



Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 24th July 2012

Present Alice Wilkinson (Chairman), Jim Gillett, Jackie Jeffery, Chris Drew, Liz Black, John Davies and Lauren McCann

Apologies for absence – Piran Trezise, Paul Mundy and Borough Councillor Nick Ray

5750/12 Open Forum – Borough Councillor, Michael Firmager, attended the meeting in his role as Chairman of the Borough Parish Working Group. In addition, local residents, Rob Walker and James Bell attended the meeting as both were interested in filling the vacant Parish Council post. Cllr. Firmager introduced himself and explained that the Borough Parish Working Group was not only concerned with the Conference on 7th November, but were also interested in developing more of a rolling programme to bring parish councils within the borough together on working groups if they have common issues. Councillors commented that when they had attended the borough conference in the past, their issues had always seemed to be ignored. Cllr. Firmager believes that it is more parish led now, which should allow for individual parish concerns to be heard, which he did acknowledge had not always been the case. Cllr. Firmager wished to stay for the rest of the meeting to get an idea of the issues in Charvil. The Chairman thanked him and moved onto the two prospective councillors. Rob Walker gave a brief introduction to his background in the construction industry, and explained he had lived in Charvil for the last 25 years. He was now retired and had been involved in the community as Chair of Sonning Scouts some years ago, and more recently, had been Treasurer of the Sonning Working Men's club. James Bell then introduced himself. He said he had grown up in the Reading area and had moved to Charvil two years ago. He works in the education sector as a business manager at present. Both had responded to the flyers posted on the Noticeboards and were interested in serving their community. They too stayed for the meeting to get an idea of what the role entails.

5751/12 Declaration of Interest – None

5752/12 Minutes of the Meeting held on 26th June 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.

5753/12 PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING (ref 151)

a) New Applications for Information and Comment:

1296 Proposed erection of two liked detached dwellings with garages on land to the rear of 23 Park View Drive South – There was a general discussion about the residents' objections to this application and the Clerk was advised to comment as follows: *The cumulative effect of backland development on the character of Charvil is detrimental, and runs against current Wokingham Borough Council policy. Council believes that this is over-development of the site and is too dense for Charvil. Access to the site is proposed to be via Pipistrelle Way, an unadopted road with*

no pavements and limited parking. Council is not only concerned that any further development would increase safety issues on Pipistrelle Way, but also that increased traffic turning onto Old Bath Road would be hazardous. Council is concerned that the views of the residents of Pipistrelle Way are taken into account as far as any conditions attached if this development is allowed.

1427 Proposed erection of a new single storey granny annex and new detached double garage/storage building at Kenroy, Waingels Road – no Parish Council comment

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

0559 Proposed erection of a single storey extension to existing building at Denmark House, Old Bath Road

CLP/2012/1229 Notification of Approval of Certificate of Lawful Proposed Use or Development at 3 Newbury Close.

1021 Application for infill of existing porch (retrospective) at Dandy, 97, Milestone Avenue

c) Sandford Farm - Nothing to report

d) Field West of Park Lane – The clerk was asked to respond to the MDD DPD consultation, to reflect Council's approval of their decisions regarding the proposed Charvil sites.

e) Enforcement – Council has been notified of a complaint that the residents of 36, Park View Drive South were constructing an outbuilding that should have planning permission.

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

FINANCE COMMITTEE

5754/12 Finance Reports - Reports were unanimously approved.

5755/12 Authorisation of Payments – Council unanimously approved payments.

5756/12 Localising Council Tax and effects on the Parish Council – The clerk explained that, due to the Localism Act, Council Tax benefit recipients were no longer to be included in the numbers when calculating the tax base. This equates to a 4.7% reduction in the tax base. Central government will give Wokingham Borough Council a grant of 89% of this shortfall, leaving the borough to find ways of raising the remaining 11%, through changing the discounts given to second home owners and other less vulnerable groups who presently enjoy reductions in their council tax (not single occupants). The effect on the Parish Council will be going forward because of the reduced tax base. There will be a Consultation on how Wokingham intends to bridge the funding gap in August/September. Cllr. Firmager was asked if he could send a concise explanation to councillors.

