



## Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2012

**Present** Alice Wilkinson (Chairman), Shirley Newman, Jackie Jeffery, Chris Drew, Paul Mundy, Liz Black and Borough Councillor, Emma Hobbs

**Apologies for absence** – Jim Gillett, John Davies and Nick Ray

**5664/12 Open Forum** – Simon Bartlam of the Wokingham Borough Countryside Service attended to explain the latest plans for Charvil Country Park. He wishes to put in place a ten year plan to allow for more gradual changes as he feels that there has been a tendency to do too much in a five year period, which has not always benefitted the environment. He circulated the draft plan and highlighted two main issues that may cause concern. The first was to introduce summer grazing into the meadow next to the Old Bath Road and Old Acres Lane. This area is not suitable for haymaking and is the last patch of meadow on the south side of the Old Bath Road, so Mr. Bartlam is keen for it not to revert to scrubland like the area next to the Lands End. Plans are in the early stages, and councillors expressed concern that the footpath adjoining this area was kept outside the meadow so walkers did not have to negotiate their way through cows. Ideally Council would like there to be a path round the entire perimeter of this area, so that walkers do not need to cross the cow field to enjoy this area. The second issue is the idea of introducing reed beds into two of the lakes. The smaller area would be the corner of the lake closest to the meadow area discussed above, and the larger area would be on the western side of the lake nearest the Lands End. The process will involve diggers clearing the undergrowth on the banks near these areas, and making the lakes deep enough at these points to support the reed beds and to make it harder for foxes and dogs to attack nesting birds. They would then fence off the area where young reeds are planted, to prevent birds pulling them up. After a year, the area will have fully grown reeds to support a much greater diversity of wildlife. The present situation is not healthy as there is not enough oxygen in the water in these areas to support fish due to leaf-fall, and the undergrowth does not support many types of bird. Council were generally very much in favour of this plan, and asked about the scope for local volunteers as well as funding for these projects. Mr Bartlam said that DEFRA are very much in favour of these types of projects so they would provide grants, and nearer the time, the Countryside Service would encourage residents to volunteer. The likely timescale would be to start work in the winter of 2013-14. Councillor Drew asked Mr Bartlam if there was any restriction on dogs entering the fishing lakes, and there is not, but there is an expectation that dog owners would respect the fishermen and try to keep their dogs away from their pitches if possible. The Chairman thanked Mr Bartlam for coming and he then left.

**5665/12 Declaration of Interest** – Cllr. Mundy stated his links with Charvil Pre-school, and it was also noted that he had stepped down from his involvement with Friends of St. Patrick's.

**5666/12 Minutes of the Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> February 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.

**5667/12 Co-Option of Piran Trezise** – Deferred until the May meeting.

**5668/12 PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING** (ref 147)

**a) New Applications for Information and Comment:**

0325 Proposed erection of a first floor side extension to dwelling at 14, Thornbers Way – no Parish Council comment

0501 Application for advertisement consent for the proposed erection of 1 internally illuminated free standing double sided display unit at the Co-op, Charvil. Council asked the clerk to comment as follows: *Council objects to this application for the following reasons:*

1. *The sign is obtrusive and out of character with the surrounding area.*
2. *It would be a distraction to drivers on what is already a busy junction as far as street furniture is concerned.*
3. *Visibility is already poor and this would decrease it further.*

b) **Sandford Farm** - There had been an issue with the proposed cycle route connecting Twyford to Sandford Farm disturbing wildlife, but after discussions with the RSPB and Friends of Lavells Lake, this now seems to have been resolved.

e) **Field West of Park** – see Borough Councillor's report below.

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

**FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**5669/12 Finance Reports** - These were deferred to the next meeting as there was no finance officer present.

**5670/12 Authorisation of Payments** – Council unanimously approved payments including the S137 payment to Charvil Pre-school as agreed at the January meeting.

**5671/12 BMX** - The boys behind the idea have come up with their ideas and Cllr. Mundy has agreed to take up the task of moving the project along by contacting Wokingham for suitable providers and to prepare for the project to be put out to tender.

**5672/12 Changes of signatories to bank accounts** – It was unanimously approved to replace retiring Cllr. Newman with Cllr. Jeffery as a signatory for all bank accounts in addition to Cllrs. Wilkinson, Drew and Gillett.

**5673/12 Authorisation of a change to the standing order for salary payments to clerk and assistant clerk, and signing of a letter to that effect.** This was unanimously approved and the Chairman and Cllr. Newman signed the letter.

**5674/12 Authorisation for clerk to increase the cross charge to cover assistant clerk's costs from £675 to £702 per month to reflect the increase in wages.** This was unanimously approved.

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

**REPORTS**

**5675/12 Village Hall Management Committee** – The minutes of a meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> March were noted

i) Insurance – Council compared the present insurance policy with a quotation from Suffolk Acre, and unanimously agreed to change provider to Suffolk Acre.

**5676/12 Amenities Committee** – The minutes of a meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> March were noted

Vegetable Plots – All payments and agreement for the vegetable plots have now been returned. The next payments are due in June.

Benches – The benches were installed on 27<sup>th</sup> February. Cllr. Black said that one of the benches looked split. Cllr. Drew was to have a look at it and see if it needs to be sorted out.

MUGA – maintenance and daily/weekly inspections. Roger Burns is to conduct the visual inspections at least weekly, and the maintenance money has been received from Wokingham Borough Council.

Litter Picking – Roger Burns has increased his litter picking rates and Village Hall maintenance rates by 50p per hour.

**5677/12 Borough Councillor's Report** – Cllr Hobbs to stand again as Conservative candidate for Charvil. She reported that the buses have been diverted along the A4 because of a damaged bridge on the Old Bath Road. Cllr. Hobbs has been assured that every effort will be made to return the bus route to the Old Bath Road. Cllr Hobbs is not going to produce a report for the Village News because of the election in May. She mentioned that the Borough Council are still discussing the sites for the MDD DPD and hope to be able to disclose their shortlist in the next few months.

**5678/12 ENVIRONMENT** – Tree Preservation Order 489/1989 – Council noted that at 6, Kilowna Close Charvil three leylandii can be removed and replaced by trees on the recommended list.

**5679/12 HIGHWAYS** - Nothing to report

### **ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

**5680/12 Thames Water and Waingels Road Sewer** – Cllrs Wilkinson and Gillett had a meeting last week with Thames Water and should hear by August.

**5681/12 Diamond Jubilee**

The trees are being regularly watered by Roger Burns.

**5682/12 Jubilee Festival** – The publicity material was approved for printing. The cost of these will be £385. The official opening of the MUGA is to be on 9<sup>th</sup> June at 12.30.

**5683/12 Charvil 5K and Fete** – Leaflets and sponsor forms have been printed and will be distributed with the Village News. The fete will begin at 12 noon and the Parish Council have been requested to start the barbeque by 11.30.

**5684/12 Fence at St. Patrick's Recreation Ground** – The licenses are in the process of being written.

**5685/12 Youth Worker's Report** – Council welcomed the detailed nature of this report and the reduced contribution expected from Charvil. Council have requested a further report in six months time.

**ITEMS FOR INFORMATION** (Copies available from the Clerk) – Wokingham Borough Council Meetings/Agendas; Clerks and Councils Direct; LCR Magazine

**Any Other Business**

**There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.30pm**