



Executive Meeting - Minutes

Tuesday 10th January 2023, Arborfield Pavilion 7:30pm

Present: Cllrs Clint, Murphy, Starkey, also the Responsible Financial Officer and the Clerk.

Absent: N/A

Other: No other persons were present.

- 1) To receive and accept any apologies for absence – none.**
- 2) To receive any declarations of interest on items on the agenda - none.**
- 3) The minutes from the last Executive Meeting held on Thursday 13th October 2022 – were approved and signed by Cllr Clint.**
- 4) Public Participation** (allotted time - 15 minutes) – No members of the public were present.
- 5) Pavilion update – to include the nursery.**

The contract for the nursery has now been signed by the lessee, however, the signature on the scanned document is not clear, another signed copy to be obtained by Cllr Starkey. Deposit yet to be received from leaseholder. The Nursery is planned to open in April after the Easter holiday.

The Executive Committee agreed to ask the full Council to approve the Clerk to get two sets of keys cut for the Pavilion for the Nursery to use.

The Executive Committee noted that The Nursery are planning on using their own CCTV whilst it is in use and the Council will require that the CCTV is deactivated when the pavilion is used by the Council or by third parties.

Cllr Murphy updated the Executive Committee on the stages of refurbishment as follows, all of which will be taken to the Council for approval:

- A new kitchen will be fitted, including a cooker.
- Necessary repairs to the roof and ceiling will be made including new insulation in the roof.
- Floor will be replaced to repair water damage.
- Extension - new wall built where the current metal grill is, and new windows and doors fitted.
- Interior redecorated

The Executive Committee also discussed the following:

- Potentially add extension to the end of the building using a pre-fabricated wooden structures to create separate changing area for the football

- Potentially consider moving the garage from the Village Hall for more storage.
- Possible addition of a toilet that could be used by the footballers and potentially the Public.

6) Coombes woodland – to agree approach to be put forward to full council

Between 40 and 60 acres of woodland, and approximately 6 acres of grassland will be put up for sale. The Executive Committee agreed to ask the full Council to form a joint committee with Barkham Parish Council to examine options to secure the woodland for the public including the possibility of purchasing these lots.

The Executive Committee also agreed to ask the full Council to:

- approve obtaining a professional valuation of this land from Bidwells Property Consultants.
- Seek professional advice to calculate the ongoing costs of maintaining the woodland.
- ringfence the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Money to contribute to a potential purchase of the Woodland.

7) Village Hall space – Cllr Clint update The Executive Committee on a discussion held with the Chair of the Village Hall Management Committee regarding use of space in the hall which was no longer being used by Swallowfield Medical Practice. The Hall queried whether the Parish Council would like to rent the former Dr’s waiting room as a meeting room. Cllr Clint did not see any purpose to renting this space as it would only be used occasionally for meetings so would not represent good value for money for the precept payer. This matter will be taken forward to the January full Council meeting for discussion.

8) Planning – next steps following input from lawyer – Cllr Murphy updated the Executive Committee following a meeting with the lawyer that there was insufficient grounds to request a judicial review of the decision to waive an Environmental Impact Assessment for the proposed Cross Lanes Farm development.

The lawyer had advised the council to collect our own evidence which could be used to counteract developer’s claims in future planning applications – the most pertinent area being traffic data as it is believed from previous evidence collected that the WBC model underestimates the impact of traffic from new developments. The Executive agreed to ask Council to approve consulting former Parish Councillor Paul Townsend on how to collect our own traffic data.

Clerk to request traffic model forecasts for 2021, 2026 and 2036 from WBC, plus any additional related traffic data for the Arborfield and Barkham area.

Clerk to ascertain if there is a report from the Environment Agency for Cross Lanes Farm Planning Application 223370.

9) Risk Management -_Any RM matters considered urgent – none.

10) Any Other Business – The Executive Committee agreed to ask the full Council to approve the increase of the weekly paid hours of The Clerk from 18 to 24 with effect from 1st February 2023.

11) Date of next meeting – The next Executive meeting will be held in April, exact date to be confirmed.