



Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 16th October 2017

Present Jim Gillett (Chairman), Paul Mundy, Fiona Mowlem, John Hobson, Jackie Jeffery, Claire Andersen, James Bell, Jane Hartley, Adrian Keward and Borough Councillor Emma Hobbs

Apologies for Absence John Davies

Absent

6904/17 Open Forum – There were no members of the public, but there was PCSO Daniel Taylor to discuss the local issues and how best to report them. He reported that there are very few reported incidents of anti-social behaviour in Charvil, despite councillors and residents saying they have seen drug use and dealing both at East Park Farm and around the Village Hall. The advice was that if you see drug use or other minor criminal activity, ring 101, if you see drug dealing actually happening or other more serious crimes, ring 999, but if you see something else that concerns you which is maybe anti-social behaviour, then send an e-mail to TwyfordNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk. He reported that he often patrols on foot and on bike around Twyford and Charvil, including round the Country Park. As regards CCTV, if Council were to go down that route at the hall, then there would need to be three cameras, but East Park Farm is more difficult, because of its size, but if points of entry were identified, then it would be possible to install cameras by these entrances, to see who is actually at the park at a given time. The Chairman thanked Daniel for coming, and Council moved on through the agenda.

6905/17 Co-option of Jane Hartley and Adrian Keward to the Council Both signed the relevant declarations and were duly co-opted.

6906/17 Declarations of Interest – There were no declarations of interest

6907/17 Minutes of the Meeting held on 18th September 2017- The minutes were approved by Council.

6908/17 PLANNING (ref 214)

a) New Applications for Information and Comment

172842 Application for the proposed erection of single storey rear extension to dwelling plus conversion of existing garage at 76 East Park Farm Drive – no PC Comment

172743 Application for the proposed erection of two dwellings on land to the rear of 70-72 Old Bath Road – no PC Comment

b) Planning Applications Approved – The following were noted

171283 Application for a certificate of lawful development for the use of land as a caravan site at The Homestead, Park Lane

172250 Application for the conversion of loft space to habitable accommodation with rear dormer extensions and rooflight at 16 Charvil Meadow Road

c) **Local Plan Update – including reports from the Northern Parishes meeting, the public meeting and the Borough Parish Group, whether to support the idea of contributing to the area’s “Fighting Fund”, and whether to develop a Neighbourhood Plan**

The Chair gave a brief overview of the various meetings and letters that Council had been copied in on, and there was a brief discussion about the possibility and cost of a Neighbourhood Plan but no decision can be made until it is clearer as to where development may be proposed. David Lee of WBC arrived at 8.50 to give a briefing on why so many appeals are being approved at present; mainly because the Borough is being penalised for slow delivery of housing, even though this was recognised as necessary by the Core Plan inspectors because the infrastructure needs to be in place before house building for the SDLs. This has been compounded by revised figures pushing house numbers up from 854 to 894 per year, and because developers have deliberately pushed up the prices of the smaller homes so there is not enough affordable housing being built. In reality WBC has approved planning applications for 13,000 since the beginning of the Core Strategy housing period, which is sufficient up to 2026, the end of the period. David Lee would like to encourage as many residents as possible to write to the relevant people in govt, local MPs etc., to express concern that WBC seems to have been penalised for doing exactly what has been asked of them in planning terms, and that the criteria for approving appeals needs to be reviewed as a matter of urgency, such that the number of ‘approvals’ is used as a guideline, not the number of completed houses (which controlled by the developers not WBC).

Moving onto the Local Plan for 2026-36, WBC feels that there needs to be a re-think on the national plan, because this area is in danger of saturation, with Slough and Reading not having enough land to fulfil its national housing requirement. This does not mean the area is against housing, but that it can no longer build at the nationally imposed rate without serious damage to the character of the area which has attracted both employers and residents in recent times. Despite this, WBC is having to consider where it can build its allocation of homes if its appeals to central government fail, and to this end it is evaluating all sites put forward. Developers have put forward a considerable number of possible sites in Twyford, Barkham Square and Grazeley; which is why WBC is having to spend a serious amount of time considering these three areas – otherwise, if these sites are simply rejected and then questioned by an inspector, WBC may not be able to defend the decisions from accusations of not looking at all sites equally. WBC’s preference would be to develop Grazeley as it is close to the motorway and railway, and is big enough to secure the funds for the additional infrastructure needed. However, it may be rejected because it is too close the nuclear installations at AWE Aldermaston. If this is the case, the other sites will have to be considered, and the Northern Parishes would be expected to take many of these homes. While efforts will be made to develop brownfield sites and re-develop town centres like Twyford and Woodley, there will inevitably be greenfield development as well. Planners try to choose sites which have boundaries, like motorways, railways etc., and some sites put forward are unpopular because they could lead to merging of settlements. There is a lot to consider, but David Lee was clear that the Northern Parishes will have to take some development. The Chairman thanked him for coming and both he and Daniel Taylor left at 9.40 pm. The Chair asked Cllr Mowlem to urge residents to write once Council had received further information from Mr. Lee.

