

642/F/2008/1378 – Proposed change of use of farm buildings from agricultural use to class B1(c), Blackcroft Farm, Foxhill, Farley Hill

AGREED that the PC had no objection, subject to certain conditions being imposed relating to landscaping and traffic accessing the site from the A327 and not through the village. All in favour.

643/F/2008/1497 – Proposed erection of a single storey rear extension to dwelling to accommodate a hydrotherapy pool, Whistlings, Spring Lane, Swallowfield

AGREED that the PC had no objection. All in favour.

644/F/2008/1573 – Proposed erection of single storey rear extension to dwelling, Church Cottage, Church Road, Farley Hill

AGREED that the PC had no objection. All in favour.

645/F/2008/1608 – Proposed erection of two storey side extension plus ground floor front extension to existing dwelling, Red Oaks, Odiham Road, Riseley

AGREED that the PC objected to the application on the basis of causing it to look like a terrace; overdevelopment of the site; the damage to the visual amenity of the street scene; and that the design created an unbalanced appearance. All in favour.

4.2 Farley Hill School planning application (F/2008/1045) – noted that the application was withdrawn from WBC's July meeting. No new date for submission has yet been received. [Subsequently confirmed that the application would go to committee on 20th August].

4.3 Appeals –

630/F/2008/0843 – Proposed conversion and extension of existing barn to provide ancillary residential accommodation, Loddon Lower Farm, Lambs Lane, Swallowfield

PC had no objection but highlighted that although the intention was not to separate the new from existing, there was a separate access which would make this very easy

PP refused July 08 due to failure to provide special justification or essential need; alterations would materially change the character of the barn resulting in increase in bulk and massing in rural area and ASLI; residential cartilage would contribute to the urbanising impact; no bat or newt survey; and no provision for services etc.

Appeal by Local Inquiry (APP/X0360/A/08/2072824/NWF) – comments to the Inspectorate by 21st August 2008

Grounds of Appeal: The essential need for the development; no characteristics of a barn; no further information sought by LPA; more than adequate local services; and accords with policy

Agreed that, as the PC had not objected to the application, it would not attend the appeal, but that further comments would be made.

628/O/2008/0756 – Outline application for the demolition of existing buildings and redevelopment of 36 residential units with parking and access road, Land at Blanke Villa, Lambs Lane, Spencers Wood (PC included a comment relating to the existing business on the site moving to Balcombe and suggested there should be no link between the two; also a comment on flooding)

PP refused June 08 due to TVHSPA; provision of services; affordable housing provision; bat and crested newt surveys; archaeological survey; contamination survey; protected trees; amenities of neighbours re overbearing and over-looking

Appeal by Local Inquiry (APP/X0360/A/2079730/NWF) – comments to the Inspectorate by 28th August 2008

Grounds of Appeal: That the site is eminently suitable for redevelopment; the SPA issue is shortly to be addressed; evidence to be provided that there will be no harm to interests of importance; so this and other material considerations should mean planning consent be granted.

It was noted that the Public Inquiry for this appeal had been set for 21st October and it would be heard at the same time as the appeal relating to the Balcombe site, as below.

584/F/2007/2197 – Proposed change of use of land from Garden Centre to Builders Merchant with demolition of existing sales building and erection of new building for builders merchants, Balcombe Nurseries, Basingstoke Road, Swallowfield

Also noted that a meeting would be arranged in due course with Wokingham BC to go through the case.

613/F/2008/0087 – Proposed erection of two storey side extension, Church Terrace, Castle Road, Farley Hill (PC had no objection)

PP refused April 08 due to increase in scale and bulk

Appeal by written statements (APP/X0360/A/08/2080904/WF) – comments to the Inspectorate by 1st September 2008

Grounds of Appeal: The proposal was to provide additional accommodation; the design of the extension would help to balance the front elevation; the house sits in a large plot and the adjacent bungalow has planning permission to demolish and replace with a four bedroom house; the village consists of a variety of house types; the proposal will meet a social need and not cause detriment to the character of the area.

Noted.

APPEAL DECISION

The following appeal decisions were noted.

560/F/2007/0793 – Proposed erection of replacement dwelling and garage, Springfield, Trowes Lane, Swallowfield (PC objected on grounds of visual impact, style and countryside/gap policies) PP refused June 07 due to bulk, scale and design. Appeal dismissed.

589/F/2007/2505 – Proposed erection of replacement dwelling and garage, Springfield, Trowes Lane, Swallowfield (PC no objection but considered building, esp. balcony, to be out of keeping. Also drainage issues to be considered) PP refused Nov07 due to bulk, scale and design having an adverse impact on the sensitive rural location to the detriment of the visual amenity of the area. Appeal dismissed.

5. QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC - None.

6. FINANCE

Mr. Bowker/Mr. Entwistle/Mrs. King

6.1 Member Allowances – agreed the travel and subsistence allowance rates would be as follows

	451-999cc	1000-1199cc	1200-1450cc
Per mile	40.5p	44.2p	55.8p

6.2 Fieldfayre – update. Agreed Part II item.

6.3 Audit fee complaint – noted that the PC had requested to proceed to the 2nd stage of the Audit Commission’s complaints procedure, which would involve meeting with the Audit Commission, although a date had not yet been set.

6.4 Pension Policy – agreed defer to next meeting.¹

7. BILLS FOR PAYMENT

1	A & S Plumbing - New immersion element at the Marshes	192.50
2	Cobwebs - Cleaning of communal areas Post Office & Alan Barnes 04.07.08 - 01.08.08	52.40
3	GLS - Paper towels, cream cleaner, bin	140.53
4	Worktown Office Supplies – Paper for newsletter	117.35
5	ABS Electrics - Electrical inspection & replace kitchen ceiling rose lamp holder at The Marshes	252.63
6	Life & Property Care Ltd - Gas safety check at 4 Russell cottages	89.30
7	Life & Property Care Ltd - Gas safety check & service boiler at Parish Hall	237.35
8	WBC - 1 x refuse vehicle July	170.38
9	WBC - Rates for old Age Concern offices July & August	272.00
10	Moorepay - payroll costs for July	22.07
11	Mrs Thorndyke - Hall deposit refund	50.00
12	Grundon - Extra bin at Parish Hall 11.07.08	12.69
13	Nigel Jeffries - Grounds maintenance for July	666.23
14	Thames Water - Flat 2 Fieldfayre 18.07.08 - 31.03.09	176.37
15	B & M Fencing - New decking at tennis club <i>(reimbursed by tennis club)</i>	7835.84
16	White Knights - Check out fee for Flat 2 Fieldfayre	76.38
<i>Direct Debits</i>		
17	Payroll July	2909.44
18	Pensions July	707.09
19	Tax & Ni July	752.58

Agreed that the bills as listed be approved for payment. All in favour.

8. GENERAL PURPOSES – Mrs. King

Economic Development – Mrs. McDonald

8.1 Flooding update – Mrs. McDonald reported on the meeting which had taken place on 22nd July with Jenny Elliot from Thames Water and Eddie Napper from WBC. It had been a very successful meeting and it was felt that some progress had been made. Following the meeting a letter had been sent to WBC from the PC enclosing a lot of

¹ Next agenda

information and suggestions on where the priorities for work might be, on the basis that WBC was to receive Government funding for this purpose. Meanwhile, Mr. Gower had also written to WBC suggesting a strategic solution and had received a positive response from John Redwood MP, to whom the letter had also been copied. Mrs. McDonald had also been in contact with Mr. Redwood and was currently dealing with his assistant, Carl Thompson, while Mr. Redwood was on holiday. Another meeting was being held on 27th August, this time also with Barry Morrison from the Environment Agency at which it was hoped that further strategic measures could be agreed.

It was agreed that feedback would be requested from Eddie Napper and Jenny Elliott prior to the next meeting on 27th August and Mrs. McDonald also asked that the Council minute its thanks to Mr. Gower for his input.

Balancing Ponds – it was noted that, following the clearing and fires, no further work had been carried out on the ponds and this would be pursued.

Trowes Lane ditches – Noted that, when she had returned from holiday, Mrs. King would meet with the landowner, Mr. Waterer, to walk the ditches in that area.

Agreed that, especially since the PC was putting pressure on others to clear their ditches, it had a duty to clear its own. Quotes were dealt with under item 11.1 below.

- 8.2 Arborfield Rurality – appeal by West Berks PCT. Noted that no comments had been sent by the PC as the request for comments from Arborfield PC nor the Medical Practice had been responded to.

9. HALLS AND PROPERTIES - Mr. Entwistle

- 9.1 CCTV infra red installation – carried forward to next meeting.
9.2 No 4 Russell Cottages – noted that the Landlords Inspection of the gas boiler had been carried out recently and a repair costing £323.21 had been approved.

10. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND AMENITIES

Culture/Leisure/Arts – Mrs. King & Mrs. Stanley

Recreation Grounds/Play Areas/Sport – Mr. Goldsmith

- 10.1 Riseley mound and Swallowfield Copse – quotes for risk assessment inspections had been received – Rospa £195 + VAT for one site and Wicksteed £82 + VAT for one site. Agreed that Wicksteed would be asked to inspect both sites.²

11. ENVIRONMENT – Mrs. McDonald/Mrs. Gower

- 11.1 Swallowfield Meadow ditch clearing/cutting – D&S Thompson had been the PC's preferred contractor for the work to clear two ditches earlier in the year and therefore a further quote had been requested from them in relation to Swallowfield Meadow. Two quotes had been received, one to work without removing the trees close to the ditch, where a limited amount of handwork could be carried out to improve the water flow (£1,475); but for a more thorough cleanout, which would allow for more regular maintenance and avoid trees overgrowing the ditch and causing problems in the future (£2,275). Agreed that a maximum of £2,275 be agreed for clearing the ditch but that two

² Clerk

members would firstly look at the proposal in more detail in case some cost savings could be made.

Naylors ditch – agreed that the quote provided by D&S Thompson in January for clearing the ditch behind The Naylors (£2,575) be accepted. Noted that a 3 metre clearance would be made to make mechanical cleaning possible.³

- 11.2 Ragwort – a resident had contact the Council with concern about the amount of Ragwort growing around Swallowfield, due to its toxicity especially to horses. Information on the plant was provided to members and it was noted that landowners were responsible for controlling plants growing on their land. Agreed that Mrs. Gower would check the PC's open spaces and if necessary request that the gardener remove the weeds. Further information from Defra would also be obtained.⁴
- 11.3 Van Demans – noted that the hedge planted on PC land behind the new house (Mulberry Barn) was still in place despite the PC's request to the householder to remove it. Agreed that it would be removed and a quote would be obtained for reinstating the ditch at the same time.⁵

12. TRANSPORT/HIGHWAYS – Mr. Goldsmith

- 12.1 Collision on Odiham Road, Riseley – noted that at approximately 2pm on 13th July, there was a collision on the Odiham Road, just in front of the children's play area near the entrance to Portway. It was noted that the collision seemed to have happened as a car travelling towards the country park decided to overtake two other cars when it crashed into a fourth car that was turning out of Portway. It was also noted that road conditions at the time were fine with a completely dry road, so it was likely that the car was travelling at excessive speed. Fortunately nobody appeared to have been seriously injured and it was not known whether the police had been called.
- 12.2 Farley Hill School TRO – plans for the experimental drop off zone and additional double yellow lines were approved.
- 12.3 TRO approval for weight restrictions on various roads to ensure consistency and compliance. No relevant roads in this parish – nearest ones are Church Lane, Arborfield and Kybes Lane, Grazeley. Noted, but as it is outside the parish agreed the PC would send no comments.

13. CRIME, FEAR OF CRIME – Mr. Goldsmith/Mrs. King

- 13.1 TVPA meeting held 21st July – Mr. Goldsmith's report on the meeting, circulated with the agenda, was noted. It was felt to be a useful meeting, where speeding traffic was again a central issue.
- 13.2 NAG – next meeting Tuesday 9th September at Shinfield [and next police surgery in Swallowfield Friday 5th September 10-12].

14. COMMUNICATION – Mr. Collender

Update at next meeting

³ Clerk

⁴ Clerk

⁵ Clerk

15. PARISH PLAN – Mrs. McDonald/Mr. Entwistle

Update at next meeting

16. BALC/WDALC/DP CONFERENCE – Mrs. King/Mr. Goldsmith/Mrs. Gower

16.1 CCB conference – Mrs King and Mr. Goldsmith had attended and a report was circulated.

17. REPORTS and CORRESPONDENCE TO THE COUNCIL – noted.

- Letters of thanks from Berkshire Blind Society, CAB and the Brownies for the recent grants
- The Pitt Review (June 08) – lessons learned from the 2007 floods (copies to MM and AK).
Agreed all members would be copied.⁶

18. URGENT ITEMS AND ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

Items to carry forward – see 3(b) above.

19. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 9th September 2008 in the Davies Room, Swallowfield Parish Hall, Swallowfield Street, Swallowfield at 7.30 p.m.

During the meeting, one member of the public had left and another, Mr. Mark Robins, had arrived. The Council asked Mr. Robins whether he would like to be co-opted back onto the Council but he was unfortunately unable to do so at present mainly due to family commitments. However, he informed the Council that he would be very happy to help with anything he could if the Council so wished. The Council agreed unanimously to invite Mr. Robins to remain for the Part II meeting relating to the building complex at Fieldfayre at which the meeting would be temporarily adjourned to allow Mr. Robins to speak.

⁶ Clerk