-off
- Annual Parish Assembly – update from VH and Chairman’s Reports

11. To provide an update on planning applications

- **20/02698/HOUSE** Hambledown, School Hill, new carport and home office. **Refused**

11.1 Awaiting decision from West Berks Planning

- **20/03028/OUTD/MAJ** - development at Junction with Bath Road New Road Hill
Outline application for the erection of 16 dwellings, including 6 affordable units, with access from Bath Road. Matters to be considered: Access.
Decision expected 6th April 2021
- **20/01920/OUTD** - Land adjacent to Hunts Cottage, new dwelling and garage. Appeal in place decision expected after 15th March 2021
- **20/03068/FULD** Button Court Farm, Erection of a farm owner's dwelling and garage with associated access. Decision expected 5th April 2021
- **21/00475/HOUSE** Keepers Cottage School Hill, Addition of a new hall, kitchen, utility room, and downstairs cloakroom; together with a new landing, bedroom, family bathroom and one ensuite bathroom on the first floor – Decision expected by 22nd April 2021

11.2 New applications

- **21/00507/FUL** Nightfreight GB Colthrop Lane, Single storey extension to existing commercial unit – The application was discussed. **ACTION – Clerk:** Respond to Planning as ‘support’ but express concerns on light pollution.

11.3 Other developments

Discussions took place on the proposed development 2,500 dwellings in Thatcham

Mr Grey (resident) had produced some documents and arguments against this prior to the meeting, which has also been shared with the planning office. They included concerns on the development, being so close to the boundary at the western edge of Midgham, insufficient infrastructure, extra traffic and a number of environmental issues.

The PC have also written to the planning office objecting to the development (PC response can be viewed on the website).

MIDGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

C/o 33 Camden Close, Calcot, Reading RG31 7AG

Email: clerk@padworthparishcouncil.gov.uk

Tel: 0118 348 58440

It was also noted that Midgham PC had not been invited to the consultation that took place at the Regency Park hotel in January 2020.

District Councillor Pask advised he was unable to attend that meeting but was aware other surrounding parishes did attend. He also advised that Bucklebury PC also questioned the consultancy meeting.

He provided an overview of how the government advise local authorities on the number of homes required in their area, and how the local plan is formed. The plan includes consideration in respect of the Emergency Planning Zone (EPZ), areas of outstanding national beauty (AONB) and local flood plains, where no development can take place.

The original plan for the development had been Grazeley, but following a revision of the EPZ this was no longer viable, hence the development had been moved to Thatcham.

The last revision of the plan (approved 2012) covered the period up to 2026 with the final allocation of sites in 2017. In 2017 an application was made for 500 homes at Siege Cross, Thatcham, and 300 homes behind Regency Park Hotel at the bottom of Cold Ash Hill. Initial applications were refused, both the appeals were approved however, it was called in by the Secretary of State who revoked the appeal decision.

He advised that he was liaising with the planning officers for an alternative site and had met with Laura Farris MP. There will be further consultation during the summer.

He suggested that all surrounding parishes should work on a joint response.

District Councillor Pask is more than happy to take any calls for further information or advice: **Telephone:** 01635 864023 **Email:** graham.pask@westberks.gov.uk

The Chairman thanked District Councillor Pask for his comments and proposed that the PC and residents provide a coherent and collective response and resist strongly to this development. It is was **RESOLVED** by all present to work with other parishes.
ACTION – Clerk: contact the Clerk of Bucklebury PC and express our wish to work together to express our views collectively.

12. Public Session

No further questions

13. Receive District Councillors Report

The DCs report had been received and reviewed by the PC. It is available on the PC website. The report provides updates on West Berks Council budget review, Council Tax increase, adult care plus many other topics. DC Pask also advised of the drive for innovative ways in the pursuit of future savings.

MIDGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

C/o 33 Camden Close, Calcot, Reading RG31 7AG

Email: clerk@padworthparishcouncil.gov.uk

Tel: 0118 348 58440

13.1 Update on damaged footpath, Midgham Park

DC Pask advised that the delay in responding by the team handling this enquiry was a result of lack of resources due to COVID. He confirmed that the matter will be addressed next week and the person accountable for the footpath repairs will be notified accordingly.

14. Discuss vacancies for two councillors

Mrs Grey a resident of the parish for many years expressed a wish to join the PC and provided an overview of why she believed she would be suitable for the role. The Chairman proposed Mrs Grey be accepted onto the PC, seconded by Councillor Fenn. **RESOLVED ACTION – Clerk:** complete all necessary administration matters

15. Review any other matters the Chairman feels necessary

There were none

16. Next meeting date

The next meeting will be the Annual Parish Council Meeting, followed by the Annual Parish Assembly, both to be held on the 25th May 2021 from 7pm at the Village Hall

17. The meeting closed at 8:15 pm