

# BURGHFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Infrastructure Committee Meeting

**Date:** Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2015 **Time:** 7.30pm

**Place:** Burghfield village hall committee room

**Present:** Mr P Lawrence Mr D Godwin  
Miss M Cresser Mr P Wilkins  
Dr R Longton Mr D Godding  
Mr R Hannington

**Attending:** Clerk to the Parish Council

**Apologies:** Ms A Trueman Mr C Greaves (Chair)  
Mr J Sayer

**1. To receive written requests for Disclosable Pecuniary Interest dispensations from members and verbal notification of any personal interests members present may have on any items on the agenda**

There were no items upon the agenda that necessitated a member to present a written request for dispensations of a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest.

**2. Minutes of the last meeting of the Committee**

The minutes of the last meeting of the Planning Committee held on 22 October and the draft minutes from the 12 November having been circulated, were confirmed a correct record and signed by the presiding Chairman.

**3. Matters Arising on the Minutes**

- i) A request has been forwarded to WBC for the removal of the vegetation along Reading Road to assist pedestrians in crossing the road near the guide dogs.
- ii) Comments regarding passenger transport within the district were forwarded for inclusion within the feasibility study

**4. Neighbourhood Plan**

- i) To receive a presentation from the Bramley NDP Group  
Unfortunately, Bramley Neighbourhood Plan Group were unable to attend the meeting. A request has been presented for their attendance in January.
- ii) To receive an update from members who attended the community led meeting exploring the criteria for the development of a NDP

Members present were updated following the attendance by Mr D Godwin and Mrs A Gallagher at the community led meeting exploring the criteria for the development of a NDP. Members resolved unanimously that following the presentation by Bramley NDP group, views regarding the potential production of a Neighbourhood Plan for Burghfield would be collated and presented at the parish council meeting in February for further consideration and discussion.

**5. Housing**

- i) To submit observations on Planning Applications currently before the Committee

<u>App. No:</u>	<u>Location and Proposal</u>
1. 15/03005/FUL	<b>Motorway Service Area, Westbound</b> Installation of 2 x Calor gas compounds (6x 4000 litres and 2 x 4000 litres), 1.8m high palisade fence, ancillary external works and three new off-loading floodlights.  <i>Parish Council</i> <b>No objection</b>
2. 15/02954/FULD	<b>67 Omers Rise</b> Demolition of dilapidated garages and erection of attached 2 bedroom dwelling adjacent to 67 Omers Rise with driveway and parking revisions  <i>Parish Council</i> <b>No objection</b>
3. 15/03093/HOUSE	<b>20 Field Close</b>

Single storey extension to rear elevation to replace existing conservatory

*Parish Council*  
4. 15/02970/FULD

**No objection**  
**23 Woodlands Ave**

Section 73A: Removal or variation of conditions 2 – plans, 4 – driveway, 5 – hard surface, 6 – enclosure, 7 – landscaping, 9 – cycle storage and 10 – refuse storage of approved application 12/00623/FULD. Erection of a new detached dwelling house to the front of the existing dwelling house and associated provision of hardstanding, enclosures and landscaping. Retention of existing dwelling house to the rear of the site, and the construction of associated access, hardstanding and enclosures.

*Parish Council*  
5. 15/03039/FUL

**No objection**  
**James Farm, James Lane, Grazeley Green**

Change of use to airgun shooting range. Build wooden covered gallery

*Parish Council*  
6. 15/02804/HOUSE

**Objection**  
**22 Wheeler Close**

Erection of new double garage and conversion of existing garage to a kitchen

*Parish Council*  
7. 15/03021/OOD

**Objection**  
**Out of District: Worton Grange, Imperial Way**

RBC: A Hybrid application seeking outline planning permission for the development of up to 175 new homes, including affordable housing (with all matters reserved apart from access), and full planning permission for the development of 12 commercial units in flexible use within Classes B1(c), B2 and B8, two car showrooms with MOT and servicing (Sui Generis), three retail warehouse units (Class A1), 120 bed hotel (Class C1), pub with restaurant facility (Class A4), coffee shop (Class A1), restaurant (Class A3), and bank (Class A2). New vehicular access from Basingstoke Road and Imperial Way. Bus stop facilities, hard and soft landscaping and other ancillary development (Summarised Description).

*Parish Council* **No objection**

ii) To receive and note any Planning Application Decisions received and deal with any other planning related matters

<b>PC Decision</b>	<b>Application no.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>WBC Decision</b>
<b>No Objection</b>	15/02616/NONMAT	The Willows, Burghfield Bridge	<b>APPROVED</b>
<b>No Objection</b>	15/01352/ADV	Land North of Pingewood Road South	<b>GRANTED</b>
<b>No Objection</b>	15/00978/FULD	40 Clayhill Road, Burghfield Common	<b>GRANTED</b>
<b>No objection</b>	15/02038/MINMAJ	Hérons Nest Landfill site, Station Road, Theale	<b>GRANTED RETROSPECTIVE</b>
<b>No Objection</b>	15/02043/MINMAJ	Hérons Nest Landfill site, Station Road, Theale	<b>GRANTED</b>
<b>No Objection</b>	15/02082/FULC	Reading Quarry, Berry's Lane, Burghfield	<b>GRANTED</b>
<b>Objection</b>	15/01956/FULMAJ	The Bantam, Omers Rise	<b>REFUSED</b>

iii) To consider any changes in Planning legislation and its impact upon Burghfield

Members present gave consideration to the information presented by WBC relating to the proposed sites for new homes having been unveiled. Consultation regarding the sites being proposed is underway until late December. The responses will be collated and submitted to the Secretary of State who will examine the plan and listen

to the views of all the parties concerned. A report is expected towards the end of 2016 where, if approved, it will be implemented. Dr R Longton is to collate the views of the committee and prepare a suitable response to the consultation for submission to WBC prior to the deadline.

