

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF COLD ASH PARISH
HELD ON Thursday 19th April 2018

Present:

45 Members of the Public

For the Parish Council: Cllrs Richard Marsh (Chairman), G Hall, L Verner, M Jaques, B Clerk K Cameron & D Le-Cornu

District Councillors Garth Simpson (Cold Ash), District Cllr Beck (Clay Hill) Cllr Stretton (Clay Hill)

Mr R Marshall (Greening Group) Mr F Davison & Mr P Seaward (Heritage Group) L Bassett & S O'Donaghue West Berkshire Council.

Linda Randall, Parish Council Clerk

1. Apologies

There were no apologies

2. Minutes and Matters Arising

The minutes of the 20th April 2017 were signed by the Chairman.

- **Mr J Waghorn** asked if some Parishes did not contribute to the libraries would they still benefit from the Parishes that did. **District Cllr Simpson** did not have the information to hand but would respond to **Mr Waghorn** directly via email.

3. Parish Council Introduction and update by Chairman of Council

Chairman Verner gave an update on work carried out by the Parish Council in the Parish over the previous year, this included improvements to all wet pour in the three playgrounds, treatments to the Recreation Ground, implementing West Berkshire Councils speed awareness with wheelie bin stickers on Cold Ash Hill. **Chairman** explained that the grit bins were now the Parish Councils responsibility with a cost of approx. 100.00 per refill. The Parish Council had agreed to a three year contribution to the libraries, this would go to Thatcham and Newbury library and also the mobile library. The Parish Council had agreed to a contribution to the restoration of the War Memorial, which was to be discussed later. The Parish Council had responded to over 60 planning applications. **Chairman** also mention the ongoing works on the Hermitage Road by Thames Water and she thanked the Parishioners for their patience.

4. Presentation by The Greening Group
“Litter in the Parish”

Mr R Marshall, Chairman from the Greening Group, gave a presentation on litter in the parish. He explained the various ways of recycling. He stressed one of the worst items to re-cycle was polystyrene, also the different grades of glass. He advised that the Greening Group were holding a litter pick on the 16th June at 2.00pm; he hoped that members of the parish would attend. After the pick, subject to weather, there would be a

picnic in the park, he set a challenge and asked that no one bought food in single use plastic.

Questions/Comments:-

- **Mr Goodwin** stated that it needed to be made more obvious at recycling centres of the different grades of glass.

5. Presentation by The Heritage Group
“Refurbishment of the War Memorial”

Mr Seaward gave a detailed report on the repairs urgently needed for the War Memorial, situated in St Marks’s Churchyard. He outlined the various costs that would be required. He explained that the Heritage group were applying for grants but money needed to be raised within the Parish. He asked that a member of the Parish Council join the steering group. He finished his presentation advertising the exhibition taking place after the Remembrance parade on the 10th and 11th November in the Fisher Room at St Marks Church.

Questions/Comments:-

- **Mr Hislop** asked if the Greenham Trust had been approached.
- **Mr Goodwin** asked if the British Legion had been approached regarding funding.
- **Cllr Hall** stressed the need for volunteers to join the steering group and help with fund raising.

6. Presentation by Laila Bassett
“Neighbourhood Development Plan”

Laila Bassett from West Berkshire Council gave a presentation on the benefits of Cold Ash Parish Adopting a Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) The presentation can be found on the Parish website:-
<http://www.coldash.org.uk/>

District Cllr Simpson also reported on the NDP. He reported that he was not an immediate convert to having an NDP however after attending the Stratfield Mortimer conference he could see the benefits immediately.

Cllr Clark continued to promote the benefits and stressed that the Parish needed people to get together and get involved. He advised that approximately 500 parishioners needed to get involved; he advised that there would be a three day event on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd of June in the Acland Hall committee room, where people could drop in and find out more. A website had been launched but was still being built, once completed parishioners would be able to add ideas. He hoped to have formed a steering committee, and have an idea of what would be put before West Berkshire Council by the end of July.

Questions /Comments

- **Mr Shave** asked where he could find the local plan. Laila Bassett advised she would add the link to the updated presentation and send to the **Clerk**.
- A resident asked how funding would be gained. **Cllr Marsh** advised that once there was enough interest, further funding would be discussed. As to sources of funding, grants are available, as well as the possibility of using the Council's Precept.
- A resident asked how Stratfield Mortimer Parish gained funding **District Cllr Simpson** advised various methods had been used, Laila Bassett also advised that the precept had been used.
- **Mr Goodwin** asked if a Neighbour Hood Plan, in a Planning Appeal carried any legal weight. Laila Bassett responded it did carry legal weight and would be used in the legal planning process. **Mr Goodwin** then asked how could the Parish ensure that the legal weight of the Neighbour Hood Plan is stated on a Refusal Notice to a Planning Application, if this point is not added to Refusal Notice, then West Berks cannot defend it in an Appeal? Laila Bassett responded the Neighbour Hood Plan is a standard clause that West Berks now adds to the Refusal Notice.
- **Mrs Neville** asked if this would relate to all planning or just large developments. Laila Bassett advised that there were some permitted development, but if a NDP was in place, it would be adhered to.
- **Mr Avens** asked how much weight an NDP carried. Laila Bassett responded that as long as it conforms it carried weight.
- **Cllr Marsh** made further points on the NDP advising that development to the Parish is coming whether Cold Ash Parish have an NDP in place or not. He advised the process did not allow the Parish to reduce the number of houses in the area this was about having a better say in the location and design.
- **Chairman** thanked the Officers from WBC for attending.

7. Open Forum for the Public

- **Mr Ebden** reported that there had been a fallen sign on The Ridge for at least two months. **Chairman** responded it had been reported to WBC and was on their list to rectify. **Mr Ebden** also asked the Parish Council to investigate a development on Westrop Farm to confirm planning had been followed. He also mentioned how muddy and dangerous a Public Right of Way had become in the same area. The local land owner **Mr Clark** responded on both issues by asking the Parishioners to bear with him, he promised this should be improved in the next two weeks; the recent wet weather had slowed work down. **Mr Clark** also reassured **Mr Ebden** that planning was compliant. **Chairman** assured the resident that this would be investigated.
- **Mrs Denny** complained about the speed of traffic using The Hermitage Road. **District Cllr Simpson** responded that he would ask Highways to investigate this matter. **Mrs Denny** asked about Parishioners using the SID (Speed Indicator Device) so that details

could be sent to the Police and then letters being sent to the offender's? **Cllr Marsh** advised that the police do have a scheme. **Cllr Clark** felt that WBC was very unsympathetic to traffic calming. A traffic island at the bottom of Cold Ash Hill had been investigated but was a very costly exercise. **Cllr Cameron** volunteered to investigate speed watch. **Mr Seaward** agreed with **Mrs Denny**, he felt a speed camera placed at the bottom of Red Shute Hill and Cold Ash Hill would help solve the problem. **Mr Hislop** felt speeding was worse in the evenings. **District Cllr Beck** advised the WBC do provide a SID and there was a training course. He also advised anyone using the SID would need indemnity insurance. **Mrs Denny** asked whether Parishioners could use a speed camera to catch speeding motorists. **Cllr Marsh** advised that the Police do have a Community Speed watch scheme whereby Parishioners can borrow a speed camera and the speeding motorists then get a letter from the Police.

- **Mrs Pattison** complained about signage through the parish being dirty. Clerk advised WBC no longer clean signs and she would ask the **Parish Council's** contractor to investigate.
- **Mrs Shave** from The Ridge also advised of speeding in that area, and due to Harts Hill road being closed for water repairs traffic would be diverted along The Ridge making matters worse.
- **Mrs Neville** asked if WBC could send out letters to householders reminding them that the ditches and verges were their responsibility.
- **Mr Waghorn** asked what the outcome had been to the forms completed after the previous year APM regarding Westrop Wood as no feedback had been received. **District Cllr Simpson** advised updates had been given via his report at Parish meetings. He also advised that due to workloads, within WBC, further action had been put back. However he was hopeful that there would soon be further updates. **Mrs Neville** advised that Mr Higgins from WBC had sent emails to everyone.
- **Mr Waghorn** was surprised how little respect had been given to Mr G Findlay when he passed away in 2017. **Chairman** advised that the Parish Council had held a minutes silence at the Parish Council meeting out of respect.
- **Mr Seaward** asked if 106/CIL money could be considered for use to restore the War Memorial. **Cllr Marsh** advised it could not be used for maintenance. **Cllr Jaques** advised a fund raising team had been established in Thatcham for a similar project. **Mr Seaward** advised a committee would be needed.
- **Mr Rose** informed the Parish Council that he had asked some horse riders why they had not used Public right of way 26; he was advised that due to the recent bad weather the right of way was unsuitable. This would be investigated and reported to WBC if necessary.
- A resident asked why earth was being moved to a property in Stoney Lane. **District Cllr Simpson** advised that it was being used to spread on the owner's field. It had been reported to WBC and

had been approved. **District Cllr Simpson** would investigate further. The resident also mentioned the damage to the banks in the same area; again **District Cllr Simpson** would investigate.

Chairman thanked West Berkshire Officers and everyone for attending. She also asked for everyone to look at the group displays.

The Meeting closed at 9.20pm Date of next Meeting –25th April 2019

Signed..... Date.....
Chairman