

# Public Document Pack

## NOTICE OF MEETING

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## RURAL FORUM

will meet on

**TUESDAY, 6TH MARCH, 2018**

**At 6.00 pm**

In

**DESBOROUGH 4, TOWN HALL, MAIDENHEAD**

TO: MEMBERS OF THE RURAL FORUM

COUNCILLORS CHRISTINE BATESON (CHAIRMAN), DAVID EVANS (VICE-CHAIRMAN), DAVID COPPINGER, RICHARD KELLAWAY, COLIN RAYNER AND MALCOLM BEER

SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

COUNCILLORS GERRY CLARK, DR LILLY EVANS, JESSE GREY, MAUREEN HUNT, JOHN LENTON AND SIMON WERNER

Karen Shepherd - Democratic Services Manager - Issued: 26/02/2018

Members of the Press and Public are welcome to attend Part I of this meeting. The agenda is available on the Council's web site at [www.rbwm.gov.uk](http://www.rbwm.gov.uk) or contact the Panel Administrator – **Shilpa Manek on 01628 796310**

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## **AGENDA**

### **PART I**

<b><u>ITEM</u></b>	<b><u>SUBJECT</u></b>	<b><u>PAGE NO</u></b>
1.	<b><u>CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION</u></b>  The Chairman to welcome all to the Rural Forum.	
2.	<b><u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u></b>  To receive any apologies for absence.	
3.	<b><u>DECLARATION OF INTEREST</u></b>  To receive any declarations of interest.	5 - 6
4.	<b><u>MINUTES</u></b>  To agree the minutes of the last meeting.	7 - 10
5.	<b><u>RURAL HOUSING</u></b>  Jenifer Jackson, Head of Planning will update the Forum on Rural Housing.	Verbal Report
6.	<b><u>UPDATE FROM THE FARMING COMMUNITY</u></b>  To receive an update from Mr Nick Philp on issues affecting the farming community.	Verbal Report
7.	<b><u>RURAL FARM WALK</u></b>  The Rural Farm Walk is going to be hosted by Mr Nick Philp and will take place at Church House , Waltham St Lawrence.  This will take place during the first week of June 2018. The date will be confirmed as soon as possible.	Verbal Report
8.	<b><u>RURAL CRIME</u></b>  To receive an update from Thames Valley Police.	Verbal Report
9.	<b><u>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</u></b>	
10.	<b><u>DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS</u></b>  To Be confirmed.	



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## MEMBERS' GUIDE TO DECLARING INTERESTS IN MEETINGS

### Disclosure at Meetings

If a Member has not disclosed an interest in their Register of Interests, they **must make** the declaration of interest at the beginning of the meeting, or as soon as they are aware that they have a DPI or Prejudicial Interest. If a Member has already disclosed the interest in their Register of Interests they are still required to disclose this in the meeting if it relates to the matter being discussed.

A member with a DPI or Prejudicial Interest **may make representations at the start of the item but must not take part in the discussion or vote at a meeting.** The speaking time allocated for Members to make representations is at the discretion of the Chairman of the meeting. In order to avoid any accusations of taking part in the discussion or vote, after speaking, Members should move away from the panel table to a public area or, if they wish, leave the room. If the interest declared has not been entered on to a Members' Register of Interests, they must notify the Monitoring Officer in writing within the next 28 days following the meeting.

### Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPIs) (relating to the Member or their partner) include:

- Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain.
- Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit made in respect of any expenses occurred in carrying out member duties or election expenses.
- Any contract under which goods and services are to be provided/works to be executed which has not been fully discharged.
- Any beneficial interest in land within the area of the relevant authority.
- Any licence to occupy land in the area of the relevant authority for a month or longer.
- Any tenancy where the landlord is the relevant authority, and the tenant is a body in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest.
- Any beneficial interest in securities of a body where:
  - a) that body has a piece of business or land in the area of the relevant authority, and
  - b) either (i) the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body **or** (ii) the total nominal value of the shares of any one class belonging to the relevant person exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.

Any Member who is unsure if their interest falls within any of the above legal definitions should seek advice from the Monitoring Officer in advance of the meeting.

A Member with a DPI should state in the meeting: ***'I declare a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in item x because xxx. As soon as we come to that item, I will leave the room/ move to the public area for the entire duration of the discussion and not take part in the vote.'***

Or, if making representations on the item: ***'I declare a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in item x because xxx. As soon as we come to that item, I will make representations, then I will leave the room/ move to the public area for the entire duration of the discussion and not take part in the vote.'***

### Prejudicial Interests

Any interest which a reasonable, fair minded and informed member of the public would reasonably believe is so significant that it harms or impairs the Member's ability to judge the public interest in the item, i.e. a Member's decision making is influenced by their interest so that they are not able to impartially consider relevant issues.

A Member with a Prejudicial interest should state in the meeting: ***'I declare a Prejudicial Interest in item x because xxx. As soon as we come to that item, I will leave the room/ move to the public area for the entire duration of the discussion and not take part in the vote.'***

Or, if making representations in the item: ***'I declare a Prejudicial Interest in item x because xxx. As soon as we come to that item, I will make representations, then I will leave the room/ move to the public area for the entire duration of the discussion and not take part in the vote.'***

### Personal interests

Any other connection or association which a member of the public may reasonably think may influence a Member when making a decision on council matters.

Members with a Personal Interest should state at the meeting: ***'I wish to declare a Personal Interest in item x because xxx'. As this is a Personal Interest only, I will take part in the discussion and vote on the matter.***

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# Agenda Item 4

## RURAL FORUM

MONDAY, 6 NOVEMBER 2017

PRESENT: Councillors Christine Bateson (Chairman), David Evans (Vice-Chairman), David Coppinger, Richard Kellaway, Colin Rayner and Malcolm Beer

Also in attendance: Louise Warbrick (Thames Valley Police), Tim Parry (Community Council for Berkshire), Paul Rinder (Rinder Ltd), Geoffrey Copas (Copas Farms), William Emmett (Hornbuckle Farm), Andrew Randall (Randall Farms), Liz Hadden (BCA), Nick Philp, Phil Mortimer (Fairacres Farm), Annie Keene (Applehouse Farm), Alan Keene (Applehouse Farm and Bisham Parish Council Chairman), James Copas (Copas Farms), David Jacobs (Copas Farms) and Barbara Story.

Officers: Shilpa Manek and Harjit Hunjan, Shilpa Manek, Lisa Pigeon and Ashley Smith

### CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. All attendees introduced themselves.

### APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from John Emmett, Richard Simmonds and David Scott.

### DECLARATION OF INTEREST

No Declarations of Interest received.

### MINUTES

The minutes of the last meeting were **Unanimously Agreed**.

### ORDER OF ITEMS

**RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY** that the order of items on the Agenda be changed.

### RURAL FARM WALK FEEDBACK

The Chairman thanked Mr Rinder and his family for hosting the Rural Farm Walk.

The Chairman highlighted that the next Rural Farm Walk needed to be arranged soon and it was suggested that the press be invited to future Rural Farm Walks.

The Clerk to be informed of where the next Rural Farm Walk would be held.

### UPDATE FROM THE FARMING COMMUNITY

A presentation was given to the Forum by Mr Nick Philp. Presentation attached will minutes.

Points discussed after the presentation included:

- Due to the amount of rain this year, there had been a poor quality harvest. There had been late grass and milk and butter were in shortage.
- Generally prices had remained stable as a result of the weak pound.

- A question was asked about irrigation and whether it was used. Irrigation was used for fresh produce only, it came at a cost, a licence would be required and 95% of crops are un irrigated.

## RURAL CRIME

Items 7 and 8 were merged to present unauthorised encampments.

## UNAUTHORISED ENCAMPMENTS

Lisa Pigeon and Louise Warbrick, both gave a joint presentation on unauthorised encampments. Presentation attached.

Points that were discussed included:

- It was difficult for the police to act if the landowner had not taken any actions first.
- What the code of conduct was.
- For fly tipping, it was the local authority who could prosecute.
- The Environment Authority would only get involved if it was significant organised crime.
- Landowners had to prove who the fly tipping was done by.
- It was difficult to act against someone with no address. It was best to keep record and registrations and more people should call the police for them to attend the site.
- If vehicle registrations were recorded and could be tracked going from one site to another, then the police could act.
- During four recent cases of unauthorised encampments, two had been dealt with by the police and were not successful and the other two by bailiffs, this worked better and the land had been cleared within 48 hours.
- Joint working had to be further improved.
- The possibility of alerting the farmers via a NFU representative when they were moving so everyone could be alerted. This could be considered as stalking and that was an offense. A group of farmers were already acting as a watch group but when police and local authority informed, there was no back up or support.

## GREEN BELT FOR FARMING

Councillor Coppinger, Lead Member for Planning informed the Forum that the Panel wanted to hear the views of the farming committee. Councillor Coppinger introduced Ashley Smith, Deputy Head of Planning to answer any specific questions.

Points raised by the Forum included:

- The borough would like to preserve the green belt land, farmers would like to preserve the most as they use for farming.
- 80% of the borough is countryside.
- Farmers were concerned that not many Members attended the Rural Forum. Wycombe District Council have more commitment to the farmers and many more Members attend the meetings.
- Green belt land was best used for farming.
- Mr Copas asked the Deputy Head of Planning why the three planning applications they had submitted had been refused and at appeal, all costs had been awarded. The applications were for affordable housing. Applicants would like practical support from the planning team. Ashley Smith informed Mr Copas that he would be happy to look into these and speak out of the Forum to Mr Copas.
- Councillor Colin Rayner asked how did it take to determine a planning application. Ashley Smith informed the Forum that the timescales varied



depending on the complexity of the application, quality of the submission and whether any additional information/evidence was required.

- Councillor Colin Rayner reminded Rural Forum Members that they can approach their Ward Councillor, Parish Council and could also consult planning for advice. Ashley Smith confirmed that pre application advice was always available. The timescale for a response was five to six weeks.
- Mr Copas informed the Forum that the pre application advice was very useful, however a time line to responses would be very helpful. Copas Farms had asked for pre application advice in December 2016 and were still awaiting a response. Members were not impressed with this information. Councillor David Evans informed the Forum that if no response was received, Ward Councillors should be contacted.
- It was always difficult to speak to the planning officers.
- Better communication was required.
- Nick Philp asked what happened to the S106 funds and suggested that the council be more transparent. Ashley Smith informed the Forum that a record is maintained of how it is gathered and spent.
- CIL was discussed and if this was a consideration when planning applications were permitted. It was explained that this was not a consideration and that all developments paid monies towards CIL that paid towards infrastructure and housing. CIL was important but it was not a determining factor.
- Councillor Beer discussed the north, south divide and that there was more pressure on the south for housing.
- The north of the borough had many large houses, more smaller properties were required for working people. Through the Local Borough Plan, there would be many more smaller homes, both social housing and affordable private housing.
- The council to consider that with the rapid expansion of residents, leisure facilities should be supported.
- Are there any ways to restrict smaller houses extending to become large houses in planning policy. Ashley Smith informed the Forum that it was very difficult to do this.
- The Local Borough Plan had to be submitted by the end of January 2018.

### DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Forum Members noted that the next meeting was on 6 March 2018 at 5.30pm in the Guildhall.

The meeting, which began at 3.00 pm, finished at 7.00 pm

CHAIRMAN.....

DATE.....

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