



Tony Renouf &lt;parenouf@googlemail.com&gt;

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**Woolhampton Sewage Plant**

4 messages

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**Tony Renouf** <tony@renouf.me.uk>  
To: derek <derek@midghamparish.co.uk>

16 December 2015 at 10:32

Dear Derek

In late October I copied you into a letter to Gary Lugg setting out the Parish Council's requests with regard to the long running sewage leakage problems in Station Road. Cllr James Spackman reported to our meeting last night that you consider the letter to be 'silly'.

I would be grateful if you could explain, and perhaps expand upon, that opinion and how it might influence your Parish Council's response to a future planning application in Midgham that could impact on the welfare of some Woolhampton residents.

Regards  
Tony

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**DEREK LOMBARDO** <dereklobardo@btinternet.com>  
Reply-To: dereklobardo@btinternet.com  
To: tony@renouf.me.uk  
Cc: angela@midghamparish.co.uk

6 January 2016 at 13:16

Dear Tony, sorry about the late reply, but my computer put your email into my spam folder. Yes I do recall your letter to Gary Lugg, but I am a little bit annoyed and surprised at James stating that I considered the letter to be "Silly".

I do not recall saying that the letter was "silly" and have also telephoned our Clerk just to confirm. May I therefore ask you to question James Spackman, for the reasoning I considered the letter "Silly" However, the letter was discussed at our meeting and it was agreed that our Clerk would reply to you, please see copy of our minutes of the meeting item 9.

Best regards Derek Lombardo

-----Original message-----

From : [tony@renouf.me.uk](mailto:tony@renouf.me.uk)  
Date : 16/12/2015 - 10:32 (GMTST)  
To : [derek@midghamparish.co.uk](mailto:derek@midghamparish.co.uk)  
Subject : Woolhampton Sewage Plant  
[Quoted text hidden]

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 **8 Dec 2015 Minutes \_1\_.pdf**  
40K

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**Tony Renouf** <parenouf@googlemail.com>  
To: Elliot <elliott.wright23@gmail.com>  
Cc: Steve Brady <steve.brady@sovereign.org.uk>

6 January 2016 at 14:05

JAN 2016

**637.9 DOMESTIC WASTE (LITTER BIN LOCATED NR. THE ROWBARGE PH)**

The Clerk advised that WBC Cleaning Services have again raised concerns relating to 'domestic' rubbish being placed in the Parish Council's litter bin, near the Rowbarge. There then followed a discussion and it was noted that the bin is located near the busy mooring area. It was preferable that any rubbish arising from mooring boats be placed in a litter bin than be fly-tipped. WBC should be asked to install an additional bin in the area or should refer the matter to the Canal Trust who 'control' the boat moorings.

**637.10 MILLSTREAM STATION ROAD**

The Chairman Councillor Mr T. Renouf advised the Council that following concerns previously raised by a resident in Station Road (February 2015) regarding the lack of flow in the millstream (also raised with WBC) a number of discussions had taken place between WBC, Network Rail and Thames Water, but to date, none of these discussions had resulted in any firm proposals being agreed. He advised that one possible solution has been identified that would require Parish Council support and funding, including legal costs, associated with a small piece of land being transferred to the Council. Given that this matter would be subject to possible future legal discussions he could not discuss any detailed proposals at his stage, but in order to explore these further, he sought an agreement in principle, that the Council supported efforts to improve the flow of the millstream and for him to liaise with relevant parties to explore a possible Parish Council led solution. If agreed, a future report would be presented to the Council for formal consideration. Following a discussion, the Council agreed that it supported efforts to improve the flow of the millstream and agreed that the Chairman Councillor Mr T. Renouf could explore further, all options that could achieve this.

