



## **Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2013**

**Present** Alice Wilkinson (Chairman), John Davies , Paul Mundy, Chris Drew, James Bell, Jackie Jeffery, Liz Black and Borough Councillor Nick Ray.

**Apologies for absence** –Jim Gillett, Lauren McCann and Piran Trezise

**5923/13 Open Forum** - One member of the press was present. Emma Critchley from Wokingham Borough's Neighbourhood Planning team attended to explain about all local plans including Neighbourhood Plans. She explained how they are supposed to work and the benefits of having such a plan, but stressed that they are a development plan, and cannot be used to block development. Because Charvil has not been identified as an area for any extra development at present, and it could cost up to £30,000 to do the plan, as well as involve a lot of effort to mobilise community interest, the general response to going down this route was lukewarm. The idea of a Parish Plan was more popular, but there was a general feeling that to undertake any type of plan would have to have community involvement, and this has not been forthcoming in the past. The Chairman thanked Emma Critchley for coming and she left at 8.30.

**5924/13 Declaration of Interest** – None

**5925/13 Minutes of the Meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2013** –The minutes were approved by Council and signed by the Chairman.

### **Matters Arising from the above Minutes –**

There was a brief discussion about whether the Borough Councillor had been able to have the planning Application for development West of Park Lane listed at Wokingham. The Borough Councillor explained that this could only be done if he disagreed with the view of the planning officer, and this was not the case. The Chairman asked the Borough Councillor formally, on behalf of the Parish Council, if it could be listed, given the history and sensitivity of the site.

**5926/13 PLANNING** (ref 160)

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

There were no Planning Applications this month

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

0016 Proposed erection of a single form entry primary school with associated parking and access works and relocation of two tennis courts

0088 Proposed erection of a single storey rear extension to dwelling at Pine Cones, Milestone Avenue

0142 Proposed erection of a single storey rear extension to dwelling to form a conservatory at 38, East Park Farm Drive

- 0182 Conversion of loft space to create habitable dwelling with front and side roof lights and alteration of part of existing roof to form a rear-facing gable at 72, The Hawthorns
- 0258 Proposed erection of a detached double garage at April Cottage, Milestone Avenue
- 0483 Application for a non-material amendment to planning consent F/2012/0559 to allow replacement of existing cladding to match the new extension

- c) **Consultation on draft affordable housing SPD** – Council had no comments on this.
- d) **Consultation on Preliminary CIL Charging Schedule** – Council had no comment on this

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

## **FINANCE**

- 5927/13 **Finance Reports** – Reports were unanimously approved.
- 5928/13 **Authorisation of Payments** – Council unanimously approved payments including 75% refunds to Mrs Scott for a cancelled booking and Mrs. Alexander for cancelled bookings
- 5929/13 **To review the five year capital budget** – Council unanimously agreed that it was sensible to build up funds with a view to extend the Village Hall in the event that other facilities in the village were to become unavailable. It was also agreed to budget in the long term for a new kitchen, a new security system and a new floor as all will need updating in the next few years. There was some discussion to the idea of a third tennis court, which was supported if a suitable location could be found, although it is possible the new MUGA will be tennis friendly. The BMX is to remain in the five year plan.
- 5930/13 **To approve the year end figures and to approve the increase in earmarked reserves to include the MUGA maintenance grant from WBC and the surplus income from the Village Hall for future expansion plans** – These were unanimously approved.
- 5931/13 **To consider the review of the Standing Orders and Financial Regulations** – These were discussed and the clerk was to issue them with the approved adjustments.
- 5932/13 **Donations – to consider donation requests from the LINK visiting scheme and Berkshire Blind Society** - It was unanimously approved to give a donation of £150 to the Berkshire Blind Society and to defer a decision on the Link until its future has been clarified. *Clerk's note: It was clarified that there are two organizations with similar names and it was a different "Link" that has been abolished.*
- 5933/13 **Investments** – It was unanimously agreed that the clerk would arrange for £50k to be deposited in a Barclays bond, and a further sum of money be deposited with the Post Office to achieve the highest interest rates in low-risk investments.
- 5934/13 **Insurance** – There was a discussion about insurance and a formal decision would be made at the next meeting as this item was not on the agenda.

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

## **REPORTS**

- 5935/13 **Village Hall Management Committee** – There was no meeting this month.
- Cllr. Mundy has completed the Village Hall audit. Once a small discrepancy was sorted out, there were no issues to report.
- The Assistant Clerk has managed to get two quotations for the fixed wire testing - she tried to get others but had no response from other electricians – and Council agreed to approve the quotation from Loddon Electrics for both fixed wire testing at £450 plus VAT and to de-scale the water heater at the Hall for £120 plus VAT.

**5936/13 Amenities Committee** – There was no meeting this month.

Most vegetable plot invoices have been paid and the clerk is to send out reminders to those who have not. The clerk is to ask Keith Dormer if he has found a replacement allotment holder for the vacant plot. Wokingham Borough Council has agreed to remove and store the picnic benches while the works go on and Council must decide where they are to be relocated. Cllrs. Mundy, Bell and Drew will have a look to find a suitable spot. There have been reports of motorbikes on the Country Park and Wokingham have put up signs to remind people that this is prohibited.

**5937/13 Borough Councillor's Report** – Cllr. Ray reported that the licence for the kebab van has been renewed. The ditch near his pitch has been cleared out by Wokingham, and it would appear that much of the rubbish in the ditch is left by other drivers, as rubbish accumulated even when the van has been absent. If Cllr Ray can get the planning application for the field west of Park Lane listed, the next planning meetings are 1<sup>st</sup> May and 29<sup>th</sup> May. He has also had a meeting with Cllr Ross and Beverley Thompson to try to reduce the fees chargeable to the tennis club for using the pavilion toilet, but has yet to reach a solution.

**5938/13 ENVIRONMENT** – Cllr. Black reported that there is fresh graffiti at the railway bridge at Park Lane. The assistant clerk was to report this. *Clerk's note: this has now been blacked out.*

**5939/13 HIGHWAYS** - Scottish and Southern Electricity are due to start work in June in Park Lane, but they hope to be able to bring the start date forward. Beggars Hill Road is also due for resurfacing at some stage.

**5940/13 Update on the Primary School** – Cllr Ray reported that he had met the Director of Roll-a-long, who are providing the units for the school, and impressed upon him the sensitivity of the issue in the area. The Clerk is to contact the project manager with a view to set up a meeting with Cllrs. Drew, Bell and Mundy.

**5941/13 Update on Waingels Road Sewer** – The Home Secretary has written to the Environment Agency in support of the Waingels residents, as has Cllr. Ray and the borough member for the Woodley part of Waingels Road. Cllr Ray feels that the Parish has done all it can now and the outcome will be heard in May.

**5942/13 Correspondence from University of Reading** – All residents in Milestone Avenue have received a letter warning them of prosecution if anyone is found cutting the new fences on their land abutting the Avenue. They were reminded that this is private property and the only place they are can access is the permitted path, and this access will be withdrawn if there is any more damage.

**5943/13 Annual Parish Meeting** - This is to be held on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May. Cllr. Bell has agreed to collate the slides this year. The assistant clerk will be asked to purchase refreshments.

## **ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

### **Any Other Business**

The Chairman mentioned that Council had been contacted by Hare Hatch Sheeplands about its planning dispute with Wokingham Borough Council. While Council was sympathetic, the feeling was it would not be good to object to enforcement notices as a council, but if anyone wished to support their cause as individuals, that would be acceptable.

**There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.45pm**