

COOKHAM PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of a Meeting of the Cookham Parish Council held in the
Community Room, Cookham Library, Tuesday 2nd April 2024, at 7.30pm

PRESENT: Cllr M. Howard (Chairman)
Cllrs C. Aisladie, L. Austin, N. Bedwell, T. Caen, J. Edwards, M-L. Kellaway,
R. Kellaway, J. Moore, B. Perry, H. Pleming, A-L. Regan and L. Tull.

Also Present: One member of the public was present.
No members of the press were present.

OPEN FORUM:

Cllr M-L Kellaway asked about the closure of the Zoo at Lower Mount Farm, which had been refused Planning Permission by the Planning Authority at RBWM.

A member of public raised: 1. A concern about the condition of the Cookham Village War Memorial, 2. Noted that new information had been added to pl/aps 23/02019 and 23/02022 for Cannondown Rd, including a new traffic report on behalf of the Developer, 3. The public's inability to adhere to Road Closure signs.

With reference to the War Memorial: The Clerk is waiting for a Condition Report and quote for works for the two parish War Memorials and the Tarry Stone seat from the Stonemason who worked on the Cookham Dean Memorial refurbishment project in 2015/16. Once that is received, Cllrs will consider the report and cost. Two further quotes will be. Council approval will be required before the work will be actioned.

Cllr J Moore left the meeting at 19.57 and returned at 20.01.

1. APOLOGIES:

Apologies were received from Cllrs E. Bune and M. Brar.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

None.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes of the Full Council meeting, held on 5th March 2024 were approved as a true record of the meeting, on the proposal of Cllr M-L Kellaway, seconded by Cllr T. Caen.

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 12th March 2024, were approved as a true record of the meeting, on the proposal of Cllr B. Perry, seconded by Cllr J. Moore.

The minutes of the Staffing Committee meeting held on 19th March 2024, were approved as a true record of the meeting, on the proposal of Cllr C. Aisladie, seconded by Cllr L. Austin.

The minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on 19th March 2024, were approved as a true record of the meeting, on the proposal of Cllr R. Kellaway, seconded by Cllr A-L Regan.

5. FINANCE:

i. To approve payments / receipts in March 2024:

The list of payments and receipts made in March 2024 were unanimously approved, subject to the following updates:

- Receipt of Interest on the Unity Bank accounts of £223.61,
- Receipt of Interest on the Nationwide Bank account of £1578.35,
- Receipt of a payment from the Cemetery Lodge Tenant for breach of Tenancy agreement (Decorating) £1056.00.

- Receipt of the first payment of the 2024/25 Precept of £79,893.00. The receipt of this Precept payment has been made into the wrong financial year.

ii. To approve the moves to/from Strategic Reserves:

The following moves to and from the Strategic Reserves were approved:

Moves from Strategic Reserves to the General Fund:

- Election Fees – £7,414 (May 2023 election).
- Alfred Major Maintenance – £7,000
- Neighbourhood Plan - £500
- Legal and Planning Consultant Fees - £7,000 (Cannondown representation)

Moves into existing Strategic Reserves:

- Cemetery Lodge - £4,000
- Chapel Maintenance - £2,500
- Salt bins – £400 (unspent budget).
- War Memorial Repair/Maintenance - £1,325 unspent budget.
- Tree Works – £2,100

With the addition of a new reserve:

- Sutton Road Allotment Orchard - £4,990

These changes would take a net minus of £6,599 from the Strategic Reserve fund, taking it to a provisional sum of £65,870. The Strategic Reserve fund can be seen on Minute Page 3242.

iii. To approve the move of retained allotment deposits to the general fund:

The transfer of £150 (6 x £25) from Allotment Deposits back to the General Fund was unanimously approved. This relates to deposits that will not be refunded due to plots being left in a poor state.

6. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM CLLR B. PERRY REGARDING THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN AND THE REGULATION 14 CONSULTATION:

At its meeting on 6.2.24, Council approved the draft Plan as it stood and authorised progress to Regulation 14 consultation. It also authorised appropriate ancillary expenditure, the holding of meetings etc., and empowered Cllrs Perry and Howard and the Clerk “to undertake and commission whatever other work and liaison is required for these purposes, including but not limited to instruction of Troy Planning + Design and N. Milner as appropriate”. We have continued since the report to Council of 5.3.24 to implement that authorisation.

Accordingly, since then decisions and developments needing report and/or approval are as follows:

1. The Council’s website has been updated in respect of the Regulation 14 consultation. The flyer has been distributed. The banners have been updated and set up. The latest advert for the Parish Magazine advertises the consultation and the meetings; it will appear in hard copy in April but has already been put on the Parish Magazine website. The first ‘open/drop in meeting’ took place on Tuesday 2nd April: Cllr M Howard, Mr D Scarff, Mr L Ahlgren, Mrs N Milner, Mr R Campin, Cllr R Kellaway and I saw 29 people.
2. As envisaged in paragraph 13 of my last report, Cllrs Perry and Howard and Mr D Scarff met with Mr J Herbert (Troy Planning + Design) 15.3.24 (virtually) to discuss the draft policies on agricultural and equine buildings once they are no longer required for those purposes, in view of RBWM’s reported concerns. The four then met (also virtually) RBWM. While our discussion with them was not conclusive, it seems that RBWM are not in principle opposed to our drafting and after our explanations appreciated our reasoning. It was agreed that we would prepare briefing notes, explaining the background and reasoning behind the agricultural and equine wording, to accompany the draft Plan for the Examiner, which RBWM felt would strengthen our position.
3. As envisaged in paragraph 14 of the last report, the WP has decided that designating the Paddock of Holy Trinity Church as Local Green Space is important, so though perhaps not strictly in accordance with

the WP's normal policy it has now been included as a LGS in the Regulation 14 consultation draft (and its owners are being contacted accordingly).

4. As envisaged in paragraph 15 of the last report, Cllr Perry attended the AGM of Westwood Green Ltd., the company which owns the green space at Westwood Green, and is itself owned by the residents of Westwood Green. Certain residents have been vocally opposed to its proposed LGS designation. The Committee gave him this opportunity to explain matters. It is understood that the small piece of grass at the south end is owned by RBWM. RBWM is therefore being contacted about the proposal.
5. As stated before, once comments from the consultation have been received and collated, the WP will consider them and make recommendations to the Council as before.
6. At the time of writing this report, RBWM has still not produced the 'standard' maps. It has been chased again and has again promised them shortly.
7. As will be appreciated, some of the actions and decisions above involve cost. These costs were approved in principle by Council on 5 February and are hereby reported accordingly.

Approval was given of this report and the decisions made and/or actions taken or to be taken by and on behalf of the Working Party.

The Regulation 14 Consultation is currently underway, with an end date of 10th May. Pending results of this consultation and a review by the Planning Inspector, the next steps are a Borough wide, Regulation 16 consultation before moving on to the Referendum which will hopefully be by the end of 2024.

7. TO PRESENT THE COOKHAM PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 23/24:

Cllrs reviewed the latest version of the report. Subject to an article about the Skate Ramp, Cllrs were happy that it can be distributed.

8. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM CLLR H. PLEMING ON THE RECENT BERKSHIRE NATURE RECOVERY PLAN MEETING AND DISCUSS THE WIDER INITIATIVE:

Cllr Pleming had attended a meeting on 18th March and had provided a report. The meeting discussed Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) in Berkshire.

Developers are now required to deliver a 10% BNG increase on sites for development, if it cannot be delivered on site Developers can work with landowners to buy BNG credits.

Currently BNG only counts habitat creation, not increased wildlife. It is hoped this will change.

There is a concern from the farmers that land coming out of agricultural production will mean that we must import more food which impacts food security.

