

MINUTES OF ENGLEFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 24th September 2019 at The Englefield Estate Office

Present:

Cllr E. Crookes (Chairman)

Cllr R. Smith

Cllr M. Postles

Also present: Two members of the public

1. Welcome all present
2. Apologies received and accepted from Cllr S. Strang, Cllr N. Wynne Jones, N. Rands (Clerk) and Cllr R. McKinnon
3. There were no declarations of interest.
4. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 19th June 2019 were approved and signed as a true record
5. **Public participation** – the following points were raised by members of the public in attendance
 - a) The Parish Council was thanked for arranging for others to cut back the vegetation at the North Street junction with the A340.
 - b) Concerns we expressed about some lorries seeking to access the primary school construction site from the northern end of North Street from the A340. Three lorries had done so on Friday 20th September. The matter will again be raised with WBDC.
 - c) There had been very heavy rain on the day of the meeting. Concern was expressed about flooding and large puddles along parts of North Street. With a view to taking matters up with WBDC, if required, the Parish Council will check whether this is due to blocked gullies needing clearing or there being no gullies at all. It was noted that installing gullies may be very difficult given the levels involved.

Action – Cllr E. Crookes to review and raise with relevant parties.

6. Financial Update

The Council noted the review of expenditure versus budget with the year-end forecast which had kindly been prepared by the Clerk.

7. Planning Applications

It was noted that following planning applications have been responded to since the last meeting of the Council

i. 19/01722/COMIND

Land at junction of Wigmore Lane with Bath Road

Variation of condition to approved plans in relation to the new fire station

No comment provided

- ii. **19/01743/FUL**
Englefield Primary School
Replacement of wooden barge boards and soffits with uPVC
No comment provided
Application approved
- iii. **19/01648/CON**
Englefield Social Club
Demolition of the modern extensions to the original Victorian Reading Room
No objection
Application approved

8. Payments for Approval

The Council approved the following items for payment

- i. HMRC – Council Administration Income Tax Q2 2019/20
£58.20
- ii. Autela Group Ltd – Council Payroll Admin Q2 2019/20
£47.08

9. Payments Made

The Council noted that the following payments had been made since the last meeting of the Council

- i. Council Administration Salary July 2019
£116.69
- ii. Council Administration Salary August 2019
£116.49
- iii. Town & Parish Council Websites – Hosting and Maintenance 2019/20
£120.00

10. North Street Traffic

The Council discussed the outcome of WBDC's recently completed traffic survey in North Street and its update upon speed limits on Englefield Road relating to the new primary school.

With regards to speed limits on Englefield Road WBDC has advertised the extension of the 30-mph limit on Englefield Road for the school development. As part of this, the signs at the junction the 30mph limit will extend 30 metres into North Street off Englefield Road but no further North Street itself.

With regards to speeding within North Street WBDC had undertaken a speed survey in North street which recorded an average speed of just under 10 mph, and 85th percentile of 14 mph and the highest speed recorded was 15 mph. WBDC's conclusion is that there is not a speeding problem through North Street. The survey was conducted over a week from 7th August.

With regards to large vehicles using North Street in the survey week WBDC report that a total of three vehicles were recorded that were long enough to be articulated. There were others that were probably over 7.5 tonnes. This suggests that there is not a significant issue,

given that some of the vehicles may have legitimate reasons for using the road such as bin lorries, home deliveries and the like.

However, WBDC is in the process of drafting a 7.5 tonne weight limit order to clarify the limits in Theale and propose to include North Street in that process. The proposed limit would start just to the south of the access road to Malpas farm so that any vehicle going there would have to access from the north side of North Street. The Golf Club access will be within the weight limit zone but the order will state access into the zone has to be by the shortest possible route within it, so their access would have to be from the A340 via Englefield Road.

WBDC hopes that this will address local residents' concerns about lorries but point out that it will only be as effective as the amount of enforcement that can be applied to it.

The Council welcomed the proposed weight limit but discussed its extent. It was resolved that the Parish Council will ask WBDC to consider extending the 7.5t limit to the junction of North Street and the A340 with a "repeater" weight limit sign south of the access road to Malpas Farm too. This might prevent traffic accidentally entering North Street from the A340 and only realising there was a weight limit once they were committed and unable or reluctant to turn around.

Action – Cllr E. Crookes to raise with WBDC.

11. Bostock Lane Traffic Management Proposal

The Council discussed traffic management proposal which has been put forward for Bostock Lane and Common Hill by a local resident due to safety concerns at Parkers Corner. This involved creating a new junction layout with a "give way" on Common Hill, before Parkers Corner for traffic travelling from the A340 and making Bostock Lane one way, with all traffic coming from Bradfield using Bostock Lane to reach the A4 with a left turn only onto the A4.

In the light of the Parish Council's fairly recent attempts to secure a lower speed limit and WBDC having undertaken some road marking and signage works it was felt that such a significant proposal is unlikely to find favour with WBDC. However, it was resolved that the Parish Council will ask WBDC to supply up to date accident statistics for that area, to undertake a speed survey and arrange some speed enforcement.

Action – Cllr E. Crookes to review and raise with WBDC.

12. VE Day 2020 Commemoration

The Council discussed participation in VE Day 2020 commemoration. The principle of holding a "bring and share" afternoon tea on Friday 8th May with a sing along will be explored.

Action – Cllr E. Crookes to prepare outline plan for further discussion with Council, other local organisations and volunteers.

13. Date of Next Meeting

Suggested dates for the next meeting will be circulated.