

REMENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held face-to-face on Mon 13th Feb 2023
starting at 6:01pm and finishing at 7:20pm (circulated 15th February 2023)

PRESENT Cllrs Franky Cookson (FC) (Chairing)
Polly Hogan (PH)
John Merkel (JM)
Darrel Poulos (DP)
Nigel Williams (NW)
The Clerk: Paul Sermon (TC)

In attendance: Peter Grace (PG), Natalie Mitchell (NM), Felicity Rutland (FR), Pat Sly (PSI)

012/23: APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were apologies from John Halsall and Bill Ronald

013/23: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

014/23: MINUTES OF THE MEETING

9th January 2023 RPC minutes were approved and signed.

015/23: MATTERS ARISING & ACTION LIST

The actions taken by The Chairman and The Clerk were noted. He had invited GigaClear to update their roll-out, requested litter-picking equipment and high-visibility waistcoats from WBC, that Bob Nancarrow be invited to attend the 13th February RPC-WBC Highways on-line meeting, written to WBC Planning on 223612/223812/223627 after circulating 'comments' to Cllrs for approval, circulated Remenham Church Lane traffic data, submitted the precept form based on a 5% increase (Appendix 1) and increased NW payments to The Clerk, Steve Hounscome and Steve Allender. He had also submitted the document in Appendix 2 to WBC Licensing

016/23: PLANNING

Two planning applications were considered: 230094 (Middle Culham) and 230045 (Leander club). Following a discussion it was AGREED no comments would be made. An appeal on Atlanta (223834) was noted and TC was asked to obtain information on the cut off for further comments. An appeal on The Reach (221802) was noted. TC and PG raised two possible planning matters under Any Other Matters: (i) the fencing off of the Coach House at 5 Horseshoes and (ii) surveying at Hamilton.

017/23: CIL PROJECTS

The Clerk had raised the approved paving with WBC Highways. PSI said that Oscar Sly was planning for the work to be undertaken in May 2023. JM reported green-waste fly-tipping on the new Nature Trail alongside the A321. The Clerk was asked to generate a leaflet for residents, the notice board, the Newsletter and the website on the Trail. The purchase of signs for Ferry Lane and the Nature Trail from Make Something Special was approved.

018/23: WEBSITE

Updated data on December's website activity was noted. FC said that river webcam was no longer available. DP said he would provide an alternative link related to Marsh Lock. FR said some sections of the website appeared not up-to-date. TC said he would look and make suggestions to BR and FC.

An update GigaClear roll-out was noted. This involved:

13-24 Feb Aston Lane Closure

13-24 Feb Remenham Hill Multi-way Signal

27-Feb 24-Mar White Hill Multi-way Signal

Chairman

13th March 2023

019/23: HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS

It was noted that an RPC-WBC Highways virtual meeting had taken place earlier in the day. In summary at the meeting (i) FC and TC reported the double white lines and new WestcoTec speed signs had slowed traffic a little, but one WestcoTec speed sign (facing away from Henley needed its power supply to be re-instated), (ii) repairs on Aston Lane were to be undertaken, and (iii) WBC Highways were to assess the cost of clearing growth/debris from pavements alongside the A4130 from Henley Bridge to the Remenham Parish boundary. WBC Highways were asked for their final comments on paving in front of the Parish Hall (where work was due to start in May 2023). TC said he would submit a summary to WBC Highways and Cllrs.

The Clerk reported that ramblers were requesting an update of RPC-provided Wilminster stiles with gates. PH asked the likely cost. No action was approved at the moment.

PH asked if any action had been taken on the gate area for Ferry Lane field. TC said he would raise this with BR.

DP said he was in the process of cleaning roadside signs; he was thanked for this initiative.

020/23: LICENSING AND EVENTS

It was AGREED that The Clerk would submit traffic data (see Appendix 3) for Remenham Church Lane during and after HRR 2022 to WBC Licensing in support of the RA-RPC submission (Appendix 2) and that traffic data would also be obtained during future events.