*(Mr R Hannington declared a personal interest in relation to the sites)*

Members present gave consideration to the request presented by Dr R Longton for The Bantam public house to be registered as an "Asset of Community Value" with West Berks Council. Proposed by Dr R Longton to support an application from the "Friends of the Bantam" to be considered for submission to WBC by the full council in January, seconded by Mr D Godwin and **resolved** by a majority vote with one abstention.

## 6. Transport

- i) To consider any Highway or Road Safety improvements for implementation within the parish

No further items were identified for action.

- ii) To give consideration to any potential impact within Burghfield following the release of the WBC Budget Proposals for 2016/2017 relating to Highways Maintenance

Under the Highways Act 1980, WBC as the Highway Authority, has a duty to maintain its local road network which extends to 1280km. To achieve this, a budget of £2.875m is allocated to cover patching, drainage repairs, gully emptying, bridge maintenance, and winter gritting and highway emergencies. The proposals are to reduce the budget by 19% (£522,000). The impact in activities is likely to result in an increase in potholes, surface water due to reduced gully emptying and drainage repairs. Winter months will see a 10% reduction in the length of road being gritted and grit bins will no longer be provided or refilled.

Members present gave consideration to the budget proposal and the potential impact within the parish of Burghfield. Due to the previous history of Burghfield being prone to flooding concerns were raised with regard to a reduction in the emptying of road gullies. Members expressed concern regarding the reduction in road patching, particularly as there are no cycle ways within the parish. Bikes will therefore suffer significantly from a potential increase in pot holes, posing a huge safety risk and hazard. A reduction in the frequency and length of road gritting within the parish raised safety concerns, specifically in relation to problems for parishioner's passage to work. Comments are to be submitted to WBC highlighting the above points.

- iii) To give consideration to any potential impact within Burghfield following the release of the WBC Budget Proposals for 2016/2017 relating to Home to School Transport

WBC sets out the circumstances in which it will provide free transport to children and young people travelling to school or college. WBC spends £1.6m per year on transport to mainstream schools. The proposals reduce WBC's free transport provision for mainstream pupils to the statutory minimum. The four routes between Mortimer and the Willink School for 233 students would be removed, saving £123,500. Transport would be reorganised for the remaining 103 pupils eligible for free transport.

Members present gave consideration to the budget proposal and its impact within the parish of Burghfield recognising a safer walking route to school needed to be established as soon as possible.

- iv) To give consideration to any potential impact within Burghfield following the release of the WBC Budget Proposals for 2016/2017 relating to Traffic Management and Road Safety

WBC has a statutory duty to provide a Traffic Management and Road Safety Service. Proposals are presented to delete one Traffic Management Project Engineer from the team of six officers. A further reduction of £60,000 in the annual budget of £147,000 for maintaining traffic signs and road markings. The reduction in staff will reduce the capability of carrying out parking studies and traffic management investigations. The 40% reduction in the maintenance budget will mean only essential signs giving orders or warnings, and road markings will be replaced or refurbished.

Members present gave consideration to the budget proposal and its impact within the parish of Burghfield determining there would be minimal impact on Burghfield.

- v) To give consideration to any potential impact within Burghfield following the release of the WBC Budget Proposals for 2016/2017 relating to Public Transport

WBC currently provides around £1.4m each year in supporting local bus services and is seeking to reduce this by £320,000 next year. Route 75 between Newbury and Beech Hill is proposed to be withdrawn entirely during the next 12 months.

Members present reviewed the associated documentation, confirming the impact

within Burghfield to be minimal. However, a request for the service to be retained once a week instead of the current two is to be presented. Reiterated by Infra comm.

vi) To receive an update on the reporting of Speeding

The clerk provided a verbal update to members of current plans in place for improvements to the reporting of speeding traffic to the local authority. A trial is to be initiated with the results being published in due course. The success of the trial will determine whether the system will be implemented in the near future.

7. **Green issues**

i) To give consideration to any potential impact within Burghfield following the release of the WBC Budget Proposals for 2016/2017 relating to Rural Highways Grass

WBC propose that one cutting cycle from the rural verge cutting regime and so the number of cuts will reduce from three to two annually. This will save approximately £10,000 per annum. There will also be a reduction in Strimming and blowing after grass cutting and reduced small area cutting, e.g. around the base of signage and other highways structures.

Members present reviewed the documentation, giving due consideration to the impact within Burghfield. Concerns were raised regarding visibility and highway safety. Reassurance is to be sought that areas identified for action are addressed as soon as possible. Emphasis is to be placed on Burghfield being predominantly rural with a number of rural roads requiring maintenance to ensure both visibility and road safety are maintained.

ii) To give consideration to any green issues within the parish requiring action

No further items were identified requiring action.

8. **To give consideration to the request for the removal of the concrete bollards on the corner of Reading Road & Hollybush Lane**

Members gave consideration to a request received from WBC for the removal of the concrete bollards edging the public footway and land at the Old Recreation ground. Resolved unanimously by members present to grant permission for all the bollards to be removed by WBC. Proposed by Dr R Longton, seconded by Mr D Godwin with 4 votes in favour and one against the removal of the posts. **Resolved** by a majority vote to instruct WBC for their removal.

9. **Street Lighting update**

Members present gave consideration to increasing the number of street lights for upgrade this financial year due to additional monies available within the budget heading. Proposed by Mr D Godwin, seconded by Dr R Longton and **resolved** unanimously to increase the number of columns.

9. **To determine future agenda items for discussion**

10. **To receive items for information only**

**Conclusion:** The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 21.57pm

**Chairman:**