

BRIMPTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 6 June 2017

Present: Mr J Hicks (Chairman), MrP Bassil, MrC Brims, MrD Cowdery, MrsC Cowdery
MrR Smallwood, District Councillor MrD Boeck, the Clerk MrsB Harding and
65 members of the public

1 Apologies for Absence None

2 Declarations of Interest None

3 **WBC Minerals & Waste Local Plan**

Charles Brims opened the discussion by reviewing the previous application and reiterating the Parish Council's objections. Six new sites have now been put forward of which the two in Brimpton are Manor Farm (50 acres behind Stone House) and Boot Farm (75 acres near Brimpton Common). The anticipated number of lorry movements involved in the Manor Farm site are 48-58 per day and between 40-48 at Boot Farm, equating to a lorry movement every 8 minutes at Manor Farm and every 12 minutes at Boot Farm.

The current consultation closes on 30 June 2017 and CB urged the public to put objections to WBC on the dedicated website.

John Hartz, owner of Stone House, had scrutinised the WBC proposals and found them lacking in accuracy; he detailed the anticipated levels of gravel extraction from each site and endorsed the number of lorry movements given by CB. Mr Hartz instanced some of the other sites which were in more appropriate locations for lorry movements such as those in close proximity to the A4 and the A34 whereas the sites in Brimpton are alongside small country lanes and would entail the use of old, narrow bridges.

There is also a considerable environmental issue with both of these sites with implications for the wildlife, the flora and fauna and the historical locations within the village. Mr Hartz concluded by saying that these sites are ill-considered for this village and should be objected to. CPRE have already visited the Manor Farm site and will be objecting to the proposal. Mrs Catherine Hartz encouraged the parishioners to forward their objections to WBC.

Members of the public endorsed the unsuitability of Brimpton village roads for this level of movement by heavy goods vehicles, the potential danger to pedestrians as only one of the bridges has a dedicated pedestrian access and one of the identified site entrances is by a footpath. The route to the A4 has six bridges and all except one are narrow, old and on bends so there is subsequent risk of damage and accidents. Apart from the environmental and safety issues, Mr Bob Hope queried whether the gravel would be of the desired quality and volume as a previous survey had indicated that it would not.

District Councillor Dominic Boeck advised the meeting that WBC are in the final stages of adoption of the minerals plan and the point of the consultation is that they admit they do not know the local environment as much as the inhabitants, so local people should make their representations.

Mr Tim Malpas representing the Wasing Estate explained that no decisions have yet been made and they are going through the process of consultation; his presence at the meeting was to gauge the reaction of parishioners.

At the end of the discussions the councillors unanimously voted to strongly oppose this proposal and CB will formulate a response to WBC. The parishioners voted by a unanimous show of hands in favour of objecting to these proposals.

CB/BH

4 Minutes of the Previous Meetings

The minutes of the Parish council meeting of 2 May, the AGM of 2 May and the Annual Parish meeting of 2 May were all signed as true records of the meetings.

5 Matters Arising

The insurance cover had been checked and the Fidelity cover is considered adequate WBC will be asked to forward the new plans for the Blacknest Application. **BH**

Bus service – Matthew Metcalfe and Paul Hyde, WBC Fleet Manager will attend the July meeting.

6 The External Audit

The Councillors completed the Annual Governance statement and then approved the accounting statement for 2016/17. Notice of inspection will be placed on the website. **BH**

The Clerk explained that if the Council keep their income below £25,000 for 2017/18, an external audit will not be required and they can make use of the BALC facility as well as

carrying out the internal audit.

The Internal Auditor has inspected the accounts, the books and the procedures and found them satisfactory.

7 Appointment of Internal Auditors

Following the retirement of the Parish Council's internal auditor an audit has been carried out by the Ross Brookes partnership In order to ensure best value, the Parish Council agreed to ask BALC to supply the names of companies or individuals from whom competitive bids would be sought in future years.

8 Bus shelter

An order will be placed for a new bus shelter with Externiture and they will be responsible for all facets of the installation. Clerk to place order. **BH**

9 Brimpton Parish Research Association Funds

This association has now disbanded. The Parish council agreed to hold the balance of funds and to administer them in accordance with the wishes of BPRA. There are copies of The Brimpton Story still available and these will be sold with proceeds being held by the Parish Council.

10 Brimpton Common By-way fund

The balance of this fund now stands at £259 and this will be held by the Parish council but ring-fenced for future use by the Brimpton Common By-way fund.

11 District Councillor's Report

DB explained that he is currently involved in the election campaign but also reported that as part of a new initiative, WBC will spend £50 million on commercial property which is currently considered to be a good investment opportunity with a projected yield of 6%; they are also considering the purchase of care homes. The project will be managed by an investment board and following an enquiry from CB, it was confirmed that Greenham Common Trust have been consulted.

12 Clerk's Report

Financial statement	c/a £24868.79	(includes £9000 precept&£408.81 VAT refund)	
	d/a£11763.99		
Bills to be paid	£1567,20	Harry Stebbing Workshop (noticeboards)	
Correspondence	Thank you letter from Brimpton School		
Planning:-			
New	none		
Current	16/02916	Blacknest Farm	new houses
Decisions	1700612	Wasing Cottage	granted
	17/00649	Kiln Cottage	refused

13 WBC Housing Site Allocations Development Plan

JH advised that there are no specific sites listed for Brimpton but that the Parish is included in the list of areas to which Chapter 4 Housing in the Countryside will apply. Details are available at www.westberks.gov.uk/hsa

14 Installation of high speed broadband

RS explained that the recent installation of the green box in the centre of the village had put the box in the wrong situation. A letter of complaint will be sent to the chairman of WBC, Nick Carter with a copy to Gary Lugg and Dominic Boeck asking for the box to be moved.

RS/BH

15 Village Hall Committee

One of the regular weekly bookings has been lost which entails a loss of £260 per month. The floor will be taken up at the end of July with the new floor being put in place in August. A Beetle Drive will take place on 29 July

16 Any Other Business

JH announced that Brimpton School had been inspected by the Church of England team and declared outstanding so should be congratulated.

DC and MC had both attended the BALC Planning course and reported the growing importance and significance of the Neighbourhood Plan and that the new CIL payment has proven difficult to administer and will revert to the previous S106 structure.

Meeting closed at 9.28

Next meeting will be held on 4 July