



Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 15th June 2015

Present Chris Drew (Chairman), James Bell, Jackie Jeffery, Lauren McCann, Paul Mundy, Jim Gillett, Fiona Mowlem, Liz Black and Borough Councillor Nick Ray.

.Apologies for absence John Davies and John Hobson

6417/15 Open Forum – Keith Dormer, representing the vegetable plot-holders, and Miranda Stamp with a colleague, representing the Wokingham Bridleways Group, attended. Keith explained that at the beginning of this season there were five empty plots, and he felt that people were discouraged from taking them on because they were so expensive. He appreciated that the cost of introducing water needed to be covered, but felt that it could be paid back over a longer period of time. In addition, he noted that since the Amenities Committee had allowed existing plot holders the opportunity of taking a second plot for £20, there are now only two empty plots. He hopes that they will not be expected to pay £40 for these second plots next year. Council were sympathetic to their position, and would consider the issue at the next amenities committee meeting when they had had time to digest the figures. The Chairman thanked Keith and he left at 8.10pm. Miranda Stamp introduced her group and explained what the issues were; namely, that Wokingham has only 10% of its paths currently designated as bridleways as opposed to the national average of 22%. Charvil currently has no bridleways at all. This means that the few horses that are currently kept in Charvil have to use roads (many of which are very busy) if they are to be taken out of their fields; most don't. The Group are visiting every parish to try to raise the profile of this issue, in the hope that with all the new building and ensuing developer contributions, some could be spent on upgrading footpaths and also creating new links, so that walkers, cyclist and horses can avoid busy roads as much as possible. The Group would like to have the parishes' support in their negotiations with Wokingham, as this may make them more likely to succeed. Council were sympathetic to the cause, and asked Miranda to pass on any ideas of new paths in the Charvil area to the Council. The Chairman thanked Miranda and her colleague, who left at 8.20pm.

6418/15 Declarations of Interest – There were no declarations of interest.

6419/15 Minutes of the Meeting held on 18th May 2015 and Annual meeting of the Council of 18th May 2015 – Both Sets of minutes were approved by Council.

6420/15 Matters Arising from the above Minutes – There were no matters arising

6421/15 PLANNING (ref 186)

a) New Applications for Information and Comment:

0681 Revised plans for proposed erection of new play equipment at the Wee Waif – Council had no concerns about the plans themselves, but asked the clerk to comment to the Planning Officer that they had concerns about the items not on the plans such as the shelter and the illuminated sign. *Clerk's note: the clerk contacted the planning officer who said that the applicant had indicated a separate application for the other additions to the site would follow but if this does not happen within a reasonable period of time, then contact the enforcement team.*

- b) **Planning Applications Approved** – the following approval was noted
0396 Single storey side and rear extension to existing dwelling and single storey rear extension to existing garage with part conversion of garage loft to habitable accommodation at 2, The Hawthorns

There being no further Planning business the Planning Meeting was closed.

FINANCE

- 6422/15 **Finance Reports** – It was resolved that the Reports be approved which they were unanimously.
- 6423/15 **Authorisation of Payments** – It was resolved that the Council should approve all outstanding payments, including £2515.50 to Playground Facilities Ltd, £3240 to JFI Roofing, £759.50 to Emily Graham of Silkiskills and £604.95 to Berkshire Pension Fund which they were unanimously
- 6424/15 **To approve the figures and Bank Reconciliation for the Annual Return** – It was resolved to approve these which they were unanimously
- 6425/15 **To approve the Annual governance statement 2014/15** – It was resolved to approve this which it was unanimously

There being no further Finance business the Finance Meeting was closed.

REPORTS

- 6426/15 **Village Hall Management Committee** – The minutes of the meeting on 1st June were noted.
The hall roof repairs have been completed and anti-climb paint administered. All the lights are now working and the Conditions of Hire are nearly complete. Although the assistant clerk removed all the door wedges, someone has been bringing in (and leaving) others. This issue needs to be discussed again at the Village Hall meeting.
- 6427/15 **Amenities Committee** – The minutes of the meeting on 1st June were noted.
Cllr Gillett reported that he had been in contact with Thames Water, who are nearly certain that they have found an alternative site for the pumping station for the Waingels Road sewer. When they are sure, they will write to the Parish Council and residents to give a firm update.
It was resolved to defer any decision on the vegetable plot fees (see Open Forum) until the issue had been discussed by the Amenities Committee with all the figures before them, and will bring back to full Council in July.
The repairs at St Patrick's playground have been completed, and it has been recommended that a major refurbishment of the climbing frame be budgeted for in the next five years. There is also a problem with one of the goal posts and Charvil AFC have been made aware.
- 6428/15 **Borough Councillor's Report** – Because of the settling in period after the election, it is still quite quiet, but the Borough Councillor did comment to Wokingham on the issues at the Wee Waif on similar lines to the Parish Council.
- 6429/15 **Highways** – There has been a fresh complaint about speeding on the Old Bath Road. Cllr Jeffery referred back to a traffic survey the Council undertook some years ago, which indicated speeding was not really an issue, but Council would like the issue revisited as things do change. Cllr Mowlem pointed out that the signs from Twyford were obscured, and the clerk was asked to contact Wokingham to see if this could be rectified, and also whether 30 could be written on the road as well, as is done in many villages. The clerk was also to ask whether another survey could be done to see if speeding has become more of a problem.
- 6430/15 **Environment** – Cllr Mowlem had taken more photographs to add to the nature booklet, and Cllr McCann was arranging so she can update the leaflet herself, rather than go

back to the graphic designer each time. Cllr. McCann has contacted various groups and the school, and all are interested in using the booklet – even the local Old People’s Home is interested in taking some of the more able bodied out to the Country Park now. The chairman reported that there has been some interest from the sixth formers at Piggott to create an App as a project next year, and is waiting to hear something more definite.

- 6431/15 To consider any progress on the East Park Farm discussions** – Wokingham have been in contact with fresh information, including the Parish Council taking on the management of the car park as well. There are still items to be ironed out, and Cllr Hobson and the clerk have sent back a re-iteration of Council’s position. Council are awaiting a reply.
- 6432/15 To consider the draft policies on e-mails and social media** - This was deferred in the absence of Cllr Hobson.
- 6433/15 To consider the consultation on the Gypsy and Traveller Local Plan** – Council had no objections to the suggested policy. There was a discussion about the proposed sites, one of which was in Charvil. *Clerks note: the site is part of the Country Park, and in the flood zone, and has been discounted by Wokingham Borough Council as unsuitable.*
- 6434/15 To Consider progress on the website** – This was deferred until Cllr Hobson was present. Cllr Black had a concern that it would not be ready in time to launch in the next edition of the Village News, as she wanted the two to complement each other; to create a village “brand” so to speak.
- 6435/15 To consider the amended Code of Conduct** – Council resolved to adopt this as an improvement on the previous version.
- 6436/15 To consider how Council would like to promote No Cold Calling zones** – It was resolved that the Chairman would include something on this in the parish Newsletter. The clerk was to contact Sonning to see how they have succeeded in getting blanket coverage for their village.
- 6437/15 To consider affiliating to Berkshire Youth** – The Council decided against this as it already supports the local Youth centre.
- 6438/15 Feedback from the Disaster Planning Training** – The clerk was asked to contact silkiskills to see whether she could advise on “cloud” storage as a back up.

The Borough Councillor would like to know as soon as possible whether there is any likelihood of having the cricket pitch installed by next summer. The clerk would investigate.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.38pm

Chairman’s Signature