

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Wednesday 3rd November 2021 at 7pm in
Wickham Village Hall**

Present: Cllrs David Hunt (DH, Chairman), Henry Burgoyne-Probyn (HBP), Martyne Ellard (ME), Sam Kynaston (SK) and Paul Stanley (PS).

In attendance: Jennie Currie, Parish Clerk; District Cllr James Cole; Chris Boulton, Greenham Trust; James Shipman, Berkshire & South Buckinghamshire Bat Group; 0 members of the public.

21/012 Greenham Trust

Chris Boulton, Chief Executive of Greenham Trust, gave a presentation on the history of the trust, their plans to mark their 25th anniversary and the online grant platform, The Good Exchange.

21/013 Public Forum

No items were received.

21/014 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from District Cllrs Dennis Benneyworth and Claire Rowles.

21/015 Declarations of Interest from Councillors

No declarations of interests were received.

***RESOLVED** that item 12 Marsh Common be brought forward on the agenda.*

21/016 Marsh Common

James Shipman, Berkshire & South Buckinghamshire Bat Group, introduced the voluntary work he does with the Bat Group and how he had identified seven different species of bats on Marsh Common. James donated a bat box for the Common, gave advice on purchasing and siting more boxes and would be happy to give talks and further advice regarding bats.

Members thanked Mr Shipman for his support and the bat box.

Cllr Ellard requested that Members consider planting a hedge along the southern side of the common adjacent to the residential properties. This would give more habit for the bats and provide screening for the residents.

RESOLVED to accept a gift of a bug hotel for Marsh Common from a resident.

***RESOLVED** that the meeting would continue with item 5 as published on the agenda.*

21/017 Minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 15th September 2021

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 15th September 2021 were signed as a true and accurate record.

21/018 Councillor Vacancy

Members noted that the Council had a vacancy which could be filled by co-option.

21/019 Reports

i. District Councillors' Reports

Cllr Cole provided an update on the District Council mobile speed cameras that could be used by Parish Councils. The Clerk would contact the Officer at the District Council and circulate the information. **Clerk**

ii. Councillors' Reports

Cllr Hunt advised that the bench near the phone box needed to be repaired. Cllr Stanley offered to inspect and advise the Council. **PS**

iii. Clerk's Report

The Clerk had no matters to report.

21/020 Planning Matters

i. Applications

Application 21/02529/COMIND Ownham Farm, Ownham

RESOLVED that no objections would be submitted for application 21/02529/COMIND.

ii. Decisions received

Members noted the following applications had been decided:

21/02041/HOUSE Abbottstone, Lambourn Road, Weston - GRANTED

21/02329/CERTP 117 Welford Road, Wickham - LAWFUL

21/01966/COND3 The Long Barn, Welford – APPROVED

District Councillor Cole left the meeting at 8.17pm

21/021 Public Rights of Way

i. Welford B4000 Footway

Members discussed creating a footway along the B4000 to join the public right of way WELF/7/2 with the footway on the southern side of the road which ends outside the residential property, Moselwood. Members requested that the Clerk obtains the landowner's details. **Clerk**

21/022 West Berkshire District Council consultations

i. Engagement Improvement Plan review

RESOLVED that Cllr Ellard be appointed the Parish Council's representative.

ii. Demand Responsive Transport project

RESOLVED that Cllr Kynaston be appointed the Parish Council's representative.

21/023 Depositing minutes and documents at the Berkshire Record Office

Cllr Ellard proposed that the minutes and documents would be deposited at the Berkshire Record Office, Cllr Kynaston seconded the proposal.

RESOLVED that the Council minutes from August 1996 to December 2020 inclusive; the telephone kiosk purchase agreement; and the agreement with Welford & Wickham Primary regarding the MUGA would be deposited at the Berkshire Record Office.