5757/12 Diamond Jubilee – Cllr. Davies has yet to complete the accounts for this event.

5758/12 To consider increasing the advertising rates in the Village News by 5% - Council unanimously approved this increase and also the principle of a small increase in rates each year.

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

REPORTS

5759/12 Village Hall Management Committee – The minutes of the 4th July meeting were noted.

.It was unanimously agreed to approve a quotation for repairs to the Village Hall roof by JFI Roofing Ltd.

It was reported that the Jubilee Hall management committee had been in contact with Cllr. Black to include details of groups meeting there in the Village News.

5760/12 Amenities Committee – The minutes of 4th July were noted

Vegetable Plots – Reminders have been sent to the plot-holders with outstanding payments.

MUGA – It was reported that the repainting had been done but this was to be confirmed.

BMX Track Progress – In the absence of Cllr. Mundy, there was nothing to report. The chairman explained the history behind this project to Cllr. Firmager, who suggested getting in contact with Just Around the Corner (JACS) and ask them for advice.

The Chairman also reported that she believes the collaboration project with the Piggott School's Geography Department to develop signs for the Country Park to be unviable. Cllr. Black produced a leaflet on the park produced by the Twyford Village Partnership that covered what council wanted to do. Cllr. McCann is to approach the Village Partnership to see if Council can use their graphics.

5761/12 Borough Councillor's Report – In the absence of Cllr. Ray there was nothing to report.

5762/12 ENVIRONMENT – TPO 1433/2012 - It was agreed that the clerk should write in support of the temporary tree preservation order being made permanent.

5763/12 HIGHWAYS - The A4 project is now complete. Overgrown verges have been reported to Wokingham Borough Council. The subject of dangerous parking on Strathmore Drive, near the junction with the Old Bath Road, was discussed. A resident had complained to Cllr. Ray that there was persistent dangerous parking, and it was agreed that Cllr. Drew would contact Borough Cllr. Baker, to see if yellow lines could be painted at the offending junction.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

5764/12 Thames Water and Waingels Road Sewer – Cllr Gillett reported that a decision had been put back until September. The Environment Agency were taking it all very seriously and had commissioned a report on the costs of similar cases. Cllr Gillett asked Michael Firmager to help get a response from the relevant person at Wokingham to help speed the process along.

5765/12 Vacancy on Parish Council – There were now two candidates and Council discussed who would be their preferred choice at the end of the meeting as both candidates were present.

5766/12 New Code of Conduct – council unanimously approved the Wokingham Borough's Code of Conduct. They also unanimously agreed that they were happy to have their details published on the website.

5767/12 Broadband – The Chairman had received a letter from Theresa May about the fact that Berkshire had slipped to the back of the queue for faster Broadband. This is not relevant to Charvil, but is of concern to other areas in the County.

5768/12 Jubilee Trees Initiative – The main area where Jubilee trees could be planted in Charvil is the Country Park, but this is where oak trees are readily seeding themselves, so it seemed rather unnecessary to plant more. The assistant clerk had suggested planting one on Strathmore Drive.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION (Copies available from the Clerk) – Wokingham Borough Council Meetings/Agendas; The Clerk Magazine; Kompan Playground Brochure; Clerks & Councils Direct; The Berkshire Echo

Any Other Business

At 9.30, Michael Firmager, James Bell and Rob Walker all left.

Council then discussed which candidate they would like to offer the post of Councillor to. The vote was split but the majority felt they would marginally prefer to offer it to James Bell. The clerk was to check that Charvil could not have more than ten councillors (they cannot). Once the clerk has had a positive decision from James Bell, the clerk was to write to Rob Walker, explaining that the decision had been very close and that if a vacancy does come up again, asking whether he would be happy to be considered in the future. The clerk was also to ask him whether he would like to get involved with the Village Hall committee.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.40pm