

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 17th June 2013

Present Alice Wilkinson (Chairman), Paul Mundy, Chris Drew, James Bell, Jackie Jeffery, Lauren McCann, Liz Black and Piran Trezise.

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

5964/13 Open Forum – No members of the public were present. Angus Ross from Wokingham attended to talk about the Sports Sponsorship Fund. He explained that the fund is for youngsters under-18 involved in individual sports, and who are at least County level, but have not yet made it to national recognition as far as funding goes. They meet twice a year and usually get around 15-20 applicants a year. Those that are successful usually get £200-£300 each – the fund will have £7000 for the next three years to distribute, so they hope to be able to help more youngsters in the Borough. The hope is also to get parishes to match fund any successful applicants from their parishes, and also to maybe bring other sources of funding together to help more effectively. It was agreed that the scheme needed more publicity, and Council was happy to do this through the Newsletter. Council were very supportive of the scheme in principle, but were concerned that it could be difficult for parishes to budget for. Angus Ross will send the clerk a figure of how many applicants have come from Charvil in the past, to give the Council an idea of the potential commitment. Council prefer a system that would allow them to put a cap on potential expenditure, up to a certain number of applicants, and will consider this further when they have more information from Angus Ross. As Angus Ross is also responsible for issues relating to flooding and parks and open spaces, Cllr. Trezise asked him who was responsible for flooding if waterways had not been cleared properly. He explained that while it is the Environment Agency's responsibility, if nothing is done, then contact him or Eddie Napper. There is also a flood forum for the Loddon, with various drop-in meetings where the public can meet with representatives of the Environment Agency and Thames Water. In addition, the Government is increasing the powers and responsibilities of Borough Councils in this area, as part of its Localism agenda. A further question regarded whether an alternative area for Amenity would be provided to compensate for the loss of space with the school build. Angus Ross confirmed that there will be, and that he and Andy Glencross could attend a future meeting to discuss this. Cllr. Drew brought up the idea of a bridge to link Twyford and Charvil in the Country Park area, and Angus Ross suggested they are trying to link things together to create a set of coherent footways on the rivers in the Borough. He highlighted the development of a major new play area in Dinton Pastures for all ages which should be open next spring. The Chairman thanked him for coming and he left at 8.50pm.

5965/13 Declaration of Interest – None

5966/13 Minutes of the Meeting held on 20th May 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

5967/13 PLANNING (ref 162)

a) New Applications for Information and Comment:

0761 Application for the erection of 80 residential units with associated access at Sandford Farm, Woodley (adjoining parish application) – The clerk was asked to comments as follows: *Charvil Parish Council acknowledges the application for a change of use on this part of the Sandford Farm development site and has no comment on this in itself. Council notes that the proposed sole vehicular access to this part of the site is the main spinal road that leads to Mohawk Way, and so assumes that previous guarantees to keep Beggars Hill Road as a no-through road will continue to be honoured.*

0949 Proposed erection of two new dwellings with access off Pipistrelle Way on land to the rear of 23 Park View Drive South – No Parish Council comment

0959 Proposed conversion of existing roof space of garage block for use as habitable space including raising of roof level and insertion of conservation style roof lights at Three Barns, Loddon Drive (adjoining parish application) – No Parish Council comment

b) Planning Applications Rejected – The following rejection was noted

0303 Proposed erection of 25 dwellings on land west of Park Lane

c) Communications and Customer Service from WBC's Planning Department – Council considered a request to receive all planning applications for extensions electronically, but this was unanimously turned down.

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

FINANCE

5968/13 Finance Reports – Reports were unanimously approved.

5969/13 Authorisation of Payments – Council unanimously approved payments including a £200 donation to the Link Visiting Scheme and for the fixed wire testing at the Village Hall for £684.

5970/13 To Approve Annual Return – This was unanimously approved and the Chairman and Clerk signed all the relevant paperwork. Council also unanimously approved the Annual Governance Statement for 2012-13 and this was duly signed by the Chairman and the Clerk.

5971/13 Donations – to consider donation requests from the Milestone Avenue and Thames Drive Residents' Association (MATDRA); Twyford, Wargrave and District Volunteer Centre (TW&DVC) and Charvil Community Tennis Club - It was unanimously approved to give a donation of £200 to both MATDRA and TW & DVC After some discussion it was agreed to give the tennis club £1000 out of the youth fund, to pay for coaching training and junior equipment. In addition, they can use the notice board on the side of the pavilion. In return Council expects safeguarding standards to be maintained, an annual report to be presented to Council and one or two free taster sessions to be held each year.

5972/13 To approve the purchase of the latest edition of local Council Administration – this was approved, at a cost of £60.

5973/13 Report from the Internal Auditor – this report was noted.

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

REPORTS

5974/13 Village Hall Management Committee – There was no meeting this month.

Cllr. Drew presented the proposed ballet barres to the Council. The fittings have protective knobs and Council approved the fitting of the barres providing the protective knobs are always in place when the barres are not in use.

5975/13 Amenities Committee – There was no meeting this month.

The clerk reported that one plot has not been tended this year and there have been complaints about this. The clerk has written to the plot holder concerned but has had no reply. The Chairman asked the clerk to write to Keith Dormer that in the first instance, Council expect them to try to sort out this issue amongst themselves. If this fails, then Council will take steps to evict the plot holder for breaking the terms of the let.

5976/13 Borough Councillor's Report – Cllr. Ray was not present, and there was nothing to report.

5977/13 ENVIRONMENT – Cllr. McCann reported that some trees have been removed on Gingells Farm Road near to the A4, with a view to put in a planning application for some houses. She has also been asked to join the Crow Society.

5978/13 HIGHWAYS - The hedgerows on Park Lane and Waingels Road need a trim. The clerk is to contact Wokingham to ask the respective landowners to do this.

5979/13 Update on the Primary School – The new car park has been completed, and work has now begun on the buildings themselves. Cllr. Bell has contacted Nadine Doble at Piggott for a meeting and is waiting for a reply. The teaching staff have now been appointed and the school is fully subscribed for this September. The clerk is to contact Wokingham to make sure they should be building on Saturdays.

5980/13 Update on Waingels Road Sewer – There is nothing new to report.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Any Other Business

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.25pm