Cllr Hunt advised that former Council Chairman, James Puxley, may have minutes from before 1996. The Clerk would contact Mr Puxley. **Clerk**

21/024 Marsh Common (continued from item 21/016)

i. Installation of wildlife boxes

Cllr Ellard circulated a list of bat boxes to be purchased and advised that bird boxes should be positioned near each bat box. Cllr Stanley proposed using £328 of S106 funds to purchase the boxes, Cllr Ellard seconded the proposal.

RESOLVED that £328 of S106 funds would be used to purchase bat boxes for Marsh Common.

21/025 Finance

i. Replacing windows in the Wickham phone box

Cllr Stanley proposed that polycarbonate windows are installed to replace the opaque windows in the phone box. Cllr Burgoyne-Probyn seconded the proposal.

RESOLVED that £280 is spent to replace the opaque windows in the phone box.

Cllr Kynaston left the meeting.

ii. Quarter 2 bank reconciliation

Cllr Ellard proposed the Quarter 2 bank reconciliation with total bank balances of £17,289.14. Cllr Burgoyne-Probyn seconded the proposal.

RESOLVED that the Quarter 2 bank reconciliation be approved and signed by Cllr Stanley.

iii. Receipts & payment report

| Receipts | | | | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|---|---------------|------------|-----------------|
| Date | Item | Invoice # | | | Total |
| 09-Sep-21 | Interest | Lloyds | | | 0.03 |
| 28-Sep-21 | Precept Part 2 of 2 | WBDC | | | 4,000.00 |
| 11-Oct-21 | Interest | Lloyds | | | 0.04 |
| 25-Oct-21 | CIL - 20/00699/FULD | The Garage Block, Crossways, Hoe Benham | | | 2,796.60 |
| | | TOTAL | | | 6,796.67 |
| Payments | | | | | |
| Invoice Date | Name | Description | Chq No | Ref | Total |
| 15-Sep-21 | Wickham Hall | September hall hire | BACS | 12 | 20.00 |
| 08-May-21 | Wickham Hall | Defib electric for 2021-22 | BACS | 13 | 45.00 |
| 08-May-20 | Wickham Hall | Defib electric for 2020-21 | BACS | 14 | 45.00 |
| 08-May-19 | Wickham Hall | Defib electric for 2019-20 | BACS | 15 | 45.00 |
| 21-Sep-21 | Autela | Payroll Services Jul-Sept | BACS | 16 | 50.40 |
| 28-Oct-21 | HMRC | PAYE Month 7 October | BACS | 17 | 67.60 |
| 28-Oct-21 | J Currie | Salary Month 7 October | BACS | 18 | 270.60 |
| 28-Oct-21 | J Currie | Office allowance Month 7 October | BACS | 19 | 26.00 |
| 30-Sep-21 | GMG | Grass cut MUGA September | BACS | 20 | 50.00 |
| 08-Oct-21 | Newbury RBL | 3 wreaths | BACS | 21 | 51.00 |
| | | TOTAL | | | 670.60 |

Cllr Burgoyne-Probyn proposed the payments listed. Cllr Stanley seconded the proposal.

RESOLVED that the payments listed be approved.

iv. Budget report

RESOLVED that the report be approved.

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21/025 Finance continued

v. Draft budget for 2022-23

Members considered the draft budget. The matter would be discussed further at the January meeting.

21/026 Exclusion of press and public

i. Exclusion of press and public

Cllr Hunt proposed the exclusion of the press and public. Cllr Stanley seconded the proposal. **RESOLVED** that under Section 1, Paragraph 2 of The Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business because publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

ii. Review the actions taken following a negative report against the Parish Council which was made at a public meeting.

Members reviewed the available evidence and the requirements of reporting the matter to the Monitoring Officer. Cllr Hunt proposed that decision 21/011ii made on 15th September 2021 would be rescinded and the matter would be taken no further. Cllr Stanley seconded the proposal. All members were in favour of the proposal.

RESOLVED that the matter would not be referred to the Monitoring Officer.

Close of meeting

It was noted that the next meeting of the Council would be held at 7pm, on Wednesday 5th January 2022. There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.45pm.

Signed _____ Date _____