



Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 21st July 2014

Present Chris Drew (Chairman), Paul Mundy, Lauren McCann, Piran Trezise, Liz Black, James Bell and Borough Councillor Nick Ray

Apologies for absence Jim Gillett, John Davies and Jackie Jeffery

6210/14 **Co-option of John Hobson** John Hobson was formally co-opted, and he signed his acceptance of the Code of Conduct and completed his Declaration of Pecuniary Interest form.

6211/14 **Open Forum** – There were no residents present. Simon Bartlam from Wokingham Countryside Service attended to update the Council on developments in Charvil Meadows in response to residents' complaints that Council ignored this area, and also in the Country Park. Simon Bartlam explained that the grass is cut once a year by a local farmer, and the footpaths are cut six times a year. The tunnel under the Old Bath Road has been cleared so that the cows presently in the Meadow on the East Park Farm side can easily access the grazing in the Meadows if the need arises. The hedgerows will have their sides cut in the autumn, and their height will be addressed next year. Drains have been installed to improve the drainage after any flooding. Someone had deliberately cut the bars of the metal bridge – this has now been repaired. Wokingham have agreed that if residents can come up with some suitable wording for dog fouling signs, then they will produce them and place them in agreed locations, but there will be no bins provided. There followed a general discussion about dog fouling, and Simon suggested the best solution is if dogs are kept on the lead which he feels is impractical. The planks in the river were also discussed, and Simon felt these were actually the responsibility of Balfour Beatty, as they had not cleared the site properly from the bridge works carried out two years ago. As far as the Country Park is concerned, four benches made from tree trunks will be installed in various locations, but not places that regularly flood. The intention is to put more hardcore on the paths that have suffered badly from flooding. The lease for the fishing rights on the lakes has been renewed, and residents' rights remain unaffected. Simon has had no complaints about these recent works, and has even received compliments. There was some concern about the remaining car in the river near the ford, as children have been accessing it to jump into the river. Council would like it removed as it is a health and safety issue. Simon has been working on Cllr. McCann's vision of a nature trail, and he thinks he will have it completed by the end of the summer. The idea is to have a printable trail on the website, and possibly even an app, so parents can follow the trail with their children round the park. Eventually, boulders may be placed in the park with information on them. Cllr McCann thanked Simon for taking up her idea. The Chairman thanked Simon for coming and he left at 8.35pm. *Clerk's note: The offending car in the river has now been removed.*

6212/14 **Declarations of Interest** – The Chairman knows the residents applying for an extension at the Ramblers, and the whole council know the resident at 30, Park View Drive

applying for an extension. As this was the case, dispensation was granted by the clerk to discuss this application.

6213/14 Minutes of the Meeting held on 16th June 2014 –The minutes were approved by Council and signed by the Chairman.

6214/14 Matters Arising from the above Minutes – There were no matters arising that were not on the agenda

6215/14 PLANNING (ref 175)

a) New Applications for Information and Comment:

1361 Proposed erection of a two storey side/rear extension with single storey element and infill of front porch, and demolition of existing garage at The Ramblers, Beggars hill Road – no Parish Council comment

1366 Application for retention of outbuilding and proposed amendments to include reduction of length and height of building at 36, Park View Drive South – no Parish Council comment.

1454 Proposed erection of a single storey front extension to form entrance porch at 25, Milestone Crescent – no Parish Council comment.

1567 Proposed erection of a single storey rear extension to 30, Park View Drive South – no Parish Council comment

b) Planning Applications Approved – The following approvals were noted

0684 Proposed installation of replacement windows to front of building plus demolition of garage block at rear of building in parking area at 46, Old bath Road, Charvil

CLE/2014/0948 Existing single storey rear extension at 8, Balme Close

c) Appeal - The following appeal was noted

2250 Appeal against decision to refuse erection of one dwelling on land to the rear of 17, Charvil House Road

d) Appeal Dismissed – The following dismissal was noted

2199 Appeal dismissed against decision to refuse permission for two dwellings on land at 36, 38 and 43, Gingells Farm Road

e) Enforcement – The following were noted

176 Enforcement closure on the alleged breach at 64, Park View Drive North

244 Alleged breach at 40, Chiltern Drive

246 Alleged breach at 39, Chiltern Drive

248 Alleged breach at 70-72 Old Bath Road

256 Alleged breach at 11, Foxes Walk

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

FINANCE

6216/14 Finance Reports up to the year end – It was resolved that the Reports be approved which they were unanimously.

6217/14 Authorisation of Payments – It was resolved that the Council should approve all outstanding payments, including £658.80 to Neptune Outdoor Furniture, and £1001.44 to NIC Services Group. This resolution was unanimously carried.

