



Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 27th March 2007

Present: Alice Wilkinson (Chairman), Jim Gillett, John Davies, Chris Drew, John Illenden, Jackie Jeffery, Shirley Newman, Nick Ray. and District Councillor Pamela Graddon, one resident and one member of the press.

Apologies for absence: Michael Forrer, Steve Gray,

4184/07 Open Forum - Mr Flemming attended to speak about a new application for for extending 4 Park Lane. He was informed that the application had not yet reached the Parish Council but will be on the Agenda for the next meeting.

4185/07 Declaration Of Interest - None

4186/07 Minutes of the meeting held on 27th February 2007 –The Date for the previous meeting was wrongly recorded as 19th December 2006. It should have been 24th January 2007. Subject to this amendment the minutes were approved by the Council and signed by the Chairman.

4187/07 Urgent Matters Arising from the above Minutes - None

4188/07 PLANNING

a) Applications for Information and Comment:

O/0474 Outline for four detached dwellings at 2-4 Old Bath Road. - Following discussion the Clerk was asked to write as follows:

It is noted that this is a resubmission of a previously refused application. It is the view of this Council that whilst changes have been made, these changes fail to deal adequately with the objections which this Council made to the first application. In particular:-

Council is still concerned at the traffic implications of this proposed development and the contested traffic statistics which were presented in support of the first application and which are still being referred to. The access point for these houses and for any others which might be developed in the Gardens of houses on the South side of Old Bath Road, (which we are informed will be directed to use this access road), is still too narrow and is immediately opposite the access to the Charvil Filling Station. It is also very close to the dangerous exit from the filling station and the A4 roundabout. A recent application to expand the Filling Station is still being discussed. From a highways point of view these two proposed developments cannot be considered in isolation.

*Council is still concerned at the design of the proposed development. Council is concerned at the still high density in comparison with the adjacent properties including those on the Hawthorns, and the close proximity of the proposed houses to Sonning golf course which is the edge of the Charvil settlement. If approved this development would present a hard edge to the settlement at this point. **In this respect Council draws attention to a number of mature trees on the boundary between this site and the Golf Course which need immediate protection.***

To quote an earlier refusal for proposed back garden development on Old Bath Road; 'The development would be cramped and urbanising. There would be lack of space for landscaping, and limited private amenity space'.

For all these reasons Council again recommends that this application be refused.

0524 Single and two storey extensions at 49 Gingels Farm Road. - Following discussion the Clerk was asked to write as follows:

Council is concerned that these exceptionally large extensions could impact on neighbouring properties. Consultation with all the neighbours is therefore essential.

b) Approved - The following approvals were noted:-

0185 Single Storey front extension & single storey rear extensions at 32 St Patrick's Avenue

0284 Prior Agricultural determination to erect an agricultural barn at Newlands Farm, Loddon Drive, New Bath Road A4 with conditions re flood plain.

0304 Convert garage to living accommodation at 100 The Hawthorns.

9462 Single storey front extension and convert garage to living accommodation at 4 Charvil Meadow Road.

c) Refusals

0037 Conservatory at 20 Newbury Close

0118 Single storey side & rear and loft extension with rear Dormer at 1 St Patrick's Ave.

d) Regional Housing Strategy Review - To be reviewed with Chair of Council.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

4189/07 Finance Reports – Council approved the financial reports which had been circulated with the agenda.

4190/07 Authorisation of Payments - Council considered the cheques report. Cheques as detailed including payments of: £1339.50 for the floor cleaning machine, £1500 for Village Hall emergency lighting and £1200 for Village Hall painting were unanimously approved and the cheques signed. The cheques for lighting and painting to be held until the work has been satisfactorily completed.

4191/07 Donations A donation of £150 to Berks. Blind Society was approved and the cheque signed.

4192/07 Appointment of Internal Auditor – Council unanimously agreed to the reappointment of Geoff Weir as the Council's External Auditor at the same fee as previous years.

4193/07 Any Other Financial Matters - None

REPORTS

4194/07 Village Hall Management Committee Report of meeting held 20 March 2007

Matters arising:-

a) The new floor cleaning machine needs to be included on the insurance policy.

b) The Insurance claim for the vandalised bollard light at the front of the Village Hall has been refused because the small print indicates that Landscape features are only covered if the damage is associated with damage to the building. Future cover for all exterior lighting is being discussed with the Insurers.

4195/07 District Councillor's Report - Councillor Graddon reported that:

Wokingham District Council have applied for a lottery bid to fund a new Twyford library.

Charvil art Group have applied for a grant from Wokingham District Council.

Wokingham District Council is investigating a possible breach of the planning approval conditions awarded on appeal.

Yellow lines are now in place on Chiltern Drive. Yellow lines on Milestone Avenue are being considered.

Wokingham District Council are considering what action can be taken in respect of the vandalised fence on Chiltern Drive.

The Play ground at Vale View is being refurbished.

4196/07 Sonning Charvil & Hurst NAG

A meeting is to take place on 28th March. Four main issues are being considered at the current time: Speeding, Youth Facilities, Car Crime & a new survey to evaluate work carried out and areas of concern to be evaluated in the future.

4197/07 ENVIRONMENT

- a) Country Park and Fishing Rights – Councillor Ray reported that further progress is dependent on discussions between Thames Water and the consortium. In anticipation of the hand-over a meeting is to be held on Monday 2nd April at 10am in the Village Hall to discuss Fishing Rites.
- b) Veteran Tree Project –is awaiting a map to indicate the site details for the allotted 58 trees in the parish (7 in the meadows and 51 in the country park)
- c) Village Hall Trees - Councillor Illenden has looked at the gaps in the line of trees, near the Village Hall. He recommends that the soil needs boosting with fresh compost before planting in the Autumn with 4 Small Leaf Limes (Tilia Cordata) using bare root stock. Although smaller than container stock they will grow on better.

4198/07 HIGHWAYS AND PUBLIC TRANSPORT

- a) Highways Policy – Facts Sheets on Variable Speed Limits and on Quiet Lanes. Noted and for further consideration.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

4199/07 Village Fete – Confirmation of date 8th July. Confirmed that Council members will do BBQ.

4200/07 Post Office Closures - Councillor Forrer to complete Questionnaire.

4201/07 Children's Centre Project Group - The Chair to read and report to next meeting

4202/07 Berks. Fire Authority - Five Year Plan - Included with documents circulated for information

4203/07 Adult Social Services - Included with documents circulated for information

4204/07 Free parcels post for service men - Noted

4205/07 Telecommunications Roll Out Meeting Documents - Included with documents circulated for information

4206/07 Being a Good Councillor – Module 4 - Noted

4207/07 Annual Parish Meeting 2nd May 2007 – Lead Members to prepare reports for inclusion in presentation. Clerk to provide Notices and flyer for newsletter and to organise refreshments.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.30pm

.....Signature
Chairman of the Council

Signed on 24th April 2006

Chairman's Initials.....