**637.11 STATION ROAD SEWERAGE ISSUES**

Chairman Councillor Mr T. Renouf advised that Thames Water, despite having previously stated that they did not know the addresses of the alleged six properties in the village that were providing for rain water to inflow into the foul sewerage network, have advised WBC of these. The Chairman Councillor Mr T. Renouf also advised that he continues to liaise with WBC's Head of Planning with regard to his responses to date, over the Council's request, that planning conditions be used to prevent additional pressure being created on the foul sewer system through new development, that is until its capacity has been increased. Councillor Mr J. Spackman noted his disappointment that he had not been copied into the letter sent to WBC's Head of Highways and Planning and to a number of adjoining Parish Councils including Midgham, given his role in neighbouring parish council liaison. He stated that at the last Midgham Parish Council meeting the letter was discussed and was described by their Chairman as being silly and that the planning conditions, as requested by Woolhampton Parish Council, could not be applied by the District Council. Given that he had not seen the letter, he could not defend the Council's position. There then followed a discussion. Councillor Mr J. Spackman was asked to expand on the comments made by the Midgham Parish Council Chairman and in particular why he considered the letter to be silly. The Chairman Councillor Mr T. Renouf agreed to contact the Midgham Parish Council Chairman to discuss the matter.

**637.12 UPDATE VILAGE HALL COPSE**

The Chairman Councillor Mr T. Renouf advised that works on the Copse had just about been completed. He advised that there would be further work associated with maintaining the area and in particular making sure any unsafe trees were removed as necessary. The Clerk advised that this work could be funded via S106 monies currently held by the Council.

**637.13 UPDATE AWE LLC**

The Councillor Mr G. Hale provided an update on the last AWE LLC meeting. In particular he advised that it was reported that the on-going highways work around the site, which is giving rise to local traffic issues, is expected to be completed by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016.

Steve Brady, C/O 9 The Hampdens, Glendale Avenue, Wash Common, Newbury, Berkshire,  
RG14 6TN. Tel: 07795631353  
woolhamptonparishCouncil@hotmail.com

# WOOLHAMPTON PARISH COUNCIL

Mr G Lugg – Head of Planning & Countryside  
West Berkshire Council  
Council Offices  
Market Street  
Newbury  
Berkshire  
RG14 5LD

Chairman Councillor Mr T. Renouf  
Woolhampton Parish Council  
Millside  
Station Road  
Woolhampton  
Berkshire  
RG7 5SQ

27<sup>th</sup> October 2015

Dear Gary

For at least a decade some properties in Station Road have experienced sewage flooding into their gardens whilst others have suffered toilet use restriction due to ingress of surface water into the sewer during heavy or prolonged rainfall.

In an email (3 June 2015) following a Sewage Pumping Station Study, Thames Water stated that *“Investigations to date have identified that Woolhampton Sewage Works is unable to handle additional flows. This means that a viable solution (to the Station Road problem) needs to take into account the need to incorporate, not only upgrades to our waste water pipework, but to the Pumping Station and Treatment Works as well”*. The Parish Council regards this statement as recognition by Thames Water that the sewage pumping station covering Woolhampton and parts of Brimpton is therefore currently insufficient.

Unsurprisingly, Thames Water goes on to say *“Regrettably, but equally as one might expect, the overall cost of up-sizing our infrastructure in this way is considered to be much higher than benefit”*. Therefore whilst Thames Water recognises that the sewage pumping station is insufficient they currently do not propose to do anything about its shortfall in capacity regardless of the impact that on occasions this has on residents in Woolhampton including health and safety concerns.

Over the last few years Thames Water has undertaken regular sewer cleaning, repairs to manholes at ingress locations and is continuing to monitor sewage flows. It has also identified six properties, about which they have informed West Berkshire Council, that have illegal connections of the roof water to the sewer. According to the Consumer Council for Water (email 21 August 2015) *“One roof misconnection can produce in a typical annual event the equivalent to peak waste water flows from 100 houses, creating significant performance problems in the foul sewer”*. We have yet to identify the addresses of these six properties or how, given the role of building control, this situation has been allowed to develop.