021/23: WOKINGHAM MATTERS

There was concern about WBC's suggested reduction in refuse collection. The Clerk AGREED to write to Richard Bisset (Peter Baveystock's replacement) on the matter. Subsequently TC found out that the proposal before WBC is for food/recycling collection once a fortnight and general waste once a fortnight. So there would be a collection each week - but what was collected alternates. This would not affect dog-waste collection for RPC by the same provider. Richard said it goes to committee within a week and to the Executive on 21st March.

022/23: FINANCIAL MATTERS

TC had circulated details of RPC account activity, which was approved. The the precept form is shown in Appendix 1. JM said that if the cost of SSE electricity was rising, RPC should consider solar panels at the end of the current contract. The Clerk asked approval for Make-Something-Special signs for Ferry Lane and the A321 Nature Trail. He said he would order the water quality assessors before the end of the month.

023/23: ANY OTHER MATTERS

The dates of the April and May RPC meetings was discussed. PG wanted residents to be aware of the number of burglaries/robberies. PG and NM asked whether the double lines and WestcoTec speed signs were having any effect on traffic speeds. FC and TC said they thought they were, but that further measures may be needed. PG and PSI asked that action be taken on the tidal wave of tarmac near the edge of the Parish on the A4130. TC said he would raise this with WBC Highways.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Mon 13th March 2023 at 6pm.

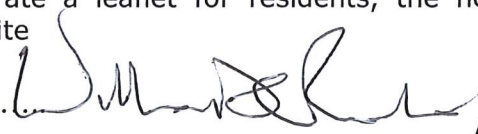
ACTIONS:

BR will: report on progress on the gate area for Ferry Lane field

TC will: submit no comments on 230094 (Middle Culham) and 230045 (Leander club) and check on deadlines for the Atlanta appeal (223834)

generate a leaflet for residents, the notice board, the Newsletter and the website

Chairman



13th March 2023

Appendix 1

APPENDIX B

INFORMATION TO BE SUPPLIED WITH COUNCIL TAX DEMAND NOTICES

TOWN/PARISH Name:

Remenham Parish Council

2023/24
£

1. TOWN/PARISH EXPENDITURE

29,564

2. DEDUCT INCOME FROM RENTS, FEES,
GRANTS, CIL, CHARGES AND INTEREST

nil

3. NET EXPENDITURE

29,564

4. ADDITIONS TO BALANCES

nil

OR

MET FROM BALANCES

-426

5. TOWN/PARISH PRECEPT

29,138

Signed 

Town/Parish Clerk

Date 2nd Feb 2023

Please Return To: Mrs. Debra Evans,
By Thursday 2nd Corporate Finance Manager
February 2023

email: debra.evans@wokingham.gov.uk
Cc: business.services@wokingham.gov.uk

From [1] Remenham Parish Council
And [2] THE Remenham Farm Residents Association

To: Wokingham Borough Council – Licensing Department

Re: Preliminary Submission for the review of the statement of licensing policy and a request for a cumulative impact assessment.

The s 182 Guidance (December, 2022) (at paragraph 1.5) prominently reminds everyone involved in licensing work that the Licensing Act 2003 supports a number of key aims and purposes and that these are vitally important and should be principal aims for everyone involved in licensing. These include:

- Providing a regulatory framework for alcohol which reflects the needs of local communities and empowers local authorities to make and enforce decisions about the most appropriate licensing strategies for their local area; and
- Encouraging greater community involvement in licensing decisions and giving local residents the opportunity to have their say regarding licensing decisions that may affect them.

The regulatory framework and local strategies are primarily contained in the licensing authority's Statement of Licensing Policy which must be prepared and published at least every five years and in any event kept under review. The current statement of Wokingham's licensing policy is dated September 2018 and is due to be reviewed and re-issued. This is a statutory process that includes consultation with persons/bodies representative of residents in its area. Full and effective engagement with local residents and civil society ought to be at the heart of decision making and policy. On behalf of the Remenham Parish Council and the Remenham Farm Residents Association we would like to be a part of the process to develop and implement the most suitable strategies for Remenham.