Following a discussion about ecology reporting for the parish, an item will be added to the next GP Cmte agenda for approval to investigate the implications of commissioning an Ecology report for Cookham Parish.

9. TO CONSIDER A RESPONSE TO THE AIR TRAFFIC CONSULTATION: NIGHT FLIGHT RESTRICTIONS: HEATHROW, GATWICK AND STANSTEAD AIRPORTS FROM OCTOBER 2025:

Cllr Howard introduced the item. As RBWM representative for Heathrow he has attended meetings and reviewed the consultation documentation. Cllrs were inclined to respond to the consultation. Cllr Howard to create a response and forward to Cllrs for approval. Once confirmed the Clerk will send on behalf of the Council. Consultation ends 22nd May 2024.

10. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM THE TRAFFIC WORKING PARTY:

The group met on 13th March and a report had been circulated with the agenda. They continue to liaise with Borough Cllrs, who are working on a number of issues across Cookham. Attention has been paid to:

1. Safety on Sutton Rd, looking into a school time 20mph limit.

1. Vehicle activated signs (VAS) – a proposal for council's approval for this project is being developed.
2. The possibility of a 20mph speed limit on the Station Hill area from the Pound to the Medical Centre – a proposal for council's approval for this project is being developed.

Cllr Howard added that a proposal for traffic safety measures, from The Highways Authority at RBWM, is expected for the area around Herries School.

11. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE PROGRESS OF THE CORPORATE PLAN:

The WP continue to work on the list of project suggestions and will come back at a future meeting with the next draft.

12. TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT NO FURTHER INFORMATION REGARDING PL/APS 23/02022 AND 23/02019 – CANNONDOWN RD HAS BEEN MADE AVAILABLE ON THE PLANNING AUTHORITY WEBSITE:

Since the production of the agenda, documents for both planning applications have been loaded on the Planning Authorities website. The Clerk is waiting for the formal notification of the re – consultation.

These applications will be discussed in more detail at the Planning Cmte meeting on 9th April.

Cllr A-L Regan left the meeting at 21.02 and returned at 21.06.

13. TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT NO PROPOSAL HAS BEEN RECEIVED FROM THE PINDER HALL COMMITTEE FOLLOWING THEIR REPRESENTATION IN OPEN FORUM AT THE MARCH FULL COUNCIL MEETING:

This was acknowledged.

14. OUTSIDE BODIES, BOROUGH CLLR AND CLERK'S REPORTS – REPORTS MUST BE SUBMITTED PLEASE NO LESS THAN 24 HOURS BEFORE MTG:

Cllr Brar/Cllr Howard	Borough Cllr Report: No report submitted.
Cllrs Regan and Aisladie	Marsh Meadow Management Committee (MMMC): Mtg 14 th March 2024, Minutes supplied.
Cllr Aisladie	Keep Cookham Tidy: Successful litter pick of Alfred Major recreation ground 17 th March.
Clerks report:	Reminder that Year End and Audits are underway. Recruitment: Advert in place, 42 responses so far. Assistant Clerk: Provisional return to work w/c 22/4. Spencer's Farm: Update provided to Cllrs by email 11/3/24 and noted in the Planning Cmte meetings of 12 th March. GWR Customer and Community Improvement Fund: No application was submitted as nothing complete had been received by the office.

15. TO REVIEW THE FULL COUNCIL ACTION LIST:

The list was reviewed, and brief updates were made: CIL Report: Although a response has been received from the CIL Team, the response is still not clear.

16. CHAIRMAN'S SUBMISSIONS:

The Chairman notified the meeting that an email has been received by agents for the Church Commissioners for England regarding their landholdings at Switchback Road and the opportunity to deliver housing.

The Agent for Marlow Film Studios have asked if The Paish Council would like a further meeting following changes in their planning application. The majority of Cllrs expressed an interest in hearing from them. The Clerk will invite them to a future council meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.