As you are aware, Thames Water's response to application 15/02412 (land adjacent to Victoria Park) has been to request a 'Grampian Style' condition *“because the development may lead to sewage flooding”*. The Parish Council considers this to be an indication that Thames Water recognises that a problem exists that needs to be resolved rather than ignored.

There are two other current applications in Woolhampton, 15/02453 (The Rising Sun) at which site there is no main sewer connection and 15/02482 (Brooklawn) to which Thames Water has not objected.

The Consumer Council for Water also states that *"The lack of enforcement by the Planning Office is causing a problem downstream, and I would suggest that the Council needs to take action to fulfil its duty of care to the households that suffer as a result of these illegal connections"*.

The purpose of this letter is to request that all current and future developments in Woolhampton and in those parts of Brimpton and Midgham parishes that drain into the Woolhampton Treatment Works should only be granted subject to a strict condition being applied whereby an on-site biodigester treatment is used. This policy to remain in place until the misconnections are rectified and proven to have materially reduced the incidence of sewage flooding and toilet use restriction in Station Road.

Moving forwards, the acknowledged deficit in capacity of the current Woolhampton Treatment Works clearly has longer term implications for any future housing arising from the draft WBDC Development Plan Document which is being presented to Full Council on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2015. Given this, Woolhampton Parish Council wishes to enlist your support and help to ensure that Thames Water fulfils its statutory duties to provide Woolhampton with a sewage system that meets demand /capacity.

Yours sincerely

**Tony Renouf**  
**Chairman Woolhampton Parish Council**

CC: Councillor Mr C Brims - Chairman Brimpton Parish Council  
Councillor Mr D Lombardo - Chairman Midgham Parish Council  
Councillor Mr D Bueck - Aldermaston Ward Member, WBDC

# MIDGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

21 Swan Drive, Aldermaston. RG7 4UZ email – [angela@midghamparish.co.uk](mailto:angela@midghamparish.co.uk)

## Minutes of the Meeting of Midgham Parish Council held on 8 December 2015

Present were Mr D Lombardo (Chairman) (DL) Mr Anthony Fenn (AF)  
Mr John Upham (JU) Mrs A Spoor (Clerk)  
Mrs H Hutchins (HH) Plus 3 members of the public

1. **Apologies for absence** - Mr D Boeck (DB) due to prior commitments and Mrs J Caiger-Smith feeling unwell.
2. **Declarations of interest** - None
3. **Minutes of the previous meeting** held on Tuesday 27 October 2015 were duly agreed and signed.
4. **Matters arising** - Salt bins – Consultation re proposals that 'grit bins will no longer be provided and refilled by the council. It will be a matter for town and parish councils to decide whether they would like to fund additional bins, or the refilling of existing bins from November 2016'. Matter discussed at length. Clerk to respond to consultation expressing disgust at the proposal. Bins are located in the following sites: Birds Lane garden, Corner of New Road Hill and School Hill, On school hill on brow of hill just before T junction before M Inwood's, Church Hill by Nursery Copse. It was felt that: grit bins are critical to Midgham due to steep road access to village, essential not luxury. Huge issue re Church Hill water drainage problems. James Spackman (JS is a P/Councillor for Woolhampton) mentioned there was talk of neighbouring parishes working together if/when proposals happen. **ACTION: Clerk to respond and cc to Dist Cllr DB**

Defibrillators: DL spoke to Kevin Jury following last months decision not to change the phone box. The real issue is that more Responders are needed.

Hatched area on the A4 by the Berkshire Alms no longer allowed refuge for road from Midgham Marsh – this has been altered to allow mid road refuge..

Coach and Horses: HH reported that it had been on the market for 6yrs.

