

TIDMARSH WITH SULHAM PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting of the Parish Council was held at the Tidmarsh Village Hall on Wednesday 21st January 2004, commencing at 8.00.p.m.

Present: Mr. M. Broun (Chairman),
Mrs. M. Kennett, Mr. E. Ayerst,
Mr. J. Harland, Mr. C. Pawson.

Apologies: Mr. R. Taylor,
Mr. T. Metcalfe – District Councillor

In Attendance: Clerk to the Parish Council

59. Declarations of Interest

There were no items on the agenda that resulted in Members declaring either a personal or a prejudicial interest.

60. Minutes of the Last Meeting of the Parish Council

The minutes of the last meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 19th November 2003, having been circulated, were confirmed a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

61. Matters Arising on the Minutes

- i. The Chairman had completed and returned the questionnaire on the Parish Council Survey.
- ii. The Vice Chairman had completed and returned the survey on the First Annual Review of the West Berkshire Community Plan.

62. Planning Committee

The minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 30th December 2003 were received and the proceedings adopted.

63. Planning Applications

The following plan was considered.

App. No.	Location and Proposal	Observation
03/02735	Westering, Garage conversion to living space and new garage.	No objections

The SPISE Winter Newsletter was received and tabled.

It was agreed that the views of Dave Pearson, an officer in the West Berkshire District Council Planning Department, be sought in regard to two sites that may be subject to future certificates of lawfulness.

The Joint Strategic Planning Unit had produced the final version of the Berkshire Landscape Character Assessment and it was now available to view and download from the website www.berks-jsu.gov.uk/environmental/environ_character.htm

The Panel Report following the Examination into the Berkshire Structure Plan had now been published, and was available in hard copy format.

64. Highways, Footpaths and Traffic Matters

There had not been any follow up from the information received at the last meeting in regard to the work requested in the vicinity of Sulham Hill.

No additional issues were raised.

65. Environment Agency

District Councillor John Chapman had sent the Parish Council a copy of the Purley Flooding Report which had been commissioned following the problems encountered during the flooding in January 2003.

It was observed that the water in the Pang was at a relatively low level notwithstanding the recent heavy rain. This may have been due to the work undertaken by the Environment Agency, or the fact that the water had not yet returned to the desired levels in the underground aquifers.

66. Crime and Disorder

A new non emergency number had been launched to make it easier for the public to contact the Thames Valley Police. The new number, **0845 8 505 505**, should put the caller through to one of two Police Enquiry Centres where an experienced operator should be able to route the call to, hopefully, the correct location.

67. West Berkshire District Council – Parish Council Survey

It was agreed not to complete the questionnaire on the subject of Area Forums.

68. Financial Matters

The audit of the Annual Return for the year ended 31st March 2003 had been completed and the appropriate notice displayed on the notice boards in Tidmarsh and Sulham.

Resolved that the items listed below be authorised for payment, such sums to be debited to the account of the Parish Council.

James West
Clerks Salary and expenses
for the year ended 31st March 2003 £590.00

Tidmarsh Village Hall
Lettings for 2003/4 £150
Sect 137 Donation £100 £250.00

69. Estimates of Expenditure

Detailed consideration was given to the estimates of expenditure for the financial year commencing 1st April 2004. The resultant figures are shown on the schedule attached to the minutes.

70. Precept upon the District Council

Resolved that a precept in the sum of £2,500 be served upon West Berkshire District Council for general purposes for the financial year commencing 1st April 2004.

71. AWE Liaison Committee

The following documents were received and noted.

The minutes of the 35th meeting of the Local Liaison Committee.
The October Monthly Assurance Report.
An information leaflet on how AWE is regulated.
The Quinquennial Review of the Strategy for the
Decommissioning of AWE's Nuclear Sites.

72. Berkshire Association of Clubs for Young People

An introductory leaflet was received and tabled.

73. Royal Berkshire Fire Authority Risk Management Plan

The role of the Fire Service was changing, and, for the first time, the fire and rescue service was to be formally recognised as a provider of a wide range of protection services to the community. An Integrated Risk Management Plan entitled "A Safer Berkshire" had been produced and comments were invited.

74. Fireworks Act 2003

Martin Salter, MP, had, after a lengthy delay and several reminders, replied to the letter written during January 2003, requesting his support in achieving a reduction in the noise and availability of fireworks because of the threat they pose to the well being of the elderly and animals.

The Fireworks Act 2003 will enable the Government to apply restrictions to the sale and use of fireworks. Coupled with the Night Noise Offence within the Noise Act 1996 it may result in a reduction in the indiscriminate use of very loud fireworks used throughout the year.

Further information on firework safety was available on the website www.dti.gov.uk/homesafetynetwork

75. Annual District/Parish Conference

The Annual District/Parish Conference was to be held on Tuesday 2nd March commencing at 5.45 p.m. at the Market Street offices of the District Council.

Members were not available to attend.

76. Item for Information

Councillor Colin Pawson had attended a seminar on the production of Parish Plans at the Purley Parish Council location. He had found the session of considerable interest.

77. Conclusion

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.56 p.m.

Chairman
17th March 2004