Remenham is a rural parish that has been a site for licensed sporting and social events on a large scale enjoying national prominence. The number and size of this events has increased dramatically in recent years. The village of Remenham has a population of 500 residents which is impacted by a series of events and festivals from early May until late September each year – the most famous of which is the Henley Royal Regatta – in 2021 this was a period of 187 days in effect every summer weekend. In 2022 there were some 138 days of events from June to September, again, every weekend throughout the summer. The scale of the events dwarfs the population of the village; the maximum capacity for the Henley Festival is 25,000 and for Rewind it is 40,000. During the Henley Royal Regatta, the range of events is exacerbated by pop-up and temporary events along the river from small traders to large fun-fairs. Between September and mid May, there are a number of rowing and other river events.

The 1-mile stretch between Henley Bridge and Temple Island hosts three major annual events; Henley Royal Regatta “HRR” (since 1839, total attendance of 300,000 in 2019); Henley Festival “HF” (since 1983, total attendance of 25,000 in 2019) and the Rewind Festival “RF” (since 2009, total attendance 40,000 in 2019). In total, these three events deposit the equivalent of the entire population of Coventry or Cardiff on this tiny piece of geography, more than the populations of Newcastle or Southampton.

There are three major open landowners in the area that allow the use of their land for festivals and events. The impact comes from the events themselves, the cumulative impact with other events and established non-seasonal premises, the set up for events and the break down and get out – all of this accessed by a single-track rural track. Within the village and its proximity there are nearly twenty premises licences that operate in conjunction with each other. These are quite apart from the various additional food and entertainment facilities that pop-up in conjunction with the licensed premises.

Location is a crucial factor in the promotion of the licensing objectives. In *Hope & Glory* [2011] EWCA Civ 31 the Court of Appeal, in a useful summary, stated that licensing decisions involve an evaluation of what is to be regarded as reasonably acceptable in the particular location [42]. The s 182 Guidance highlights the importance of location as the basis for a proper risk assessment (see paras 8.41 – 8.45) of proposed licensable activities. The s 182 Guidance gives advice on the cumulative impact of a concentration of licensed premise in an area – there does not need to be a Cumulative Impact Assessment (“CIA”) for there to be consideration of negative cumulative impact (para 14.42).

The Remenham Parish Council is of the view that a full and proper local area profile for the village is a key preliminary stage in the preparation of the forthcoming SLP and any consideration of the most appropriate licensing strategies for the village and surrounding areas. The Parish Council and Remenham Farm Residents Association is keen to work with the licensing authority to provide this profile.

Remenham in Berkshire is a rural Parish extending along the Thames from the border of Wargrave to Aston. It includes the stretch of the Thames downstream from the Henley Bridge which contains the villages of Remenham and Aston. This part of Remenham Parish has long been a venue for licensed sporting and social events. Most of the events take place on Greenfield sites. In addition to attendees, all equipment and infrastructure for these events, even the waste disposal, are transported by road, access being along three single lane roads. The number and size of events have increased dramatically in recent years, with a direct and adverse impact on the local community. And while the size of most events has increased, and the scale of building and taking down operations has also increased, the local infrastructure (three effectively single-track roads, the river and the Thames Path) which provides access to most events and to the villages, has not.

Given the rural character of Remenham and its very limited infrastructure, every event held compromised local residents’ access to and quiet enjoyment of their properties. Major events (**especially in Temple Island Meadows**) and simultaneous or overlapping events, seriously

impacted both, to the extent that residents' quiet enjoyment was impacted and/or they were effectively deprived of the normal use of their homes for much of this period.

It is the view of the Parish Council and the Remenham Farm Residents Association that the forthcoming SLP needs to address:

[1] Cumulative Impact within and surrounding the parish, the local area profile will be an invaluable evidential resource in the development of the required Cumulative Impact Assessment. The Parish Council take the view that Remenham has long passed the threshold of unacceptable cumulative impact.¹ The Parish Council take the view that the Licensing Authority ought to undertake a Cumulative Impact assessment as a matter of urgency – the Parish Council are keen to assist in this endeavour.

[2] Framework Hours and activities. The Parish Council and Residents Association takes the view that the local area requires a special policy in respect of framework hours and activities within the parish and local area.

