

MIDGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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

Email: clerk@midghamparish.co.uk

Tel: 07896321058

Meeting Minutes

2nd October 2023

Councillors: Tony Markham (Chair), Anthony Fenn, Francis Long

District Councillor: Chris Read

Members of the Public: 0

This meeting was 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.

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 17th July 2023

Approved and signed

4. Correspondence received

- Joint Rural Policing Meeting – The Clerk reported that the main issues raised at the meeting were low staff levels and the need to report issues to help build a picture of problem areas. Minutes will be sent to councillors and posted on the parish council website.

5. To receive the District Councillors Report

District Cllr Read delivered his latest report; this will be sent to councillors and posted on the parish council website.

Chair Markham asked about how many affordable houses were in the pipeline – District Cllr Read reported that much of NE Thatcham was supposed to be social housing however with the abandonment of this plan he is unsure of the numbers **ACTION** – District Cllr Read to find out numbers and report back to Midgham PC.

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CLlrs asked District CLr Read what the NE Thatcham site would be used for – the hope is that the land will be used for school development.

6. To receive the Clerks report

	Payments	Receipts	Balance
Balance as at 9th July 2023			£ 14,188.13
Income			
Interest received		£ 18.02	
Precept			
Payments			
Salary July August	476.20		
Odin Manners	1026.21		
WEL Medical	204.00		
Domain fee	170.00		
Externture	213.36		
	<u>£2,089.77</u>	<u>18.02</u>	
Balance as at 30th August 2023			<u><u>£ 12,116.38</u></u>
Savings Account	<u>£ 11,354.48</u>		
Treasurers Account	<u>£ 761.90</u>		
	<u>£ 12,116.38</u>		

7. To receive/review any Planning Applications

7.1 Decisions

- **23/01020/HOUSE** - Watroak, Midgham Green - Two storey side extension with insertion of new rooflight into existing roof and alterations to garden landscaping – **GRANTED**

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**

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- **23/01981/FUL**- Former Ryders Yard, Colthrop Lane - Change of use of existing truck and trailer hire fleet, maintenance and storage depot to provide flexible uses within Class E(g)(i), (ii) and (iii), B2 and B8 of the Use Classes Order. – Cllr Fenn has concerns regarding the lighting in the area; it is too bright and seems excessive. – **ACTION** – Clerk to reply to state the council does not object but does have concerns about levels of security lighting
 - **23/01596/HOUSE** – Oaktree Barn, Midgham - Loft conversion at Oaktree barn. The only external change is to install Velux windows in the roof. Internally will require new stairs to second floor. Also add 8 solar panels to the south facing shed roof. – **NO OBJECTIONS**
 - **23/02096/LBC** - Part two-storey part, single-storey replacement extension to existing dwelling. Terrace doors in existing modified window opening -**NO OBJECTIONS**

8. Update from Village Hall Committee

Chair Markham reported from Jeremy Harding (of the VH Committee) that the Village Hall was in a healthy state - there is a quiz night planned this Saturday (7th October), there is still a question about how and when roof repairs will take place – the Committee are looking to apply to the Greenham Trust for funding. Mr Harding also gave praise to Sharon McKenna for her work on the Village Hall Committee.

9. Neighbourhood Watch

Chair Markham reported that there was an increase in low level crime in the area; theft and vandalism etc. Cllr Long felt that the major issue facing rural crime was lack of staffing and this was a concern for local residents. Councillors agreed that locking outbuildings and CCTV was a good deterrent.

10. Berkshire Right of Way Improvement Consultation

District Cllr Read informed councillors that there is a consultation currently open for improving Berkshire Rights of Way - **ACTION** – Clerk to send link to the consultation.

On the subject of Rights of Way, Chair Markham highlighted that there were cattle and a bull in the field through Midgham Park which has a footpath – this means residents have not been using the footpath and it has therefore become overgrown.

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Footpath at the end of Birds Lane has a new gate with a sign 'permitted route'; landowner is within rights to do so however worth checking the route remains accessible.

11. Update on 5G Mast Application

At a previous meeting there was a planning application for a 5G mast – this did not need prior approval however there does not seem to be evidence that anything is being built **ACTION** – Clerk to ascertain who submitted the application and to enquire about when the mast might be built.

12. Other matters the Chairman feels necessary

- The shipping containers at Hambledown have now gone.
- Enrich Berkshire – a charity that helps disabled children; they would like posters to be posted in the village – Councillors all in agreement that this should happen - **ACTION** – Chair to send Clerk posters to be posted to parish notice boards.
- A resident contacted the Clerk regarding the hedge at bottom of New Road Hill, requesting for it to be cut by the parish council – Chair Markham has inspected the area and there does not seem to be an obstruction. If the hedge is on private land this is the responsibility of the landowner, and if it is on public land it will be carried out by Highways. Councillors all in agreement that there is no need for PC to carry out works - **ACTION** – Clerk to reply to resident
- Register of interest – this should be on parish council and West Berks website, Chair Markham notes that this has been missing for over a year -**ACTION** – District Cllr Read to chase

13. To determine dates for the next meeting

11/12/23

14. To record the meeting closed

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