

**Minutes of the Meeting of Frilsham Parish Council held in the Clubroom on
Wednesday 8th March 2017 at 7.30pm.**

Present

Cllr. M. Allum (Chairman)
Cllr. G. Barber
Cllr. D. Benning
Cllr. J. Goodenough
Cllr. C. Kettlewell
Cllr. D. Ward
Mr. B. Lyon (Frilsham Future Implementation Group)
Mr. D. Slack (Managing Director of Yattendon Estate Ltd)
District Cllr. G. Pask
District Cllr. Q. Webb
Mrs. H. Pratt (Clerk)
Mr. I. Coxhead (Chairman of the Allotment Association)
Mr. M. Aston (applicant of application 17/00379/HOUSE)

1. To receive Apologies for Absence.

There were no apologies for absence.

2. To receive Declaration of Interest.

2.1 Declarations of Interest in Agenda Items.

Cllr. Kettlewell declared an interest in the allotments as a neighbour to the site and an allotmenteer.

There were no other declarations of interest in any agenda items.

2.2 Changes to the Register of Interests.

There were no changes to the Register of Interests.

3. Approval of minutes of the meetings.

3.1 Meeting on Wednesday 11th January 2017.

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 11th January 2017 were approved as a true record of the meeting and signed by Cllr. Allum.

3.2 Meeting on Wednesday 15th February 2017.

The minutes of the meeting on Wednesday 15th February 2017 were approved as a true record of the meeting and signed by Cllr. Allum.

4. Matters arising from the minutes (not mentioned elsewhere and for information only).

4.1 Hedge in the Allotment Field.

The tenant of the allotment field has decided not to plant a hedge around the field as was discussed at the meeting on Wednesday 15th February.

4.2 Wall on Dragon Hill.

It was suggested that the wall on Dragon Hill is now bulging more than it was. Cllr. Kettlewell has taken photographs of the wall and the Clerk will forward these to WBC.

2017/7

Signed:

Date:

5. Superfast Broadband.

Gigaclear are currently working in Beechfield Lane. Wayleave has not been obtained from Sovereign housing, so it's unlikely that houses in the cul-de-sac will be offered the service. It is understood that there were problems with laying the cables under the motorway from Yattendon. It is anticipated that all properties wishing to use the service will be connected by the end of May.

Mr. Slack commented that Yattendon and Frilsham, north of the motorway will be "switched on" on the 9th or 10th March 2017. A press release is planned for the following week.

6. School Lane Allotment.

Questions have been asked about the ownership of the hedge between the School Lane allotment and Old Barn and the footpath. Cllr. Ward visited the Public Records Office and consulted the Frilsham Enclosure Award, the 1899 and 1913 Ordnance Survey maps. The 1899 Ordnance Survey map clearly shows a path going through the allotment field. The Clerk reported that she had spoken to Elaine Cox at WBC and she had confirmed that whilst WBC are responsible for the surface of the footpath, they do not own the underlying ground. The hedge is a boundary hedge and therefore ownership is difficult to clarify.

Cllr. Kettlewell commented that her husband has voluntarily cut both sides of the hedge for the last 30 years, but this was no longer possible. This year they contracted a contractor with a flail to cut the hedge at their own expense but this had created concerns over liability.

It was noted that Clause 5 of the Allotment agreement states that the Allotment Association is responsible for keeping every hedge which forms part of the allotment cut. It was agreed that the Allotment Association has the responsibility to cut the hedge when necessary and that Frilsham Parish Council would subsidize the activity. The size of the subsidy was not discussed.

7. Report from Yattendon Estate.

Mr. Slack reported that the Frilsham Home Farm units are nearing completion. The flooring is currently being laid. The brewery equipment is due to arrive in about 10 days time.

Cutting of hedges has now had to stop as the nesting season has arrived; those not yet done will be the first to be done after the nesting season.

A fine has been issued against those guilty of dumping a significant number of tyres on the restricted byway at High Copse.

8. Playground.

The Clerk reported that the ROSPR inspection will be carried out in April.

Cllr. Allum reported that the only problem in the playground at the moment is the number of molehills.

Cllr. Kettlewell agreed to inspect the Playground until the next meeting.

9. Planning

9.1 To consider planning applications submitted to WBC:

9.1.1 17/00401/HOUSE – Mallards Haven.

Demolition of existing workshop/garage and erection of cartshed.

It was agreed that Frilsham Parish Council has **no objection** to this application. However, it was felt that conservation velux windows would be more in keeping than dormer

2017/8

Signed:

Date:

windows; that a restriction should be put on any permission granted that the space should not be used for sleeping and that external lighting should be restricted, possibly being controlled by passive infrared sensors.

9.1.2 17/00379/HOUSE – Old School, School Lane.

Convert garage to home office, new garage, new summer room.

The applicant commented that he has considered the comments which he was given on the previous application and has removed the 1st floor elements of the building, lowered the ridge, replaced the dormer windows with one velux window and changed the external finish to waney boards. This facility would give the applicant the ability to work from home.