[3] Environmental Impacts Policy. The Parish Council and Residents Association take the view that the council needs to consider the wider environmental impacts of these large scale events on a rural area.

[4] Temporary Events Notice Policy ("TENs"). The Parish Council and Residents Association is of the view that TENs are used to add to the existing offerings often used as a way of circumnavigating licensing requirements. The Parish Council and Residents Association take the view that a policy statement setting out the expectations of the licensing authority in respect of applicants, the Environmental Health team and the Police would be a useful addition to policy.

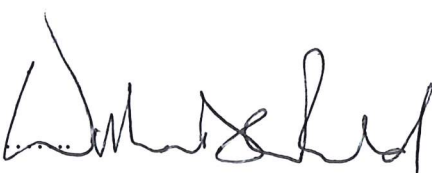
[5] Dedicated Remenham Parish Safety Advisory Group ("SAG"). The Parish Council and Residents Association considers that the terms and participation of a SAG should be set out in the policy to provide greater transparency and participation to the local community and its representatives.

The Parish Council and the Residents Association looks forward to working with the council to prepare and adopt a statement of licensing policy that includes a cumulative impact assessment and statement. Please advise how we can best work to achieve a policy that effectively promotes the licensing objectives in the interests of the wider community.

Your sincerely
Paul Sermon
Remenham Parish Council

¹ "The effect of the special policy is that the Council will refuse applications for a new Premises Licence, of Club Premises Certificate, or variation of an existing licence or certificate, whenever it receives relevant representations, unless an application can demonstrate why the operation of the premises involved will not add to the cumulative impact already being experienced."

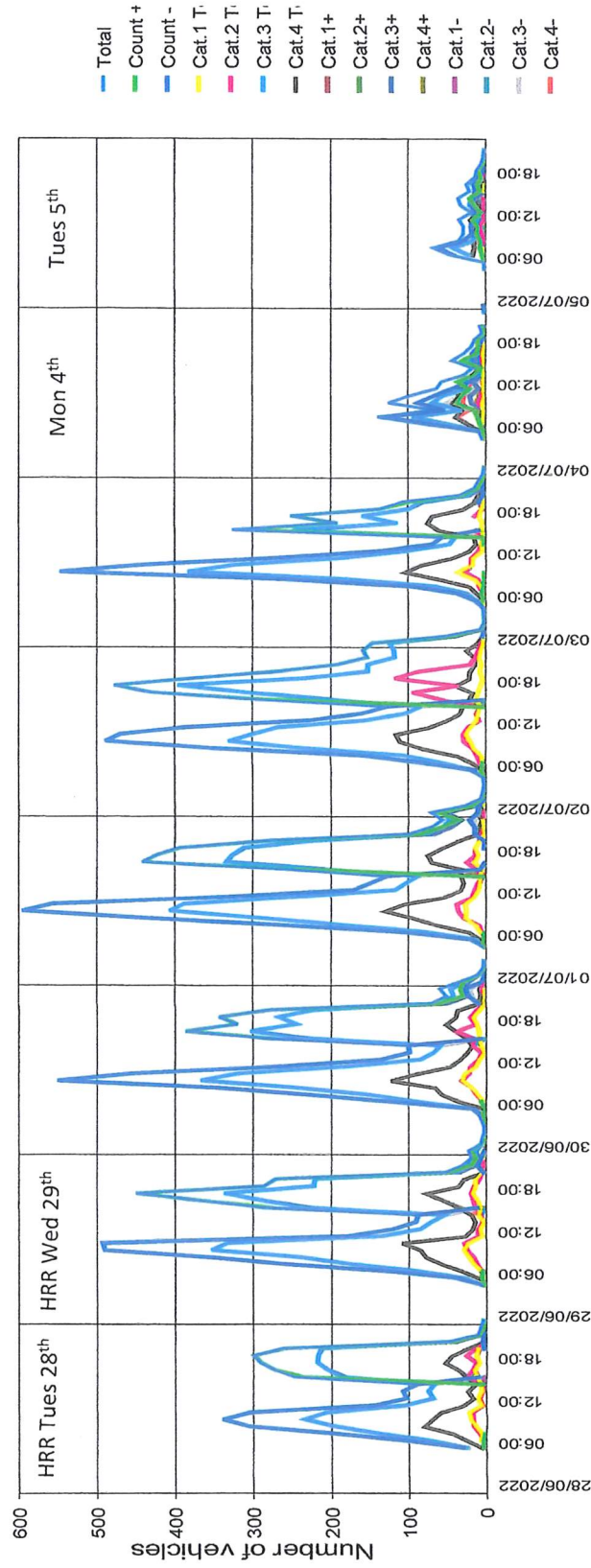
Appendix 3. Traffic data for Remenham Church Lane during and after
HRR 2022

