



Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 16th December 2013

Present Alice Wilkinson (Chairman), Jim Gillett, Liz Black, Jackie Jeffery, Paul Mundy, Chris Drew, Lauren McCann and Borough Councillor Nick Ray.

Apologies for absence James Bell, John Davies and Piran Trezise

6070/13 Open Forum – There were no residents present

6071/13 Declaration of Interest – There were no declarations of interest

6072/13 Minutes of the Meeting held on 18th November 2013 – The minutes were approved by Council and signed by the Chairman.

Matters Arising from the above Minutes – There were no matters arising that were not on the agenda

6073/13 PLANNING (ref 168)

a) New Applications for Information and Comment:

2297 Proposed erection of a single storey rear/side extension to connect existing detached studio to dwelling, plus insertion of a roof light at 13 Charvil House Road – No Parish Council comment

2350 Proposed erection of a single storey rear extension to form an oaked framed garden room at 11 Foxes Walk – No Parish Council comment

2345 Proposed erection of a single storey front extension to dwelling to form entrance porch at 28, Park View Drive South – No Parish Council comment.

b) Planning Applications Approved – The following approvals were noted

1723 Proposed erection of a first floor side extension over garage at 6, Thornbers Way

2009 Proposed single storey rear extension to dwelling at 20, The Hawthorns

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

FINANCE

6074/13 Finance Reports – Reports were unanimously approved.

6075/13 Authorisation of Payments – Council unanimously approved all payments including a payment to Hamblin Watermains for £781.20, and bonus payments of £250 to the clerk and assistant clerk of £250 each before tax.

6076/13 To Consider the grant allocation from Wokingham in relation to the tax base – It was noted that parishes would receive 59% of the grant for the loss of tax base caused by the removal of households receiving housing benefit from the tax base figure, and that the grant would taper to eventually disappear in three years, leaving parishes to make up the shortfall from the precept.

6077/13 To consider the grant applications from Charvil Pre-school, Charvil Art Club and Keep Mobile – It was decided to award £400 to Charvil Pre-school, £200 to Keep Mobile and £150 to Charvil Art Group

- 6078/13 S.137 and grants** – The clerk explained that if there were other powers available, it is illegal to use S.137 to award a grant. This means that grants to sports clubs, the Citizen’s Advice Bureau and others could be awarded grants but Council should not use the S.137 power as others exist. The clerk was asked to introduce two budget lines so that the two could be kept separate to keep Council within its statutory powers.
- 6079/13 VAT** – The Clerk raised concerns that Council should be registered for VAT, even if its business activities are business exempt. Council agreed the issue is very complicated and the Chairman would consult a contact who is a VAT expert.
- 6080/13 To approve the purchase of gifts to the volunteers who help to deliver the newsletter** – this was unanimously approved
- There being no further Finance business the Finance Meeting was closed.**

REPORTS

- 6081/13 Village Hall Management Committee** – There was no meeting this month.
The clerk reported that the leakage allowance form had finally been approved by Thames Water and that the outstanding water charge was £112.
- 6082/13 Amenities Committee** – There was no meeting this month
The purchase of a new notice board was approved at a cost of £1946.42, and it is to go near the new car park in a prominent position. There was some discussion with Allan Tiplady as to where the benches should go, and it was decided that the undamaged picnic bench should go near the pavilion and school, and that the broken bench should be replaced by four basic benches that would be positioned along the top of the football fields, two for each pitch.
The stream separating the recreation area from the country park had been reported to Wokingham Borough Council because it is so overgrown, but they were not minded to do anything as the brambles are a wildlife haven. Cllr. McCann was to write to Simon Bartlam asking if it would be ok if Charvil residents chose to set up a volunteer group to tidy the area up, and both the Chairman and Cllr. Drew felt that there may be health and safety issues given the area’s proximity to the school.
- 6083/13 Borough Councillor’s Report** – The Borough Councillor had nothing extra to report beyond the subject of the pavilion and extra amenities at East Park Farm.
- 6084/13 ENVIRONMENT** - Cllrs McCann and Jeffery met with Simon Bartlam and discussed the various issues concerning the Parish Council. The cows on land near the Old Bath Road near to the lakes will be securely fenced in, so that footpath users do not have to negotiate them, but there will be no cow-free access round the whole field the animals will be occupying. Simon Bartlam was very enthusiastic about the ideas of a nature trail and of benches, and suggested they could use fallen trees to cut into benches. It was noted that both these projects are subject to sufficient funding being found.
There was also a discussion about whether there could be an extra bin at east Park Farm, but Wokingham will not increase the number of bin available, so it was suggested that one should be moved from East Park Farm to near the railway bridge, to encourage dog walkers to dispose of their pets’ waste responsibly.
- 6085/13 HIGHWAYS** - Cllr. Drew reported that there had been a rebuttal on the zebra crossing, and that near misses are not enough grounds to alter it. The clerk was to find out when the roundabout would be re-painted.
- 6086/13 Update on East Park Farm, school and other amenities** – This had been the subject of a discussion before the meeting, with Allan Tiplady present. Various issues were discussed, from the replacement of the fence around the football field at a cost of around £3,000, benches (see above), the country park (see above) to the pavilion, and the possible installation of a shelter near the MUGA and tennis courts. The shelter has not been costed yet, but Allan Tiplady suggested the cost of these is usually shared by

the Borough and the Parish. The pavilion was the main topic of discussion, and it was agreed that Cllrs. Drew and Mundy would meet with the assistant clerk to consider possible revenue, and then return to the Parish Council with a view to coming to some kind of agreement with Wokingham if Council felt it was viable.

- 6087/13 Waingels Road Sewerage Dispute** – Cllr. Gillett explained that Charvil parish Council had partially won the case for having a sewer, in that the environment agency had decided in favour of a sewer on Waingels Road, but not on Beggars Hill Road or Lands End Lane. This decision could be taken to judicial review by Thames Water, but this was considered unlikely. The main issue is now the timescale and this project will need to be included in Thames Water's next five year cycle beginning in 2015. The cost of the sewer will be met by Thames Water, but connection costs will be met by the residents.
- 6088/13 World War One Commemoration** – The clerk explained that the Borough is considering providing boards so that each parish could display memories of World War one involvement. Charvil was very small at the time and any war dead would be listed in Sonning.
- 6089/13 Cycle Network Discussion** – David Wilby from Wokingham Borough Council is due to meet some of the councillors at 7pm on 20th January to discuss any ideas that they have for cycle routes in the area.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Any Other Business

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.15pm