Parish Councillors noted that the proposal is still quite large, having a footprint of 3 times the existing garage. The increase in the height (approximately 1m) of the ridge from the existing garage was also a concern. It was suggested that if the summer room was removed from the proposal it might be looked upon more favourably.

It was agreed that Frilsham Parish Council **object** to this application. If WBC is minded to approve this application it was suggested that conditions should be applied to any permission, such that there is no sleeping accommodation in the building, there are restrictions on any external lighting and that during construction any contractor's vehicles must be parked on site and not in the road.

9.2 **To review decisions of WBC and those made at appeal:**

9.2.1 16/02321/HOUSE – Homerstead House, Hawkridge Hill.

Erection of wall along front boundary (retrospective).

Frilsham Parish Council **objected** to this application which was **refused** by WBC. The applicant took the decision to appeal and the appeal has been **upheld**.

9.2.2 16/02795/FUL – The Pot Kiln.

Demolition of dilapidated open store, erection of four bedroom guest accommodation, erection of single storey rear extension to public house.

Frilsham Parish Council initially **objected** to this application due to parking concerns; a parking statement was submitted and changes made to the parking arrangements such that the Parish Council no longer had **no objection**. WBC has **approved** the application.

10. Report from West Berkshire District Councillors.

The Local Plan is currently with the Planning Inspector after public consultation. It is hoped that it will be adopted at the full WBC council meeting in May. As a result WBC will then be a plan led council.

Work has begun on the next Local Plan to go through to 2036. A request for sites has been issued.

The budget has resulted in an increase of 4.9%, the majority of this being on adult social care. Transformation funding has enabled extra funding for CAB; it is hoped that they may be able to combine some of their office space with WBC in order to reduce their costs.

Concerns were raised about drivers destroying the countryside by driving on the verges when they need to pass another vehicle. Comments were made about the poor signage on the lanes when approaching the Robin Hood roundabout from the A4 and heading for Oxford; District Councillors agreed to have a look next time they drove round the roundabout.

11. Frilsham Futures Implementation Group.

Mr. Lyon reported that the bins around the Clubroom are being emptied and whilst the service isn't perfect, for the time of year, it is acceptable.

2017/9

Signed:

Date:

12. Yattendon and Frilsham Sports and Social Trust.

Mr. Lyon asked whether Frilsham Parish Council wished him to continue as their representative on the Yattendon and Frilsham Sports and Social Trust. This was unanimously agreed.

13. Clerk's Report.

13.1 Annual Parish Meeting.

The Clerk reported that she had contacted West Berkshire Brewery, but not yet received a reply. An alternative suggestion was Tim Whale from Tutts Clump Cider. Cllr. Allum will co-ordinate refreshments.

The Clerk will produce fliers for councillors to distribute to each house in the parish.

13.2 Allocation of assets to be inspected (and cleaned).

Cllr. Benning agreed to inspect the defibrillator, the telephone box, the bus shelter and the noticeboard.

Cllrs. Kettlewell, Ward and Allum agreed to look at the bins around the Clubroom, the play equipment and the 7 benches at the site; some of these are likely to need a good scrub. Cllr. Ward will also inspect and clean the Millennium Bench in the Churchyard.

Cllr. Allum will inspect the grit bins. The horse chestnut tree which fell during storm Doris has distorted the grit bin opposite the church. Cllrs. Allum and Goodenough will look to see if the distortion can be rectified or if a new bin needs to be purchased.

Cllr. Barber will inspect and tidy the well and the immediate surroundings.

13.3 Website.

A meeting has been arranged for next Wednesday the 15th March to review progress with the community website. Meanwhile the site for the parish council continues.

13.4 Correspondence.

The following correspondence has been received:

- WBC request for representatives from Parish Council on the Governance and Ethics Committee and the associated Advisory Panel.
- Closure of the M4 between junctions 12 and 13 for bridge repair work and also the closure of the bridges under the M4 on Dark Lane and Ashampstead Road.
- District Council ward membership consultation.

14. Finance.

The finance report was unanimously approved.

15. Any Other Business.

15.1 Fallen Horse Chestnut Tree in the Church Yard.

The PCC has contacted their insurance company about the damage caused by the fallen tree. Some of the cast iron railings and the main gate have been damaged beyond repair and will need to be recast (the church is Grade II* listed). The original gate was cast at the foundry in Bucklebury 200 years ago.

15.2 Crime Figures.

It is noted that the crime figures for Frilsham in 2016 were much higher than for other neighbouring parishes; 44 for Frilsham verses 5 for Bucklebury.

2017/10

Signed:

Date:

15.3 Transport Posters.

Posters about transport services to Frilsham should be available shortly. The Clerk will put the information on the noticeboard when it arrives.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm.

Dates of future meetings:

Wednesday 12th April 2017 at 7.30pm (Planning)

Wednesday 10th May 2017 at 7.30pm (AGM of Frilsham PC)

Wednesday 17th May 2017 at 7.30pm (Annual Parish Meeting)

2017/11

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Date: