



Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 25th September 2012

Present Alice Wilkinson (Chairman), Jim Gillett, Jackie Jeffery, Liz Black, John Davies, Piran Trezise, Paul Mundy, James Bell, Chris Drew and Lauren McCann. Borough Councillor Nick Ray arrived at 9pm

Apologies for absence – None

5789/12 Open Forum – Three residents attended the meeting, one to observe and the other two to discuss the plans for a possible school in Charvil. Fiona Mowlem, who spoke most about the concerns around the school issue, felt there had been insufficient publicity regarding the public meeting held at the beginning of September, and the idea of a new school seemed to be deliberately concealed to the wider public. The Chairman explained that the point of this meeting had been to get feedback from parents as to what they would like, and no firm decision had been made on whether there would be a school in Charvil. Cllr. Trezise agreed that the leaflet advertising the meeting was unclear and this point was raised at the meeting. The chairman said that the whole village would be leafleted again about the meeting on 9th October, and that she would try to ensure the publicity material was clearer about its purpose. Discussion moved on to where a school may go; the Chairman reported that there were five sites: somewhere on East Park Farm, behind the Village Hall, St Patrick's Recreation ground, Jubilee Hall and Hicks' Field. Cllr. Trezise felt that the Parish Council should have some input as to where it should go. Fiona Mowlem wanted to know when it would be chosen, and how information would be conveyed as she felt that social media were not the right way to disseminate information of this kind. The Chairman did her best to give a timeline – the consultation had resulted in 400 parents giving their opinions and 78% wanted a Charvil school while 7% wanted other schools to expand. Being local was important, with 30% wanting to walk their children to school. The next step is site selection, with an interdisciplinary approach, to work within a fixed budget. This has to be done by November. Assuming the Executive Committee accept the proposed strategy, planning permission would be sought in either November or December, with a target to start building in January for a whole school to be built by September 2013. There are a number of things that could derail this plan including the government insisting on the school being an academy/free school, local opposition, difficulty in finding a head to manage the new school. There followed a brief discussion on whether a time slippage would result in no school being built. A final concern was that of parking, as many people are concerned a new school would result in the narrow local roads becoming a parking nightmare. Two of the residents left at the end of this discussion at around 8.25 pm

5790/12 Declaration of Interest – None

5791/12 Minutes of the Meeting held on 21st August 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.

5792/12 PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING (ref 153)

a) New Applications for Information and Comment:

1134 Proposed first floor extension to create 2x1 bedroom flats above existing post office at 36, Park View Drive South, Charvil – Council asked the clerk to comment as follows: *While Council appreciates that recent changes to the Post Office have been a great improvement in terms of appearance, there is a concern that this proposed development could create parking and safety issues.*

The Post Office is located very close to a busy junction with the A4, on a popular cycle/pedestrian route to both Piggott Secondary School and Charvil Pre-school. The concern is that increased accommodation could lead to even more cars trying to get in and out of the parking area in front of the shop at times of day when many children are going to and from school, creating a safety hazard. In addition, it is likely that there would be adverse impact on other residents on Park View Drive as a result of increased parking pressures.

If this application is to be approved, Council would like to see these issues adequately addressed.

1592 Proposed two storey side extension with single storey front and rear extensions to dwelling at 17 Old Bath Road, Charvil – no Parish Council comment

1624 Proposed erection of a first floor rear extension at 16, Strathmore Drive, Charvil – no Parish Council comment

1799 Proposed erection of single storey rear extension to dwelling at 6, Thornbers Way, Charvil – no Parish Council Comment

1892 Proposed erection of a single storey granny annex to dwelling, following demolition of existing garage/storage building at Kenroy, Waingels Road – no Parish Council Comment

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

1497 Application for a certificate of proposed lawful development of a single storey rear extension to dwelling at 8, Newbury Close, Charvil

1220 Proposed erection of a single storey side extension to dwelling and removal of existing chimney plus alterations to rear external doors at 54, Park View Drive South

c) Planning Applications Refused

1427 Proposed erection of new single storey granny annex and new detached double garage following demolition of existing single storey garage/storage building at Kenroy, Waingels, Road, Charvil

d) Sandford Farm - Nothing to report

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

FINANCE COMMITTEE

5793/12 Finance Reports - Reports were unanimously approved.

5794/12 Authorisation of Payments – Council unanimously approved payments including £150 donation to Homestart and Home as Office Payments to the Clerk and Assistant Clerk of £250 each.

5795/12 Donations Request from Citizen's Advice Bureau – Council unanimously agreed to donate £200 to the Wokingham branch of Citizen's Advice Bureau.

5796/12 Appointment of external Auditor from 2012/13 – Council noted the appointment of Mazars.

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

REPORTS

5797/12 Village Hall Management Committee – The minutes of a meeting on 12th September were noted

It was agreed that the present Refuse contract with Biffa be terminated, and that Cllr. Trezise would help draft a suitable letter once the clerk had received a copy of the present contract with Biffa.

5798/12 Amenities Committee – The minutes of a meeting on 12th September were noted

Vegetable Plots – The clerk reported that people were being refused the opportunity to go on a waiting list for the vegetable plots if they lived more than a few yards away. The Chairman was to contact Keith Dormer on the subject, and to pass any waiting list he has to the clerk, so that it can be administered by the Council. The clerk also reported that there is likely to be increased demand because Twyford Parish Council no longer accepted applications for allotments from Charvil residents.

Country Park – There have been recent incidents on the Country Park regarding motorbikes and the illegal flying of model aeroplanes. There used to be a sign stating the prohibition of motorbikes but this pre-dated Wokingham's involvement in the site. The issue of planes has been tackled by the local PCSO.

5799/12 Borough Councillor's Report – Cllr. Ray reported that there had been a Waste Management publicity afternoon at the Village Hall which attracted two residents. Wokingham take this to mean a broad level of satisfaction with the new system. They hope to be able to provide slightly stronger bags for next year.

5800/12 ENVIRONMENT – Nothing to report.

5801/12 HIGHWAYS - The verges on Park Lane have now been cut, but Council is still waiting for the verge opposite the Texaco garage on the Old Bath Road to be cut. *Clerks note: this has since been done.*

The lights on the Zebra crossing also need replacing, and Council have asked if the tree masking the street light next to the crossing could be cut back to improve visibility.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

5802/12 Thames Water and Waingels Road Sewer – Cllr Gillett reported that a decision had now been back until the New Year.

5803/12 Change of Date for the December Meeting – Council unanimously agreed to move the December meeting forward to Tuesday 12th December 2012.

5804/12 Renominating Cllr. Wilkinson as Trustee for the Poor Land's Charity – Council unanimously approved this nomination.

5805/12 Update on Primary Schools Consultation – See open forum.

5806/12 WBC and National Consultations on Localising Council Tax Benefits – Deferred until next meeting

5807/12 Problems with excessive noise at the Wee Waif – deferred until next meeting

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION (Copies available from the Clerk) – Wokingham Borough Council Meetings/Agendas; The Voice of Local Councils; Clerks and Councils Direct

Any Other Business

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.55pm