

MIDGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

C/o 2 Old Orchard, Upper Woolhampton, RG7 5TE

Email: clerk@midghamparish.co.uk

Tel: 07896321058

MINUTES

17th July 2023

This meeting will be conducted strictly in accordance with Standing Orders as adopted by Council in May 2021. All Councillors are reminded to acquaint themselves with these Standing Orders.

Public Session

Midgham residents who own and live on the land adjacent to The Nurseries attended the meeting to raise concerns about retrospective planning approval which has been granted by West Berks. The residents are concerned about the over-industrialisation of the land. Approximately seven HGVs have been observed at the site, leaving early (0500) and then returning at night and at the weekend. The Nurseries has right of way access for the road belonging to the neighbours; however, they have concerns that the road is small for HGVs turning onto, and off, the A4. Chairman Markham remarked that planning had been granted by West Berks so options may be limited. The PC shares the concerns of the residents about industrialisation of the area. The residents also own the land where three phase power approval has been granted – they have concerns that this will also be over developed. **ACTION** – Clerk to raise with DC Read to ask for advice about HGVs in particular in relation to the conditions of the planning approval, and notify of our concerns. Residents were advised to keep a diary of events at the site.

1. To receive apologies

There were none

2. To receive any declarations of interest

There were none

3. To receive and approve the minutes of the meeting held on 13th May 2023

Approved and signed

4. Correspondence received

Bull in field; Enquiry closed: Reference 215304 – The Chairman has been in contact with the farmer who has advised (in agreement with documentation found by the Clerk) that only a certain type of breed of cattle needs to be fenced off and that there is a greater risk from heffers with calves. Correspondence has been received by the PC from a walker who is concerned about the footpath crossing the field, however the land is farmed and in compliance with Countryside advice. The sign should be covered when bull not there so users of the footpath can feel confident that a bull is not present in the field at that time.

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Unauthorised Encampment - Highwood Copse Way

5. To receive the District Councillors Report

DC Read gave apologies as he had another meeting. Report sent by email to councillors and will be posted on PC website.

Chair highlighted;

- The Local Plan consultation had been postponed until next year.
- PCs had been asked to suggest electrical vehicle charging point sites; councillors agreed this would not be suitable for Midgham.
- Community Bid; matched funding from West Berks; there are no projects planned for Midgham at present time so this can be passed to the next PC.
- Verge clearing; DC Read questioned in his report whether this was being addressed; councillors had been under the impression this was being left for rewilding. However, concerns were raised about the overgrown vegetation on the footpath along the A4 between Coach and Horses and Woolhampton as it is impassable for wheelchair users; **ACTION** – Clerk to raise with DC Read.

6. To receive the Clerks report

	Payments	Receipts	Balance
Balance as at 8th May 2023			£ 16,491.73
Income			
Interest received		£ 16.41	
Precept			
Payments			
Salary March April	476.20		
B Knight	100.00		
Hampshire	71.12		
Berkshire Citizens Advice	150.00		
St Matthew's	500.00		
Insurance	493.98		
A Owens	238.71		
Mr Porteous	25.00		
ICO	35.00		
Village Hall	230.00		
	<u>£2,320.01</u>	<u>16.41</u>	
Balance as at 9th July 2023			<u><u>£ 14,188.13</u></u>
Savings Account	<u>£ 13,188.13</u>		
Treasurers Account	<u>£ 1,000.00</u>		
	<u>£ 14,188.13</u>		

Chairman Markham highlighted that the Parish magazine – now The Village News – may require a donation as it had recently restarted.

Clerk notified Councillors that the defibrillator was still out of action due to delivery issues from the software company. This should be rectified by 19th July 2023.

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7. To receive/review any Planning Applications

7.1 Decisions

- **23/00462/FUL** - The Nurseries, Bath Road - Retrospective: Retention of Cabins for Class E G(i) Office Use – **APPROVED**
- **23/00463/FUL** - The Nurseries, Bath Road -Retrospective: Change of Use to allow Retention of Six Storage Containers for Self Storage – **APPROVED**
- **22/00153/FULD** – Hall Court Farm – Change of use to C3 –**REFUSED**

7.2 Awaiting Planning Decision

- **22/02209/HOUSE** – 8 Rowlands Copse – Rear extension – **PC have no objections**
- **22/02912/FORMB** – Land at Church View Farm - Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989 to install or keep installed an electric line above ground. It is proposed that 2 spans of existing HV overhead line are to be upgraded to 3 phase with the addition of a third wire. – **PC have no objections**

The Chairman raised the 5G Mast planning application that had previously been made **ACTION** – Clerk to investigate its status.

8. Other matters the Chairman feels necessary

- Recruitment of councillors; Imogen Addington still keen but currently on holiday **ACTION** – Clerk to invite to next meeting
- Receipt received donation to the NE Thatcham Development Group.
- Containers at Hambledown – raised at previous meeting – Chairman Markham had a conversation with the owners who had hoped building work would soon be completed but there have been delays. The PC felt that the matter would self-resolve in time.

9. Village Hall

Update received on Village Hall from the Treasurer; The VH Committee are grateful to the PC for recent donations. Approval had been given by the PC to a donation for the coronation picnic but the Treasurer believed this hadn't been made **ACTION** – Clerk to check and pay if not done so. The roof is in need of repairs; future donations may be required. The Village Hall continues to provide a service for isolated residents of the parish.

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10. To determine dates for the next meeting

11th September 2023 at 7pm

11. To record the meeting closed

1934