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

FINANCE

- 6909/17 Finance Reports** – It was resolved that the financial reports be approved, which they were unanimously.
- 6910/17 Authorisation of Payments** – It was resolved that the Council should approve all the following outstanding payments:
£98.20 to Grundon Waste Management Ltd
£42.57 to Contract Natural Gas Ltd
£29.65 to British Gas Services Ltd
£61.93 to Aquacare
£736.48 to ISS Facility Services Ltd
£1584 to IPS Fencing of Slough
£672 to Loddon Door Services Ltd
£66.98 to the Clerk
£596.59 to litter picker
£271.92 to Luxonic Lighting Ltd
£12886.80 to AES Ltd
£139.61 to Southern Electric
£216.82 to Sunshine Commercial Services Ltd
£1807.91 for payroll
£205.34 to SSE Contracting
£385 to Dual Energy
- 6911/17 To consider how to develop processes to ensure fresh projects run smoothly and efficiently** – It was resolved that the Finance Committee would convene to review governance, and develop a procedure for future project management
- 6912/17 To note the expression of interest from local junior football teams to relocate to Charvil and from this decide a future date for an extra-ordinary meeting to consider how Council may wish to develop its facilities** – Cllr. Mundy explained the background and that AFC Charvil is a low budget club with a small income, and hence would not be able to pay the fees which the adult teams can. They are currently based at Sonning, but the older teams will no longer be able to play there after the end of this season. Council were very supportive of the idea of bringing the team to Charvil in principle, but as Cllr. Mundy reminded everyone, the use of the adult pitches was an integral part of the business plan, and junior football would mean a serious loss of income. Cllr. Mundy will talk to AFC Charvil, and therefore it is premature to arrange an extra-ordinary meeting at this stage.
- 6913/17 To note the broken height barrier at East Park Farm, and consider whether to just replace the aluminium beam, or to change everything over to a steel construction and if so, which company should do it** – Council resolved that they would prefer steel, but would like to have a clear specification of what we want as the two quotes are not very clear; they would like to know the cost of installation and removal from the second company; clarification on whether it is possible to have a swinging steel bar; references from Heald Ltd and to ask IPS if they would consider reducing their quotation. *Clerk's note: Heald will only supply – ISS would do the installation. They will also only supply an aluminium bar because of the weight.*
- 6914/17 To review the extra items we need to insure at East Park Farm beyond the specific items we already owned before the asset transfer** – It was resolved to approve insurance for all items suggested.

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

REPORTS

- 6915/17 Amenities Committee** – The minutes of a meeting on 2nd October were noted. Council was asked to consider what the best options were to deal with youngsters climbing into the tennis courts now that the hole they had made has been sealed up, because now it is clear they are climbing over the top which is further damaging the fence. One idea was to just leave the courts open so anyone can use them, but there were concerns about loss of revenue. Another idea was to re-instate the creep hole. A further idea was to put up high nets but there may be planning issues concerning these. A decision was deferred to the Amenities Committee.
It was resolved to allow the assistant clerk to find a suitable plumbing firm to undertake the servicing of the boilers at the pavilion as the chosen contractor does not deal with commercial boilers.
- 6916/17 Report from the Borough Councillor** – Cllr. Hobbs reported that the areas round the Old Bath Road/Park Lane junction have been re-seeded on the areas damaged by weed killer last spring. There will be some speed enforcement in the Old Bath Road in the coming weeks. There has been more fly-tipping in Park Lane and Milestone Avenue.
- 6917/17 Highways**
Cllr Mowlem and the clerk had met with Traffic Management and a representative from Morelock, and they suggested Council would be better off having a battery powered unit so it can be placed at various locations as required. Council needs to contact Streetlighting to get permission to attach the device to streetlights, but need the weight and dimensions first.
Clerk's note: it was resolved to suspend Standing Orders at this point so the meeting could go on beyond 10pm, which was passed unanimously although Cllr Mundy and Borough Cllr. Hobbs both had to leave at 10pm.
- 6918/17 Environment**
It was noted that the tree work at East Park Farm has been completed. Council are still looking for a lead tree warden, as CPC's flood warden is happy to be involved but does not have the time to lead on this. Cllr. Andersen will try to get to grips with this and see if she can move it forward.
- 6919/17 To hear an update from Cllr. Hobson on the Fete Committee, and to further consider how to ensure the fete's survival** – Cllr. Hobson attended the EGM of the Fete Committee and although the actual meeting was not successful, since then, a group of seven volunteers have stepped forward. Cllr. Hobson has agreed to be part of this committee to work as a link between the committee and Council. It was noted that Council are supportive of the fete and will help to keep it going.
- 6920/17 To note the job description for a new litter picker and approve this for advertising** – It was suggested the job title should be "Village Warden", that the role was 6 hours a week and the pay was £8.70 per hour. It was resolved to advertise this on Facebook, the website, the notice boards and in the shop.
- 6921/17 To Consider whether Council should install CCTV at East Park Farm** – This was deferred.

There being no further business the open meeting closed at 10.08pm

Chairman's Signature