

Notes from Beenham Parish Council Meeting Monday June 3rd

Public Forum

A Parishioner raised concerns about the grass verges being overgrown on the junction of the Bath Road and Beenham, and other junctions, which have created dangerous limitations of visibility when joining traffic. The parishioner had contacted WBC who said they are only cutting the grass once per year now.

The same Parishioner raised further concerns about lack of advance warnings, diversions and signage for road closures, which result in potential traffic problems on minor roads.

It was agreed to discuss these further later in the agenda.

Councillor Reports

Graham Bowsher reported that he would follow up on the quote for Christmas tree manhole cover.

Fire curtain for the Community Room update. Alex Cother was absent from the meeting and will update at the next meeting.

SIM card/router for Community Room wifi. Alex Cother to update at the next meeting.

The CCB (Connecting Communities in Berkshire) initiative for possible affordable housing in Beenham was discussed. The Parish Council feels there may be a need for such housing for Beenham residents and those with connections to the village. At this stage, it was agreed to initiate, as an information gathering exercise, a proposed survey of parishioners in order to establish what those possible needs may be.

Planning matters

24/00785/FUL Peartree Copse, Webbs Lane, Beenham. A variation to conditions for this approved application is being sought for clay lining to the approved ponds. This would entail the delivery of clay by 175 lorries (350 total movements to and from the site) along Webbs Lane from Beenham Hill. The Parish Council decided to strongly object on the basis of traffic and personal safety, and would have done at the time of the planning application if this had been known at that time.

Parish Councillors

The issues of overgrown grass verges and lack of road closure advanced warning etc, as raised in the Public Forum, were further discussed. The Parish Council will contact WBC on both issues, expressing their concerns about safety. Although it was noted that WBC has decided to only cut the grass once per year, this is a matter of road safety and, at the very least, the currently dangerous verges in the vicinity of junctions should be cut to allow an uninterrupted view of approaching traffic.

Parish Council Assets.

Rospa has provided a report on the condition and safety of the childrens play area on the Recreation Ground. The Parish Council will obtain quotations to rectify the issues raised. Rospa also asked that the rope swing attached to the tree by the childrens play area be removed due to safety. This swing was not erected by the Council, nor has permission been sought for its construction. As Rospa reported that it is unsafe, it will be removed.

The next meeting will be held on Monday 1st July at 7.00pm in the Community Room.

Full details of the Councillors (including email addresses) are on the website at beenham-pc.gov.uk/councillors/ .

Your Parish Councillors are:

Graham Bowsher (Chairman) Tel. 07557967575

Peter McEwen Tel: 077177 18608

Graham Bragg Tel: 0118 9713688

Dieter Hinke Tel: 07488 258374

Alex Cother Tel: 07764 637190

Peter Hamblin Tel: 0118 9712959

David Hancock Tel: 07471 148256

District Councillor; Dominic Boeck Dominic.Boeck@westberks.gov.uk

All correspondence to the council should be addressed to the Parish Clerk.

Parish Clerk: Lauren West Tel: 07919 916125 Email: clerk@beenham-pc.gov.uk

CR Bookings: Paula Read Tel: 07793116937

Email: info@beenhampreschool.org

Parish Council website: www.beenham-pc.gov.uk

Beenham Community Website: <https://www.beenhamonline.org/>