



Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 21st August 2012

Present Alice Wilkinson (Chairman), Jim Gillett, Jackie Jeffery, Liz Black, John Davies and Borough Councillor Nick Ray

Apologies for absence – Piran Trezise, Paul Mundy, Chris Drew and Lauren McCann

5769/12 Co-Option of James Bell to the Parish Council – James Bell was formally co-opted.

5770/12 Open Forum – Brian Grady, Strategic Commissioner for Children, Young People and Families, attended to discuss the future of primary education in the area, and in particular, the possibility and feasibility of a new primary school in Charvil. Also in attendance were the Chair of Charvil Pre-school, the new Pioneer Minister for the area, Alison Waters and one other resident. Brian Grady explained that his role is to develop a strategy for future primary and secondary education within Wokingham Borough to take to the Council's Executive Committee on 25th October 2012. The need for a new strategy has been driven by a combination of increasing birth-rates within the Borough, coupled with increasing development, leading to a need for an extra 2,000 extra primary places. While many of these places will not be needed in the northern parishes, the Twyford area has been identified as a hot spot because the present schools are full and there is little scope for extending them. There is a possibility to add numbers to Hurst and Wargrave Primary Schools, but this could produce a sum of 24 new places, and the expected need is more likely to be for a full class of thirty. Looking at the area, there has been consistently enough children born each year to fill a class if there were a school in Charvil, and so the logical place for a new school would seem to be here. Brian Grady would like to get as much feedback from parents in the area as possible in an attempt to come up with the best solution for the area. It is not just an issue of building a new school because there will be an impact on other local schools, particularly Sonning, and if catchment areas are changed, then this could negatively affect the choices available to Charvil parents. There is a strong feeling that it would be fairer for Twyford families if Polehampton and Colleton had a shared catchment area, but this could negatively impact on Charvil children, 45% of whom currently attend Polehampton. Brian Grady feels that parents also need to be given more information as to the risks of their choices, to reduce the likelihood of getting none of their preferred choices, as has happened to a number of families this year. There followed a long discussion on possible sites, with the advantages and disadvantages of all being discussed. Brian Grady said that ideally the site should already be owned by Wokingham Borough as this would increase the viability of having a school built by Autumn 2013, and would mean there would be more money to spend on the school itself, rather than land. The minimum space for a school with one class per year is 0.7 hectares, and so if the school were to be built at East Park Farm, the largest area owned by the Borough, it could impact on the facilities already there, which is not something the Council wants to do. There was also concern that if it were built there, there would be a stronger argument to extend the development limit to round off again. Paul Morris of the Pre-school wondered whether a new building could be incorporated for the pre-school, and while this could be done, Brian Grady was

concerned of the possible impact on existing community facilities like Jubilee Hall if the pre-school were to move. It was agreed that Brian Grady would meet with interested parties to walk round possible sites, and that a public meeting would be held in Charvil Village Hall as soon as possible to get residents' views. The vicar asked if it would be a church or community school, and as the quickest way to set up a school is as a satellite, it would depend upon which school it is attached to. The cost of a new school is around £2.5 million, which will come from central government, and there followed a discussion on what it would look like, as concern was expressed that if it went up very quickly it may be poor quality and out of keeping with the rest of the village. Brian Grady said he would meet with the Council again very soon, as he has a clearer vision of what is needed and where, and some of these issues can be discussed then, as this is an ongoing process. The Chair thanked him for coming and all the visitors left at 9.25pm

5771/12 Declaration of Interest – None

5772/12 Minutes of the Meeting held on 24th July 2012 –The minutes were approved by Council and signed by the Chairman.

Matters Arising from the above Minutes –

There were no matters arising which were not on the agenda.

5773/12 PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING (ref 152)

a) New Applications for Information and Comment:

1130 Proposed change of use of two offices (A & B) to use as a gym with changing facilities and conversion into one larger room with a new entrance door at Whitebridge House, Old Bath Road, Charvil – no Parish Council comment

1131 Application for advertisement consent for the proposed erection of one fascia sign and one roadside sign at Whitebridge House, Old Bath Road, Charvil – no Parish Council comment

1629 Proposed erection of a single storey rear extension at 142, Park View Drive North, Charvil – no Parish Council comment

b) Planning Applications Approved – The following planning approvals were noted

1081 Proposed erection of two storey and single storey extensions to building at 44, Old Bath Road

c) Planning Applications Refused

0774 Erection of three dwellings with creation of new access and driveway on land adjoining the rear and side of 17, Charvil House Road.

d) Sandford Farm - Nothing to report

e) Appeal Dismissed – Erection of three dwellings on land adjoining 17, Charvil House Road

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

FINANCE COMMITTEE

5774/12 Finance Reports - Reports were unanimously approved.

5775/12 Authorisation of Payments – Council unanimously approved payments.

5776/12 Donations Request from Homestart – Council unanimously agreed to donate £150 to Homestart

5777/12 Diamond Jubilee – Cllr. Davies passed the final paperwork to the clerk.

5778/12 New Energy Supply contract – Council unanimously agreed to a new two year fixed term contract with Eon for the Village Hall's electricity.

5779/12 Training for new councilors 24th October 2012 – It was agreed that Piran Trezise and James Bell would attend this.

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

REPORTS

5780/12 Village Hall Management Committee – There was no August meeting.

5781/12 Amenities Committee – There was no meeting in August

Vegetable Plots – All payments have been received. It was unanimously agreed that next year's payments would remain at £40 to cover possible payments to Wokingham, and then review the amount after that.

BMX Track Progress – Cllr. Mundy is due to meet with Angie Gibson of WBC regarding alternative sources of funding in late September/early October.

Manned Refuse Vehicle – Because the truck is often full by the time it gets to Milestone Crescent, the clerk was asked to see if the service could alternate between the two sites for the early slot. *Clerk's note: from January, the truck will alternate its early slot between the two sites.*

5782/12 Borough Councillor's Report – Cllr. Ray has been busy with the Primary School issue (see above).

5783/12 ENVIRONMENT – TPO 1433/2012 – Relating to trees on the eastern boundary of Beggars Hill Road. Council has been told that this has now been made permanent.

5784/12 HIGHWAYS - Despite efforts to have the verges on Park Lane/Waingels Road cut back, there has been little progress apart from a half-hearted attempt on part of the verge on Park Lane. The clerk is to chase again.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

5785/12 Thames Water and Waingels Road Sewer – Cllr Gillett reported that a decision had been put back until September.

5786/12 New Code of Conduct – Council unanimously approved the final version.

5787/12 Consultation on Primary School Places in Wokingham – See Open Forum. After the visitors left, there followed a brief discussion about budgets for the new school if it were to happen, and whether the Borough Council could afford to build it on a privately owned site. The Chairman said she would work as closely as she could with Brian Grady in an effort to get something Charvil wants.

5788/12 Determination of Rurality of Twyford and Surrounds for NHS Primary Care Trust – Council had no comments to make on this.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION (Copies available from the Clerk) – Wokingham Borough Council Meetings/Agendas; Integrated Risk Management Annual Plan 2013/14

Any Other Business

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.55pm