

UNAPPROVED

## COOKHAM PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Meeting of Cookham Parish Council Held in the Community Room on Tuesday 4th June 2024, at 7.30pm

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

**Also Present:** Ten members of the public.  
No members of the Press were present.

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#### **OPEN FORUM:**

Chris Doyle said that she and the other members of the public present were all worried about the proposals by Elegy and the Church Commissioners and hoped that the Council would consult with residents, land owners and businesses in Cookham and surrounding areas.

Justine Moody had undertaken a poll via the Parish Council noticeboard and received some 300 responses, 80% of which were opposed to the proposals.

1. **APOLOGIES:**

Apologies were received from Cllrs. E. Bune and T. Caen.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:**

Cllr. M. Brar - Items 18 and 19 below - as she was a member of the Borough Planning Committee.

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING OF 7<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2024**

This was deferred until the next Council meeting owing to the Clerk's leave of absence and difficulties completing the minutes.

4. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

4.1 Approval of the Minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting of 16<sup>th</sup> April were to be deferred until the next Council meeting owing to the Clerk's leave of absence and difficulties completing the minutes.

4.2 Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting of 14<sup>th</sup> May were proposed for approval by Cllr. Edwards and seconded by Cllr. Aisladie. They were approved and the decisions made ratified.

4.3 Minutes of the Finance Committee meeting of 21<sup>st</sup> May were proposed for approval by Cllr. R Kellaway and seconded by Cllr. Pleming. They were approved and decisions taken ratified.

4.4 The Chairman was keen to implement some changes relating to the procedure for dealing with minutes. In particular that the Council and each committee should approve its own minutes and that draft minutes of each Council and committee meeting should be circulated to all councillors within a week of each meeting where possible. Members were in favour of this as a good way forward. It was noted that the Planning Committee's terms of reference should be amended so that responses to planning applications approved at Planning Committee would bind the Council.

5. **FINANCE**

The list of payments and receipts for May circulated prior to the meeting were approved for payment on the proposal of Cllr. M. Brar, seconded by Cllr. R. Kellaway.

- 6. TO APPROVE THE INTERNAL AUDITOR'S REPORT ON THE ANNUAL GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN FOR THE YEAR 2023 TO 2024 (AGAR)**  
The Internal Auditor had remarked that in terms of materiality there was a nothing to report. On the recommendation of the Finance Committee at its meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> May, the Council unanimously approved the AGAR Annual Internal Auditor Report 2023/24 and the Internal Auditors Report and Assessment of Compliance. There were no further questions or comments.
- 7. TO APPROVE THE ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2023/24 (AGAR SECTION 1, PAGE 4) WITH REFERENCE TO THE ASSERTIONS 1- 9:**  
Further to the comments discussed and minuted at the Finance Committee meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> May, regarding the assertions 1-9, on the recommendation of the Finance Committee the Council unanimously approved the Annual Governance Statement, Section 1 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR).  
There were no further questions or comments.
- 8. TO CONSIDER THE RECOMMENDATION FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE AND APPROVE THE ACCOUNTING STATEMENT FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2023/24 (AGAR SECTION 2, PAGE 5):**  
Further to the comments discussed, and minuted, at the Finance Committee meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> May, on the recommendation of the Finance Committee the Council unanimously approved the Accounting Statement, Section 2 of the AGAR.  
There were no further questions or comments.
- 9. TO NOTE AND APPROVE THE PERIOD FOR THE EXERCISE OF PUBLIC RIGHTS**  
It was approved that the period should run from Monday 10<sup>th</sup> June to Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2024.
- 10. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN REGARDING THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN AND DECIDE FURTHER ACTION**  
The Chairman reported that the working party had met following the Regulation 14 consultation and reaffirmed everything in the Draft Plan with some clarification regarding 'green corridors' and certain minor other matters. The Plan had been amended to go back to the Borough subject to one issue relating to design codes and heritage issues. An application had been made for support and funding from ACOM on this issue and more should be known by next week on this. The Council unanimously approved this and the motion set out at the end of the Chairman's written report.
- 11. TO CONSIDER PLANNING APPLICATIONS 23/0202 AND 23/02019 CANNONDOWN ROAD**  
Cllr. Fleming reported that the Council had submitted objections but reserved the right to submit further comments if the applicants made further representations regarding off-site traffic flows. This was approved.
- 12. TO REVIEW AND APPROVE THE COUNCIL'S POLICIES ON SOCIAL MEDIA, COMPLAINTS AND THE PRESS**  
These were approved but Cllr. Bedwell was asked to review them and suggest amendments in due course.
- 13. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM THE TRAFFIC WORKING PARTY**  
Cllr. Regan reported that she, Cllr Brar and Cllr. Howard were working with the Borough:-  
13.1 and the school to improve the safety of the Sutton Road/ Mill Lane junction. The school had adopted a 'name and shame' policy which seemed to be having an effect on illegal parking by parents. They were considering double yellow lining across driveways in Sutton Road  
13.2 to consider problems at the junction by the entrance to Odney Lane/the High Street, especially since the Odney Club had blocked any entrance by Mill Lane.

13.3 to consider VAS 20mph flashing signs or installing permanent 20mph zones in areas such as Station Hill, Dean Lane, Cookham Dean Bottom, Whyteladies Road, and between Uncle Tom's Cabin and School Lane.

