

MINUTES OF ENGLEFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at Englefield Village Hall on Tuesday 17th October 2023

Present:

Cllr E. Crookes
Cllr R. Smith
L. Dennison
Cllr P. Myles

In attendance:

N. Rands (Clerk)

No members of the public were present

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Ross Mackinnon

2. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Crookes declared an interest in agenda items 10 and 12, relating to the padel tennis court and telephone box

3. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of this Council held on 27th June 2023 were approved as a true record

4. Open forum for members of the public

No members of the public present

5. Financial Update

- i. The Clerk provided an overview of expenditure versus budget for year to date. There were no significant variances from the budget.
- ii. Councillors were asked to consider potential discretionary items for inclusion in the 2024/25 budget. It was noted that budget may be required for the D-Day 80th anniversary commemoration.

6. Payments for Approval

The Council approved the following items for payment:

- i. Council Administration Salary & WFH Allowance October 2023
£167.31
- ii. Autela Payroll Services – Payroll services Q2 2023/24 & Pension Regulator Declaration
£71.81
- iii. HMRC – Council Administration Income Tax Q2 2023/24
£113.00

7. Payments Made

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

- i. Englefield Village Hall – Hall hire 27th June 2023
£30.00
- ii. Council Administration Salary & WFH Allowance July 2023
£167.31
- iii. Triangle Management – Dog Bin Maintenance July-September 2023
£63.18
- iv. Council Administration Salary & WFH Allowance August 2023
£167.11
- v. Council Administration Salary & WFH Allowance September 2023
£167.31
- vi. Benyon Trust – Coronation community event costs
£304.82
- vii. Parish Council Websites – Website hosting & maintenance October 2023 – October 2024
£175.00

8. Planning

The Council noted that the following decisions have been received since the last meeting of the Council:

- i. 23/01359/COND - The Workshop, Englefield Estate Yard, The Street, Englefield
Approved
Approval of Details Reserved by Condition 3 (Unforeseen Contaminated Land) of planning permission 20/01425/COMIND.
- ii. 23/01245/COND - Malpas Farm, North Street, Theale, Reading
Approved
Application for Approval of Details Reserved by Conditions 3 (Sample of materials), 8 (Arboricultural supervision condition) and 9 (Electric vehicle charging points) of planning permission 21/02925/FULD.
- iii. 23/01346/COND - The Workshop, Englefield Estate Yard, The Street, Englefield
Approved
Application for Approval of Details Reserved by Condition 3 (Windows) of planning permission 23/00606/LBC - Amend the windows on the rear elevation of the Sawmill Building.
- iv. 23/01534/COND - Malpas Farm, North Street, Theale, Reading
Approved
Application for approval of details reserved by condition 13 (SuDs) of approved 21/02925/FULD.
- v. 23/01041/FUL - Barn, Wickcroft Farm, Pangbourne Road, Theale Reading RG7 5EA
Granted
Section 73a Variation of Condition 2 (Plans) of approved application 19/02868/FUL.
- vi. 23/01956/COND - The Workshop, Englefield Estate Yard, The Street, Englefield
Approved
Application for approval of details reserved by condition 20 (Spoil) of approved 20/01425/COMIND.
- vii. 23/01856/COND - Malpas Farm, North Street, Theale, Reading

Approved

Application for Approval of Details Reserved by Conditions 14 (Construction Environmental Management Plan) and 15 (Biodiversity measures) of planning permission 21/02925/FULD.

viii. 23/01721/COND - The Workshop, Englefield Estate Yard, The Street, Englefield

Approved

Application for approval of details reserved by condition 27 (External lighting) of approved 20/01425/COMIND.

9. Traffic & Parking Concerns

The concerns raised were discussed and actions agreed where appropriate:

- Cars parking between Englefield Garden Centre and at the top of The Street – potentially impeding emergency vehicle access.

The Council noted the very small risk and the fact that the Council are not aware of any previous incidents. It was also noted that there aren't any feasible parking measures that could be implemented to further reduce the risk.

- Speed of cars travelling along The Street.

The Council noted the results of the SID speed tests which were conducted in 2015.

Actions:

- Report concerns to West Berkshire Council using the online form – Clerk
- Include a reminder that '20 is plenty' in the next Parish News – Clerk
- Difficulties crossing, or pulling onto, the A340 at the junctions with The Street and North Street due to speed and volume of traffic, and lack of visibility.

The Council noted the concerns, particularly in relation to the safety of children within the parish travelling to and from school.

Actions:

- Report concerns to West Berkshire Council and request a repeat gap analysis to review the suitability to cross the road – Clerk

10. Padel Tennis Courts – North Street

The Council noted the concerns raised relating to potential commercial use of the Padel Tennis Court at North Street Farm.

The Council agreed that no action is required currently, pending the outcome of demand testing currently taking place. Cllr Crookes did not take part in the Council's decision.

11. Councillor Email Addresses

Options for providing dedicated email addresses for Councillors were discussed. The cost of providing emails using a dedicated domain were noted as high proportionate to the volume of emails, and the Council agreed to keep under review.

12. Phone Box Book Exchange

The steps required to convert the phone box located at the Village Hall into a book exchange were discussed.

Cllr Crookes confirmed that the Estate would agree in principle, but would require a proposal with more detail relating to how the book exchange would work.

It was agreed that further investigation is required to gauge interest.

13. Date of Next Meetings

The dates of meetings for the first quarter of 2024 were confirmed as:

Tuesday 9th January 6.30p.m.

Tuesday 19th March 6.30p.m.