



Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 16th November 2015

Present Chris Drew (Chairman), James Bell, John Davies, Lauren McCann, Fiona Mowlem and Borough Councillor Nick Ray

Apologies for Absence Jackie Jeffery, Jim Gillett, John Hobson, Paul Mundy and Liz Black

6505/15 Open Forum - There were no residents present. Chief Fire officer Andy Fry and Paul Jacques attended to talk about fire prevention and community resilience. The fire service has been very successful in targeting the "at risk" households, and helping them with fire prevention techniques (smoke alarms etc), and as a result, the number of emergency call-outs has halved since 2010. The service would like to try to reach the vulnerable in areas they haven't managed to make contact with yet, but need to tap into local knowledge, as many of these people are not known to any authority. Because the fire service has been so successful in reducing demand for emergency call-outs, there may be a temptation to think fire stations could be shut down, but this would be a false economy. To ensure their continued existence, the fire service is trying to be more active in the local community, by helping the ambulance service, reaching emergencies first and helping people until the paramedics arrive; reaching out to troubled youngsters to give them a positive role model; helping the elderly with fire prevention systems and promoting healthy lifestyles. Community resilience is something the Parish Council could help with as they have local knowledge, and they can work with Wokingham Borough Council's emergency planning officer. If Parish Councils have an emergency plan, then this can help enormously, as it can ensure people's safety when dangers have been identified. It can be as simple as having a bank of telephone numbers of contacts/vulnerable people etc. It may be that the Village Hall has been identified as a site for emergency shelter, or it can collate local information on where the most vulnerable people live. Once the presentation had finished, the Chairman thanked them for coming and they left at 8.55pm.

6506/15 Declarations of Interest – There were no declarations of interest.

6507/15 Minutes of the Meeting held on 19th October 2015 - The minutes were approved by Council.

6508/15 Matters Arising from the above Minutes – There were no matters arising

6509/15 PLANNING (ref 191)

a) New Applications for Information and Comment:

152753 Application for proposed erection of a two storey side and rear extension to 140, Park View Drive North – no Parish Council comment

b) Planning Applications Approved – the following approvals were noted

152312 Application for proposed single storey rear extension to form a conservatory at 20, Pipistrelle Way

152392 Application for the proposed erection of a part two storey, part single storey rear/side extension to 57 Old Bath Road

- c) **To consider Draft Terms of Reference for Joint Working on CIL** – The Parish Council had no objections to these.

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

FINANCE

6510/15 Finance Reports – It was resolved that the Reports be approved which they were unanimously.

6511/15 Authorisation of Payments – It was resolved that the Council should approve all outstanding payments including £531.73 to NIC Services Group Ltd which was done unanimously.

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

REPORTS

6512/15 Village Hall Management Committee The minutes of a meeting on 2nd November were noted.

It was noted that the assistant clerk was arranging for the flushing out of the heating system by British Gas as approved by the Village Hall Committee

6513/15 Amenities Committee The minutes of a meeting on 2nd November were noted.

6514/15 Borough Councillor's Report - The Borough Councillor reported that WBC still did not have a date for the appeal by Hicks regarding Park Lane. He also reported that WBC had taken up one of the ideas put forward by a resident to improve the junction at Park Lane Waingels Road, and that they are considering widening the curb near the bridge so that cars are forced into taking a wider approach. By moving the visibility lines further right, it allows the drivers from Waingels Road to see to the left better.

6515/15 Environment – Cllr McCann has met with Simon Bartlam and Rachel Chopping of the Charvil School. The original site that the school liked for the Forest School would be too expensive to make safe, but it may be possible to create an area in the open piece of land beyond the stream in the Country Park. Cllr. Mowlem was concerned that this is an area used a lot by dog walkers, and suggested that it would be better to use part of the land the other side of the stream nearer to the car park. The Chairman wasn't sure about this area, but Cllr McCann is to meet with Rachel Chopping again to see which site would be her preference, and Council will take it from there. Simon Bartlam can give the Forest School some willow to start off with.

6516/15 Highways – The clerk reported that she had been in contact with the Neighbourhood Police team who gave a list of options as to what action could be taken to try to reduce speeding on the Old Bath Road. After some discussion, the clerk was asked to get in touch with Hurst Parish Council, who has a machine to monitor speeds and quantities of traffic, but does not record number plates. The idea is to gather data to see whether further action needs to be taken. *The clerk has contacted Hurst who would be happy to place the sensor for a period of nine days, and would then send the Parish Council the data, which can also be shared with the Police, subject to Council approval.* A second Highways issue was the lack of warning for the recent road closure in Twyford. The clerk was asked to write a letter complaining about the lack of consultation, and the poor signing of the road closure, leading to traffic chaos in the area.

6517/15 To consider the draft meeting dates and make any changes as necessary The date set aside for the first Village Hall meeting of the year would be used for the budget meeting, but all other Village Hall dates were agreed. The Parish Council meeting dates were also agreed, but the Christmas one was moved a week earlier, and the August meeting would be just for planning and finance.

- 6518/15 **To consider the progress of the East Park Farm discussions** – Council had been sent a map and a list of assets. There is a briefing meeting for the Borough Councillors, and it was agreed that the two parties are close together in principle now.
- 6519/15 **To report on the possible agenda for the next Borough Parish Working Group** – Because of the issues surrounding the five year housing supply, other topics due to be discussed at this meeting will be held over and the meeting will be used to update Councillors on the latest land supply issues.
- 6520/15 **To consider the progress of Facebook, Twitter and the Website** – All three are going well considering the lack of publicity – they will all be promoted in the next edition of the Village News. Planning and roadworks appear to be the most popular topics.
- 6521/15 **To approve the purchase of Christmas gifts for volunteers** – It was resolved to approve the purchase of gifts for the volunteers who deliver the newsletter.
- 6522/15 **To update Members' Interest forms** – Cllr Bell had signed his, but Cllr Mundy has been deferred.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.00pm

Chairman's Signature