Chairman 

13th March 2023

Traffic on Remenham Church Lane during and after HRR 2022

As a mark of its concern for the cumulative impact of events on residents, RPC measured one-way tidal traffic flows on the single track Remenham Church Lane from Tuesday 28th June 2022 – Sunday 3rd July 2022 when Henley Royal Regatta was taking place and two days afterwards (4th-5th July). This shows that this event raises traffic flows by about a factor of 10 (with one vehicle every 1.6s) and the composition of this traffic (mostly light delivery trucks). RPC hopes that such data will inform the licensing debate going forward.



Statistics

Period:

28 June 2022, 06:10 o'clock to 05 July 2022, 17:13 o'clock

Speed violations:	0 %	Motorcycle	Count +	%	Count -	%	Total	%	V15 +	Va +	V85 +	Vmax +	V15 -	Va -	V85 -	Vmax -
Average time interval:	1.6 sec	Car	339	3	761	4.9	1100	4.1	28	33	38	53	31	35	40	65
Traffic in column:	37 %	Truck	906	8	813	5.2	1719	6.4	24	30	36	63	28	34	40	68
ADT:	120	Long truck	8437	74.7	10561	68.1	18998	70.9	24	30	35	70	29	34	39	72
Truck Share:	89 %	Total	1619	14.3	3365	21.7	4984	18.6	19	25	31	55	26	31	37	62
			11301	42.2	15500	57.8	26801	100	23	29	35	70	28	33	39	72

Appendix 4. Summary of RPC-WBC Highways Meeting and RPC Meeting on 13th Feb 2023

(i) Franky Cookson and Paul Sermon reported the new double white lines and new WestcoTec speed signs had slowed A4130 traffic a little, but one WestcoTec speed sign (facing away from Henley further out than the Shell Petrol Station needs its power supply to be re-instated - having been inadvertently severed),

(ii) repairs on Aston Lane outlined again by Polly Hogan are to be undertaken to avoid injury to residents and cyclists,

(iii) Polly Hogan described harrowing issues for some mothers with children trying to navigate the pavements alongside the A4130. Peter Grace said his arm had been clipped while walking the footpath with my dog near the junction with Culham lane. Franky said she would no longer walk these pavements on foot. WBC Highways agreed to assess the clearing of growth/debris from pavements alongside the A4130 from Henley Bridge to the Remenham Parish boundary,

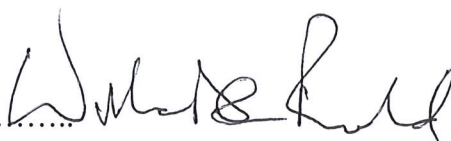
(iv) WBC Highways are asked for final comments (after their 2021 approval) on paving in front of the Parish Hall (where work is due to start in May 2023 after WBC Planning approval was given in 2023 under application 223627 - see WBC Planning website),

(v) RPC would like WBC Highways action on the Peter Grace-noted lorry-caused tidal wave of tarmac near the edge of the Parish on the A4130 which could easily unseat any cyclist, resulting in litigation,

(vi) some matters raised by Bob Nancarrow with RPC were not fully considered on 13th Feb 2023 (e.g. the camber at the junction of the A4130 and the A321 (left-hand turn) that is difficult for emergency vehicles to navigate safely, etc, etc) and it is unfortunate that Bob Nancarrow was unable to log-in for the virtual meeting (whose start time seemed to change); he should be invited to the next meeting when we see how things have moved on.

Paul Sermon (Clerk to RPC)

Chairman



13th March 2023