5. **District Councillors report** – not present. Clerk read report from Aldermaston meeting referencing Salt bins and Local school transport issues. JS advised that DB had taken on responsibility for Property and Broadband
6. **Appointment of Trustee for Thatcham Parochial Charities** – It was resolved that Mrs Prue Fenn be appointed as a trustee of the charities as the Midgham Parish Council representative.
7. **Speeding on Brimpton Road** – Following the meeting with Mark Edwards from WBC highways it was advised that the vegetation across the road from the cottages would be cut back. This has not been done. HH advised that the drains have been sucked out. **ACTION: Clerk to chase ME** JS advised that AWE had agreed to pay compensation to the community for the disruption caused by the numerous road closures, possibly a SID device. It was felt that this may help the speeding issues on Brimpton Rd. **ACTION: Clerk to make contact with Brenda Harding re liaison with AWE**
8. **Parish Council website** **ACTION: Clerk to make contact with Steve Russell**
9. **Woolhampton Treatment Works** – Clerk circulated a copy letter from Mr T Renouf, Chairman of Woolhampton re treatment works requesting that all current and future developments in the parishes that drain into these works only be granted subject to a strict condition being applied whereby an on-site biodigester treatment is used. The issue was discussed and agreed that all such applications would obviously take into consideration such matters. **ACTION : Clerk to reply to Tony Renouf**
10. **Historic footpaths** – no contact. JU will continue to monitor

11. **Church Magazine** – HH put in an article advising vacancy – no responses

12. **Public time:** Robert Pike from Birds Lane asked for an update on the drainage issues/leak from Nursery Copse on Church Hill and wanted to know why nothing had happened. **ACTION:** Clerk to again raise this with WBC and add to the consultation re Salt bins as this has a direct impact on the need for a salt bin in this vicinity. HH to raise issue with John Bowden and discuss the possibility of digging a ditch to redirect the water to the drain.  
Di Hibberd asked how many workers WBC has as the verges don't seem to have been cut as frequently.

13. **Clerks' report:** Financial statement: C/A £1868.23 cr D/A £8046.93

Clerk advised that £29.99 was paid for domain name for next 3 yrs.

No Invoices due this meeting

Clerk advised that she would be circulating details of the budget in preparation to set the Precept for 2016/17 and requested that Councillors consider this prior to the next meeting.

Clerk also requested that Councillors consider Plans for 2016 in preparation for the January meeting – initial thoughts – Tree survey/Communications

14. **Planning** Clerk advised the following:

Planning Applications – None

Planning Appeal: Church View Farm 15/01390/HOUSE – Appeal determined by written representation.  
***SUBSEQUENTLY WITHDRAWN***

Planning Decisions

Application for prior approval – 15/02582/PACOU Kennet Holme Farm, Bath Road – *No comments can be made, decision made based on criteria set out in Town & Country Planning Order (General Permitted Development).* ***AWAITING DECISION***

Application for prior approval – 15/02406/PAD56 Brimpton Road Bridge, Midgham – for permitted development under Part 18, Class A of Schedule 2 to the Town & Country Planning (General Permitted Development). Proposed development: Works to increase height of bridge parapets to 1.8 metres **GRANTS FOR APPROVAL**

15/01997/FULMAJ – Former Hewden Site and Old Gullivers Site to South West – Retrospective : Siting of 12 mobile homes for road maintenance workers. ***AWAITING DECISION***

15/02593/FUL – Midgham Croft Cottage - Section 73. Removal of Condition 3 – Code for Sustainable Homes of approved reference 13/02955/FUL. Demolition of house and outbuildings. New four bedroom house, reconstruction of garage and store to form studio. . ***AWAITING DECISION***

15. **Correspondence**

- Rodger Bradley – Midgham School 1950s **ACTION:** DK to speak to Frances. Clerk to put article in the magazine having first checked with Mr Bradley
- Heritage in West Berkshire Report – DL taken to read

16. **Play area:** monthly check all OK

***Date of next meeting – 26 January 2016 (JU will be on holiday)***