



## Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2014

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

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

**6090/14 Open Forum** – There were no residents present

**6091/14 Declaration of Interest** – There were no declarations of interest

**6092/14 Minutes of the Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> December 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

**6093/14 PLANNING** (ref 169)

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

2492 Application to vary conditions 2 and 12 of planning consent F/2013/1874 to substitute approved drawings to allow an additional side window, deeper sill to rear window, additional photovoltaic panels and 3 no. roof lights to loft space at 15b, Charvil House Road – No Parish Council comment

2550 Proposed erection of 1 new dwelling with associated access and parking, and installation of photovoltaic panels on land to the rear of 17, Charvil House Road – The clerk was asked to comment as follows:

*Charvil Parish Council would like to object to this planning application for the following reasons:*

1. *There were two applications for three extra properties on this site, but rejected, and both had appeals dismissed. Although F/2012/2137 allowing a property fronting the street and F/2013/1874 allowing a two bedroom bungalow to the rear of this property have been approved since, nothing has changed as far as planning policy to allow a third property to be developed on the site.*

2. *Both inspectors drew attention to the semi-rural nature of the area, and were concerned that such tandem back land development was inappropriate in such a setting. Despite the proposed property being a one bedroom bungalow, this would still be a tandem development. Wokingham Borough has produced a design guide and is on the way to having the DPD adopted, which re-affirms the aim not to approve inappropriate tandem development of this kind. The inspector acknowledged the government's desire to approve development if possible, but within the constraints of local plans adopted by Councils. The core strategy and DPD both limit this kind of development and this was accepted by the inspector as a valid reason to dismiss the application in the first place.*

3. *The officer's report approving the development to the rear of 15b has been quoted in the Planning, Design and Access statement as justification for a property to the rear of 17, Charvil*

House Road; if put in its correct context, the implication of this report was that this approval was given BECAUSE there was only one property, thus avoiding an urbanising effect, which is why, in Condition 13, no extra outbuilding, swimming pool etc apart from a modest shed was to be allowed. An extra property would seem to run completely counter to this.

For these reasons, Charvil Parish Council believe this application should be rejected.

2197 Proposed construction of a new vehicular access to Pound Lane to allow access onto the site for emergency vehicles and green keeping vehicles (amended) at Sonning Golf Club - no Parish Council comment

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

2350 Proposed erection of a single storey rear extension to form an oaked framed garden room at 11 Foxes Walk

**c) Planning Applications Rejected** – The following rejection was noted:

2199 Proposed erection of 2 new dwellings with access to Gingells Farm Road on land at 36, 38 and 43, Gingells Farm Road

**d) Appeal Dismissed** – The following was noted:

1715 Application to amend approved application F/2013/1152 to allow en-suite to the master bedroom at 63, Park View Drive North

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

## **FINANCE**

**6094/14 Finance Reports** – Reports were unanimously approved.

**6095/14 Authorisation of Payments** – Council unanimously approved all payments including S137 payments of £400 to Charvil Pre-school, £200 to Keep Mobile and £150 to Charvil Art group, as well as payments of £990.70 to Fericon Press, and £500.72 to NIC Services group Ltd plus other invoices of amounts less than £500.

**6096/14 To Approve the Parish Council budget for 2014-15** – This was unanimously approved

**6097/14 To approve the Precept for 2014-15** – This was unanimously approved.

**6098/14 To consider changing internal auditor for the next financial year, and to consider whether to approve the appointment of David Weller** – The clerk explained that it was good practice to change auditor from time to time, and David Weller had been highly recommended, so it was unanimously agreed to invite him to conduct the council's audit.

**6099/14 To consider a letter from Liam Thompson requesting a financial contribution for his fundraising to attend the Scout jamboree in Japan in 2015** – While the Council were impressed with his enthusiasm, Parishes are not empowered to donate to individuals for this kind of activity, so the clerk was asked to write to suggest other groups who may be able to help.

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

## **REPORTS**

**6100/14 Village Hall Management Committee** – The minutes of a meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> January were noted.

Cllr. Drew reported no concerns with the hall – bookings are down a little, but still well above break-even point.

**6101/14 Amenities Committee** – The minutes of a meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> January were noted.

Cllr. Mundy reported that the relocating of benches was on track. Various issues had been brought up concerning East Park Farm – one was that there had been some lighting on the path but Wokingham said that as it was not included on the plans, there

could be none added. Council felt that all previously existing amenities be re-instated. It was also felt that the entrance and exit signs to the new car park need to be clearer, but this probably needs to be addressed once the builders have cleared the part of the car park they are presently occupying. There are still concerns about the overgrown vegetation near the footbridge at East Park Farm, and Cllr. McCann has agreed to liaise with Simon Bartlam. The proposed shelter has been agreed in principle, and Cllr. Drew will ask if it is acceptable to have the Piazza design as this will provide more rain shelter. *Clerk's note: this was acceptable to Wokingham and the shelter should be installed shortly.*

The clerk had been asked to find out how much outdoor gym equipment would cost – it would be in the region of £14-16k. There was a discussion as to where any further leisure facilities could be put, and how Council should think about spending its excess reserves – one idea was to consult the residents as to what they would like – this will possibly be done in the Spring.

**6102/14 Borough Councillor's Report** – There was nothing to report

**6103/14 ENVIRONMENT** – It was noted that TPO consent 275/1984 had been granted to prune two trees at 27, The Hawthorns

**6104/14 HIGHWAYS** - Nothing to report

**6105/14 Update on The Pavilion** – Cllrs. Drew and Mundy had met with the assistant clerk to look at the figures, and it was felt that it would be very difficult to make the pavilion viable as things stand, mainly because of the large rate bill that would be incurred. They are still waiting to find out how much NIC would charge for cleaning, but it would still be unlikely to be viable without significant support from Wokingham, although they are confident Council would be able to increase usage if it was managed locally.

**6106/14 Cycle Network Discussion** – David Wilby from Wokingham Borough Council met with Cllr. Drew and the clerk about a safe route from Charvil to Twyford. The only viable idea was to see if there was any possibility of putting a new footbridge at the ford, but this could prove to be far too difficult and expensive. Other ideas discussed was an off road route to the Ashbury Park car park, but this may be impossible because of the contaminated ground beneath it.

## **ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

### **Any Other Business**

The Chairman is looking for someone else to attend the Poor's Land Charity meetings as she is unable to attend any longer

### **Part 2**

**Salary review for the clerk and assistant clerk** – It was agreed to increase their pay by one spinal point from SCP 22 to SCP 23.

**There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.15pm**