

REMENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the virtual meeting held on-line on 12th April 2021 starting at 5:32pm and finishing at 7:00pm (circulated 14th April 2021)

ON-LINE: Cllrs John Halsall (JH; Chairman)
Franky Cookson (FC)
Chris Leeming (CL)
John Merkel (JM)
Darrel Poulos (DP)
Bill Ronald (BR)
Nigel Williams (NW)
The Clerk: Paul Sermon (TC)

Those in attendance included: Simon Price (SP; WBC), George Constantinidi (GC), Linda Ashwell (LA)

033/21: WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed Simon Price from WBC who outlined his role of liaising with communities.

034/21: APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

035/21: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

JH declared an interest in the UTRC licence application.

036/21: MINUTES OF THE MEETING

It was AGREED that the Chairman be authorised to sign the minutes of the meeting held on 8th March 2021 as a true record of that meeting.

037/21: MATTERS ARISING & ACTION LIST

The actions taken in the last month by The Chair and The Clerk were considered.

038/21: PLANNING

Consideration was given 210744/210130 (Leander) requesting a change in one WBC condition relating to lighting. JM suggested that RPC should resist a request for high level lighting in this dark rural conservation area. FC and CL supported this view. This was in line with WBC advice that high level lighting on the decking would adversely impact on the visual appearance of Remenham from the opposite side of the river.

GC asked whether RPC had a strategy for the steadily increasing numbers of applications for certificates of lawful use for developments along the Wargrave Road. On 210730 (Herons Cabin) there was concern about the size of the proposed sewage/black water system and whether the change might accelerate change of the site from a leisure use to a permanent dwelling. The % increase proposed for Secundus (211004) was felt to be too large.

There was discussion on the change of the Wargrave Road from an open area of Green Belt into a corridor with high wooden fencing. On Woodlands House (210689) it was felt that the proposed 2m high impenetrable wooden fence negatively impacted on the openness of the Green Belt. It was AGREED that the advice of Pegasus should be sought and brought back to RPC by The Clerk for approval.

The Clerk reported that a new entrance had appeared on Remenham Church Lane to Whitehill Farm.

039/21: CIL PROJECTS AND LOCAL PLAN

SP explained how he hoped to facilitate RPC's CIL projects. He said he would facilitate a virtual meeting between WBC Highways and interested RPC Cllrs

on 27th April or in May. The Clerk made a note of interested Cllrs. BR mentioned that Ferry Lane in Aston would be under pressure in May at times of Bank Holidays. DP said that emergency vehicles could not be certain to travel down the lane if needed. JH suggested that a committee of Cllrs should meet with WBC possibly on 27th April and then report back to RPC on the projects.

040/21: COMMUNITY ASSET LIST

The Clerk provided information supplied by Mark Tomkinson (Community Engagement Officer for WBC; communityengagement@wokingham.gov.uk) on the community asset list.

041/21: WEBSITE

March website statistics were summarised by FC.

042/21: LICENSING

Two licence applications were considered: UTRC and Henley Festival.

On the application from UTRC, it was appreciated that that a similar operation had run in 2020 near Hambleden Lock using a 2-storey facility built of shipping containers. There was a discussion that noted this would be attractive to walkers and river users, but that an adjacent site of special scientific interest (SSSI) where the Loddon lily grows might be negatively impacted. It was felt that UTRC would need to be responsible for the meeting of any WBC licence conditions if the licence was granted. The Clerk said he would visit the site that evening and report to Cllrs.

On the licence application from Henley Festival for 8000 attendees, JH said RPC should object to any proposal to divert footpaths during the planned event.

043/21: FOOTPATHS, TRAFFIC & HIGHWAYS

JH suggested that RPC should take the initiative to remove rubbish from footpaths. In the discussion that followed, LA thought that scouts/guides might be invited to be involved.

An email from Michael Dudley had raised the issue of changes to parking bays in Remenham Lane. JH brought the meeting up to date on the situation and said signs indicating 2h limits of use would soon be in place. It was AGREED that RPC would review the situation in September 2021 (e.g. whether the second bay should be re-introduced and where).

LA raised the issue of signage near Culham Lane. An email from Huw Morgan had raised the issue of the junctions of Aston Lane, Remenham Lane and Ferry Lane, where he thought there had been several near accidents between cyclists and motorists. JH suggested that these were considered at the virtual meeting mentioned in 039/21 with a recommendation coming back to RPC at its next meeting.

044/21: FINANCIAL MATTERS

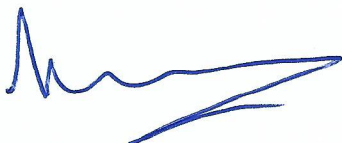
The Clerk provided a statement of transactions covering the period March 2020-March 2021 on RPC's current account. These were approved. The Clerk mentioned the situation on SSE electricity for 3 streetlights, where SSE might be trying to raise the price from £220/year to £1200/year. JH wondered, if this was the case, whether such streetlights were required.

045/21: ANY OTHER MATTERS

CL asked about requests to increase the width of the towpath at pinch-points. JH said he thought the Environment Agency were going to take action on bank repairs near Temple Island.

DATE OF NEXT FACE-TO-FACE OR VIRTUAL MEETING 10th May 2021 at 8:00pm (face-to-face) or 5:30pm (virtual).

ACTIONS:



The Chairman will:

consider an RPC initiative to remove rubbish from footpaths.

The Clerk will:

seek Pegasus advice on 210744/210130 (Leander),
210730 (Herons Cabin), Secundus (211004) and Woodlands House
(210689) and report back to Cllrs before submitting comments to WBC
Planning.

with SP coordinate a meeting with WBC staff on CIL projects, signage near
Culham Lane and at the junctions of Aston Lane, Remenham Lane and Ferry
Lane on 27th April to report back to RPC.

circulate suggested responses on licence applications from UTRC and
Henley Festival.



Annual Meeting of the Parish Council (AMPC) (at 6:50pm)

JH was proposed for the next Chairman of RPC by BR and seconded by FC. JH proposed BR for Vice-Chairman and this was seconded by DP. This was approved by a unanimous vote of Cllrs. Both accepted these roles.

On RPC's meetings, insurance cover, control of expenditure, representation on external bodies, complaints, freedom of information and data protection The Clerk asked that the meeting confirm its current procedures/regulations/methods/modes of action/standing orders. This was unanimously AGREED.

It was noted that The Clerk had circulated suggestions of RPC's Standing Orders and it was AGREED that these would be considered at the May RPC meeting.

Annual Parish Meeting (APM) (meeting opened at 7:00pm and closed at 7:10pm)

Because of the length of tonight's meetings, the Chairman did not wish to make a Chairman's Report, but thanked The Clerk for all his hard work. BR then thanked The Chairman for all his work for residents.

The Clerk circulated notes from the 2019 APM, gave details of CIL projects being taken forward and summarised RPC's current financial position in the following Financial Report:

At the beginning of the year (March 2020) the balance in RPC's current account was about £73,000. This last year has seen the usual pattern of expenditure (streetlights and Parish Hall internet availability, litter picking, etc). In addition, oak signs for the towpath giving priority to walkers were erected and a larger dog bin installed outside the hall. Pegasus has provided planning advice. At the same time VAT has been reclaimed. CIL monies (about £28500) were given to the Parish Council and four projects have been taken forward to support infrastructure in different parts of the Parish. This money will now be spent in 2021-2022. As a result, RPC's current account balance is presently almost £110,000.

There were no questions or Matters Raised from the Floor.