13.4 to consider issues at Hill Lane's junction with Dean Lane - but noted it would not be possible to supply power to any signs. It was also noted that no public authority could install a mirror

13.5 to consider issues in Dean Lane with speed and parking.

Cllr Fleming noted that the Police Commissioner's Letter had suggested the Council could apply for funding for traffic issues and also mentioned Speedwatch.

**14. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE PROGRESS OF THE CORPORATE PLAN**

Cllr. Regan asked for this to be deferred until the next meeting.

**15. TO CONSIDER WHETHER THE COUNCIL SHOULD RESPOND TO THE CYCLE RULES CONSULTATION**

It was noted that the Consultation had been emailed to Councillors on 18<sup>th</sup> May and the deadline for responses was 5<sup>th</sup> June. It was agreed to take no action.

**16. TO CONSIDER THE SAFETY OF ELECTRIC-POWERED MICROMOBILITY VEHICLES BILL**

It was agreed that the Chairman should write in support of this Bill.

**17. TO RECEIVE A REPORT ON THE MEETING WITH BOURNE END AND WOUBURN PARISH COUNCIL (BEWPC) ANNUAL PARISH MEETING AND CONSIDER FURTHER ACTION AND POSSIBLE FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION ON THE THAMES WATER QUALITY ISSUE**

Cllr. Tull attended this meeting. A presentation had been given by James Mortimer who wanted to hold Thames Water accountable for allowing so much sewage to enter the Thames as per old permits they held. He would welcome an opportunity to speak and request financial support for BEWPC from the Council. Cllr. Tull would continue to represent the Council at their meetings and invite Mr Mortimer to attend this Council's next meeting.

**18. TO CONSIDER THE RESPONSE TO ELEGY LIMITED ON THEIR PROPOSAL TO BUILD A CREMATORIUM ON LAND SOUTH OF LONG LANE**

Cllr. Brar left the meeting. Following debate it was agreed that there were overwhelming views opposing this proposal on many grounds. The Chairman and Cllr. Edwards were asked to agree on a letter of opposition to be sent to Elegy, the Leader of the Borough Council and the Head of the Borough Planning Committee setting out the Council's opposition formally.

It was further agreed to set up a working party led by Cllr. Regan to take such steps as they reasonably thought fit, with a budget of up to £200, to survey local opinion on this matter.

**19. TO CONSIDER THE RESPONSE TO THE CHURCH COMMISSIONERS ON THEIR PROPOSAL TO BUILD 220 HOMES ON GREEN BELT EAST OF SWITCHBACK ROAD**

The Chairman explained that this proposal emerged apparently as part of the Church Commissioners response to the draft Neighbourhood Plan, and consultation on it including in particular the Regulation 14 consultation stage. Their proposal was that the area needed more housing and they could build 220 houses with a park on the Cemetery Field. The Neighbourhood Plan working group had considered and rejected amending the Plan to include this proposal. It was agreed to respond to the proposal in a similar way to the Elegy proposal – namely that the Chairman should write to the Church Commissioners on behalf of the Council to object vigorously given the absolutely fundamental importance of the

Green Belt there. It was agreed that the proposal needed to be brought more into the public domain (although it was noted that too many consultations can overload many parishioners) and Cllr. Regan to include this in the remit for the new working party. Cllr. Brar returned to the meeting.

**20. TO AGREE THE FORMAT OF AND VOLUNTEERS FOR THE STAND FOR THE SCOUT FAYRE ON 15TH JUNE**

Cllr. Regan would set up the gazebo and prepare pictures for the Boards and information on the proposals from Elogy and the Church Commissioners as part of the consultation on them. She would liaise with Councillors after the meeting about volunteering to be on the Stall.

**21. OUTSIDE BODIES, BOROUGH CLLR AND CLERK'S REPORTS:**

21.1 Cllr. Howard noted that the Water and Flooding meeting he had attended with Thames Water and the Environment Agency had got railroaded and he felt they had got off the hook. He was trying to pursue a further meeting to clarify what they were planning.

21.2 He also reported that on the first reconciliation of RBWM's finances since 2021 a discrepancy of about £10 million had been discovered. The Council was seeking a loan from the Government against future funding; an alternative way of raising money would be a sale of assets.

21.3 He noted that the Arriva bus company was closing its local depots but following negotiations with RBWM the local routes would be covered by Carousel from 25<sup>th</sup> June and residents should not notice any change in routes or timetables.

21.4 Cllr. Bedwell reported that the Pinder Hall was low on funds. He would provide a further report at the next meeting with a request for help.

21.5 Cllr. Tull would attend the MMPA AGM and report back.

**22. TO DECIDE ON A RESPONSE TO THE LETTER FROM THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FROM MARCH 2024**

It was agreed to defer this until the next meeting.

**23. TO REVIEW THE FULL COUNCIL ACTION LIST:**

Cllr. Bedwell commented on the Sharepoint system; it was agreed to defer this item until the next meeting.

**24. CHAIRMAN'S SUBMISSIONS:**

It was noted that there had been feedback that the War Memorial looked lovely.

The Chairman noted that he would be calling an Extraordinary Meeting for next week in order to take steps to support the management of the Council's affairs.

**The meeting closed at 9.30pm**