

MINUTES OF ENGLEFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held remotely on Wednesday 13th January 2021

Present:

Cllr E. Crookes
Cllr M. Postles
Cllr R. Smith
Cllr N. Wynne Jones
Cllr L. Dennison

In attendance:

N. Rands (Clerk)

No members of the public present

1. No apologies received

2. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Crookes declared an interest agenda points 11, 13, 14 and 16; and confirmed that he would be providing information in his capacity as Director of The Englefield Estate.

3. Minutes

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 8th October 2020 were approved as a true record

4. Public Participation

No submissions were made by members of the public

5. Meeting Format

The Council confirmed that the existing arrangements for remote meetings would continue due to the ongoing Covid-19 restrictions.

6. Financial Update

The Clerk provided an overview of receipts and payments for the financial year to date, and a forecast to the end of the financial year was noted.

7. 2021/22 Budget & Precept

- a) Proposed budget for 2021/22 tabled
- b) Recommendation that precept remains the same as financial year 2020/21 at £3,650

Outcome –

- a) Budget approved
- b) Precept of £3,650 approved by Council

8. Dog Waste Bin(s)

The Council approved the following steps:

- i. Appointment of the recommended alternative waste contractor in the current financial year
- ii. Purchase of a larger 60L dog waste bin to be situated in the current bin location on The Street to be budgeted for and purchased in FY2021/22
- iii. Relocation of the existing bin to North Street – location to be agreed, but recommendation that it is situated adjacent to the new fencing at the exit of the ENG8/1 footpath on North Street

9. Payments for Approval

The Council approved the following items for payment:

- i. West Berkshire Library Service financial contribution
£200

10. Payments Made

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

- i. Autela Payroll Services – Payroll July – October 2020
£71.52
- ii. Council Administration Salary & WFH Allowance – November 2020 + tax rebate
£324.96
- iii. Council Administration Salary & WFH Allowance – December 2020
£89.52

11. Englefield Village Hall

An update was provided by Cllr Crookes on progress of the establishment of the Englefield Community Venue. Key points noted were:

- Building work is now complete
- Work is still to be undertaken to establish the garden and planting
- A Working Group is in place and an initial meeting has been held
- An application has been submitted to establish the Englefield Village Hall Charitable Incorporated Organisation, this is being processed by the Charity Commission but may take some time
- A lease agreement is in the process of being drawn up
- Work is in progress to define the priorities to enable a small-scale “soft opening” by the Estate for use by some group for low-key community subject to Covid restrictions.

12. Traffic at The Street junction with the A340

The Council discussed whether any action could be taken or requested in relation to traffic on the A340, more specifically at the junction with The Street, to improve visibility at the junction with The Street or reduce vehicle speed.

It was noted that it is a difficult location for speed checks to be conducted due to narrow nature of the road.

Actions:

- a) Provide a summary of the criteria used to determine the suitability for traffic lights – Cllr Smith
- b) Determine who has responsibility for reinstating the gate to Footpath 7/1 on A340 – Cllr Crookes

13. Consultation regarding Deadman’s Lane, Theale

The Council noted that there would be a forthcoming consultation on proposed changes to road layouts and new infrastructure to encourage active travel

14. West Berkshire Council Local Plan Review to 2037

The Council noted the following key points in relation to the consultation:

There are no specific development allocations relating to Englefield, although some policies apply to Englefield

Two sites in Theale are being put forward as suitable for housing development:

- Whitehart Meadow – approximately 100 dwellings
- Former Theale Sewage Treatment Works (off Blossom Lane)

The Council agreed to submit a response to the consultation in line with the previous response to the planning application that was submitted for Former Theale Sewage Treatment Works, Theale (Site Ref THE7) in 2016.

Action:

Locate previous response to planning application for Former Theale Sewage Treatment Works, Theale (Site Ref THE7) – Cllr Crookes

15. Public Consultation regarding Joint Health and Wellbeing strategy for Berkshire West

The Council agreed that no collective response would be submitted in response to the consultation

16. Consultation on the Proposed Submission Minerals and Waste Local Plan (MWLP)

The Council agreed that no collective response would be submitted in response to the consultation

Next meeting date: **Wednesday 17th March 2021**

Chairman: Date: