# Pangbourne Parish Council Logo

MINUTES OF PANGBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the full meeting of the Council held at Pangbourne Village Hall on Tuesday 11 March 2025 at 7.30pm.

PRESENT:

Cllrs: J. Higgs (Acting Chairman), T. Batten, C. Brewer, B. Kerr-Muir, M. Rimmer

Clerk: R. Elkin (Clerk, RFO),

District Cllr: Cllr M. Shakespeare was not in attendance

Members of public: 9 members of the public were present for all or part of the meeting

APOLOGIES RECEIVED: I. Walker (Chairman), G. Child, C. Ellis, N. Goodwin, C. Roberts

ABSENT: None

# Section 1: Procedural

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|  |  | **Action** |
| **2053** | **To receive apologies for absence and declarations of interest relevant to agenda items** |  |
|  | Apologies were received from I. Walker (Chairman), G. Child, C. Ellis, N. Goodwin, C. Roberts.  No councillors were absent.  No declarations of interest were made. |  |
| **2054** | **To RESOLVE to adopt the minutes of the full council meeting held on 11 February 2025 as a true and accurate record** |  |
|  | Having been previously circulated and taken as read, the minutes of the meeting of 11 February 2025 were approved and signed as an accurate record with no amendments. |  |
| **2055** | **Outstanding actions carried over from previous meetings** |  |
|  | Cemetery car park – ONGOING – legal teams are progressing-draft easement | CR |
|  | Adventure Dolphin sub-lease/planning application – ONGOING | NG/AH /Clerk |
|  | Traffic/pavements working group – Speedwatch set-up ongoing | IW |
|  | Recreation Ground Vision group – ONGOING | NG/ Asst Clk/Clk |
|  | APT – Station Road toilets – especially in light of current issues and expenses at rec ground toilets – ONGOING | ALL |
|  | **COMPLETED ACTIONS**   * Revised Planning Permission for path has been granted. Path installation to commence this month. |  |

# Section 2: Decision Making

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|  |  | **Action** |
| **2056** | **To CONSIDER and AGREE the donation request from Adventure Dolphin Charity towards partial funding for its planned youth and HAFF activities over the coming year.** |  |
|  | * A representative of the Adventure Dolphin Centre attended the meeting and gave a brief presentation regarding the ambitious programme of holiday clubs and events planned at the centre over the coming months. These are planned for 2 weeks at Easter, 1 week at May half term, and 4 weeks during the summer holidays. * Partial funding has been secured from a variety of sources, however the ADC was still seeking further funding and to ensure the financial viability of the project in this first year. * This funding would enable places to be subsidised to increase attendance versus other privately operated and more expensive holiday clubs which make them unaffordable for many especially during the current cost of living crisis. The funding would also enable the centre to run clubs under the HAF scheme (Holiday Activities and Food) which provides free places to those with FSM (Free School Meal) entitlement and which, as the name suggests, provides a meal as well as the activity. Currently the nearest HAF provision for families within the WBC area is in Thatcham which is not realistic for working families as regular childcare provision. It is noted that some of the larger secondary schools, particularly in nearby Tilehurst and Purley, have hundreds of eligible under 18s on their rolls. There is a strong correlation between those young people and those who visit the meadows over the summer months anyway. A number of drop in spaces would also be provided for. * Some sessions and “hang-out sessions” will be entirely “drop in” and all of the others will have space available for walk-ins. It is hoped that this could assist during the peak summer months when instructors will be able to offer up spaces and activities to young people hanging out in large groups at the meadows and provide them with alternative opportunities. * The offering will be operated by Berkshire Youth who have now officially partnered with Adventure Dolphin. * The primary provision would run 8.30-12.30 and 1-5pm four days a week for a mix of age groups at a cost of £15 per child or free via HAF. * Provision for years 7-13 is critically needed and must be free (if required) and available at the point of use to be really successful in its objectives, particularly where its target is larger groups of older youth who will attend (or not) as a whole group. * Whilst it is not the sole answer to the ASB issues seen at the meadows, it will provide a safe and alternative space. * Further, Berkshire Youth staff are also skilled and briefed in challenging behaviours at the meadows and will form a positive presence. * Any residual funding will allow staff to remain on site after the sessions finish at 5pm and into the early evening with outreach on the meadows. * If successful it is hoped that a youth club may eventually become an option and also educational sessions such as cold water shock safety sessions and so on.   Following discussion, Councillors noted that this was essential provision for the village’s young people and that the centre was uniquely placed to be able to provide this. The proposals align with the long-standing objectives of the Council. Further, alongside the PSPO, this would be a very positive development for the meadows and village.  It was **RESOLVED** to award a total grant of £5,000 (£1,000 in yr 24/25 and £4,000 in 25/26) towards this project via the good Exchange to ensure that the money could be doubled up with match funding.  This donation will be separate from the S.137 budget and will be funded from reserves using other powers. |  |
|  | As the time was now 8pm it was resolved to suspend Standing Orders to permit several members of the public to speak. A member of the public spoke on behalf of the group regarding Planning Application 25/00294/FUL to express their concerns and objections regarding the retrospective application for a new access track immediately opposite the MOP properties.  Normal Session resumed at 8.15pm and it was agreed to move up the planning agenda items so that thy could be considered next. |  |
| **2061** | **25/00294/FUL Land North Of Pangbourne Road, Bowden Green, Pangbourne**   1. There was previously a hedgerow and drainage ditch where the new track joins the road. This has been filled in to form the track, and in rainy conditions there is now pooling of water on the road which was not previously a problem in this location. 2. The new path creates a crossroads effect with the entrance road to the houses opposite. This is not ideal and it would be much preferred for the access to be moved 30-40 m to the east if it is required. 3. The new access makes the newly built barn far more visible than expected from nearby properties due to the removal of the hedge. 4. The application states there is historic evidence of an exit at this point. This is disputed by other residents. 5. There are two existing access points to this field, question the need for a third. 6. If this new access is to be approved, request a condition that no residential planning applications will be approved at this location in the future, and that the field should remain agricultural. 7. Request a full site visit from Planning Officer   It was **RESOLVED** to OBJECT to this retrospective application and for a response as above to be submitted.  8 members of the public left the meeting after this agenda item. | **Objection** |
| **2057** | **To REVIEW the quotation supplied for repairs to the toilet block at Pangbourne Recreation Ground and agree any actions relating to the opening, partial opening or continued closure of the block** |  |
|  | The Clerk had previously circulated the quotations received from our cleaning and maintenance provider for:   1. Replacement of all three metal automatic locking doors 2. All th ree locking doors plus a pay-gate mechanism.   These quotations are extremely expensive at approximately £20k for just the doors, although this would provide much better security for the building with multi point magnets which would better withstand attempts to open them by force.  It was noted that the existing door to the gents has now been so weakened by such activity that it cannot be bent back into shape and is unable to be locked other than by physical key.  It was agreed that the option of installing a pay-gate should not be explored further at this stage as having sought further advice, these are also a target for vandalism and repairs are also prohibitively expensive versus funds raised.  Discussion took place regarding the solution to this issue and the long term viability of the block. It was noted that the site has been closed over the winter since shortly after October half term due to repeated vandalism.  The Clerk suggested that maybe an alternative way of providing toilets at the site should be explored as this is a much needed but also much vandalised and costly amenity as a result. If this is to be explored as part of the recreation ground vision for the mid to longer term, expenditure of £20k which has not been budgeted for may be difficult to find and justify.  It was agreed that the ladies and gents toilets should remain closed for the time being and it was **RESOLVED** to approve expenditure on a new door/door repairs for the disabled toilet door which could be rebranded as a unisex toilet for the short term. |  |
| **2058** | **UPCOMING DATES – Annual Litter Pick and Annual Parish Meeting/Millennium Award – AGREE any actions relating to Annual Parish Meeting and Millennium Award** |  |
|  | * Annual Litter Pick – Sunday 27 April, 10am -12pm * Annual Parish Meeting – Tuesday 29 April, 7-9.30pm   The Clerk reminded Councillors of the upcoming dates and requested as many as possible were in attendance at both events.  The format of the APM and the Millennium Award were also discussed. |  |
| **2059** | **To CONSIDER the quotation received for repair/replacement of the cone net ropes at the playground and agree any actions** |  |
|  | * Having been previously circulated, it was RESOLVED to proceed with the quoted expenditure of approx. £4k for a replacement net for the cone net rope (witches hat) equipment at the playground. * This net is reaching the end of its life with heavy patches of wear which have been heavily taped repeatedly over the last few years with increasing regularity. It has now reached the point that this is no longer sufficient. |  |
| **2060** | **To CONSIDER the request for use of the meadows to hold a Paddlesport Summer Regatta in June** |  |
|  | It was **RESOLVED** to approve the use of the meadows by the paddlesport club for a meet against a Newbury club during June. This will take place the weekend after the village fete and so the area needed for car parking will already have been freshly mown. It was agreed that the club must have a suitable traffic management plan and marshalling in place and that they must ensure that the majority of the meadows is still available for use by regular members of the public. A donation for use was requested. |  |
|  | The remaining member of the public left the meeting at this point. |  |
| **2061** | **Planning:**   1. **To receive the list of planning applications since the last meeting** | Comment |
|  | None |  |
|  | 1. **To discuss and agree responses not already RESOLVED by Planning Committee plus any other urgent applications received before the meeting:** |  |
|  | **25/00294/FUL Land North Of Pangbourne Road, Bowden Green, Pangbourne,**  As summarised above | **Objection** |
| **2062** | **Finance:**   1. **To RESOLVE to APPROVE accounts reconciliation as at 28 February 2025** 2. **To RESOLVE to APPROVE the payment schedule as appended for March 2025** |  |
|  | 1. The accounts reconciliation for 28 February 2025 as appended to these minutes was circulated outside of the meeting and approved. 2. The payments due in March 2025 totalling £25,634.80 as appended to these minutes were approved. It was noted that deposit payments for the path may need to be made between meetings as well as the £1k donation to ADC. 3. It was noted that the Auditor will be visiting to complete the interim internal audit during March. |  |
|  | **Policies and Procedures**  **To consider to RESOLVE to approve the policies previously circulated and taken as read.** |  |
| **2063** | NONE |  |

# Section 3: Updates and Progress Reports

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|  |  | **Action** |
| **2064** | **Reports from committees, working parties and individual councillors** |  |
|  | VILLAGE HALL   * Update on container repairs/replacement * Update on clock project |  |
|  | GROUNDS   * Pavilion works update * Allotment fence repairs and tree works * Clock update and funding * BBOWT update |  |
| **2065** | **To receive a brief report from the Chairman**   * Next stages of the Speedwatch group to be set up * Shooters Hill speeding has been monitored by highways |  |
| **2066** | **Clerk’s Report**   * Update on PSPO proposal * Chiltern Walk clearance work update * Shooters Hill speeding results * APT correspondence * Recreation Ground signage – Thames Avenue * MTG Update * Formal consent for ADC works from NT Covenants Board |  |
| **2067** | **To receive a report from the District Councillor**  The District Councillor was not in attendance and did not send a report |  |
| **2068** | **To answer questions from councillors, request items for next meeting or receive items for information only** |  |
|  | JH stated that he had received a complaint regarding noise from the carwash at the garage on Reading Road which he would follow up |  |
| **2069** | **Correspondence:**  None not already previously circulated or discussed. |  |

# Section 4: Confidential Session

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|  | **Pursuant to section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 it is RESOLVED that, because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the public and the press leave the meeting during consideration of the items detailed below.** |  |
| **2070** | Staffing Matter |  |

# Section 5: Closure

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| **2071** | There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.27pm.  The next scheduled meeting will be held on Tuesday 8 April 2025 at 7.30pm. |  |

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**PLANNING APPLICATIONS TO BE REVIEWED AT OR BEFORE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING ON   
11 March 2025**

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| ***APPLICATION NUMBER*** | ***PROPOSAL*** | ***Recommendation*** |
| **25/00294/FUL** | Retrospective construction of an access track to be used for agricultural use.  **Land North Of Pangbourne Road, Bowden Green, Pangbourne, Reading** | ***Objection*** |

**PLANNING APPLICATIONS REVIEWED SINCE COUNCIL MEETING ON 11 February 2025**

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| ***APPLICATION NUMBER*** | ***PROPOSAL*** | ***Recommendation*** |
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**WBC DECISIONS SINCE 11 February 2025**

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| ***APPLICATION NUMBER*** | ***PROPOSAL*** | ***WBC Decision*** |
| **25/00047/HOUSE** | First floor extension to include master bedroom, ensuite and family bathroom on the footprint of the existing single storey rear and side extension  **32 Meadowside Road, Pangbourne, Reading, RG8 7NH** | ***Conditional approval*** |
| **25/00200/COND** | Approval of details reserved by Condition No. 8 (Remediation Strategy) of Approved Application 23/02554/FUL : Demolition of the existing MOT testing station, together with the erection of a single storey extension to the existing aftersales facility, to be used for Use Class B2 (General Industrial) purposes, and other associated works.  **H R Owen, Brook House, 14 Station Road, Pangbourne, Reading** | ***Approval*** |