6218/14 To consider the applications for grants from Charvil Cricket Club (grant), the CAB (grant), Berkshire Blind Society (S137) and the Green 'n' Tidy Gardening Scheme

(S137) – The budgets for S137 and other grants amounted to £1100 for this round, and it was decided to put the two together as the split in the budget had been quite arbitrary, and this would be fairer as Council is committed to contributing a significant amount to CAB. It was resolved that CAB would receive £300 of the £384 they were asking for; and that Charvil Cricket club would receive £500 of the £560 they had applied for. S137 payments of £150 were made to both Berkshire County Blind Society and the Green 'n' tidy Gardening scheme. These decisions were unanimous.

6219/14 Investments – Cllr Black signed the form and Cllr Drew had his identity verified by the Borough Councillor. Cllrs Gillett and Jeffery were absent.

6220/14 To approve the final version of the asset register – This was unanimously approved.

6221/14 Approval for four Councillors to attend councillor training – It was resolved that Cllrs Drew, Mundy, Bell and Hobson should attend the training session on 23rd September. This was unanimously approved.

6222/14 To consider what financial help to give to Charvil Beavers – It was resolved to grant £500 out of the youth fund to the group, and offer them a free let at the village hall for a fund raising activity. This unanimously agreed.

6223/14 To Approve the new three year maintenance contract for street lights – This was unanimously approved.

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

REPORTS

6224/14 Village Hall Management Committee – The minutes of 7th July were noted
The bushes to the front of the hall have been trimmed and the payback team have cleared the brambles at the side of the car park.

The vexatious issue of recent evening parties on unusually warm nights leading to complaints was raised. The clerk was asked to include the subject on the next agenda, and that the various options available should be considered at the next Village Hall meeting, with any possible decisions being brought to the full council meeting in September.

6225/14 Amenities Committee – The minutes of 7th July were noted

The trees along Park Lane belonging to the Council have been trimmed, and the tree on the corner of the driveway into the Village Hall has been crowned. Council approved the idea to crown other trees as the contractors will soon be unable to trim under them.

There is still a lot of rubbish around the MUGA, and the clerk was asked to find out when the bin by the old tennis court site would be moved to near the MUGA and shelter.

6226/14 Borough Councillor's Report – The Borough Councillor met with the outgoing head of Piggott, Hilary Winter, and Nadine Doble. He emphasised the school's role in the community, and they agreed. The school's MUGA will be made available to the tennis club, and the school wished to use the football pitches, but were concerned about dog fouling. The school would like the field to be a dog free area, but the Borough Councillor explained that this was impractical, but that sign would be put up to remind dog owners of their responsibilities. He felt it was important to keep up communication with the school. Cllrs Drew and Black attended the school's official opening, and were very impressed.

6227/14 ENVIRONMENT – See Open Forum

6228/14 HIGHWAYS – Cllr Bell's letter was sent by the clerk to Matt Davey, head of Highways. There has been no response to date. Unfortunately the story was published in the Twyford Advertiser before the letter was sent. The area around the beacons on the Zebra crossing have been cut back, but the tree obscuring the street light at this spot has not. The clerk is to chase.

- 6229/14 To consider whether Charvil Parish Council would like to take on more responsibility for Wokingham owned amenities and if so, how much.** – This discussion was born out of a meeting the clerk had with Julia Woodbridge on the possibilities of Council taking on a few more grass cuts in Charvil. She suggested Council could do anything from cutting the grass a bit more, to taking on responsibility for the whole of the East Park Farm playing fields, to something in between. Council’s main concern was whether any extra responsibility would come with some financial help. The clerk was asked to go back to Wokingham to see what help would be forthcoming. There is a slight issue with moving forward on the pavilion as Council still does not know who to talk to now it has passed to the Properties team at Wokingham.
- 6230/14 To consider the idea of installing an artificial cricket square at East Park Farm** – This was discussed in conjunction with the topic above. Cllr Trezise feels that it is quite hard for local children to play cricket, rounders etc in Charvil because in the summer the grass is too long in public areas, and the surface too uneven. He felt that if an artificial square could be laid (in conjunction with more grass cutting), then not only would there be scope for informal games down there, but also, it would possibly allow for Charvil and Sonning Junior Cricket teams to return to Charvil. The Borough Councillor expressed a desire for this to happen, to perhaps allow for the development of girls’ cricket at the club. Cllr Trezise is to explore costs. This idea would work better with easier access to the pavilion.
- 6231/14 Feedback from Wokingham Borough Parish Working group** – Cllr McCann went to this meeting. Most parishes were represented, and it was announced that Wokingham were offering the services on their Human resources department with all the extra responsibilities for payroll and pensions being added to Parishes. Wokingham were asked if they could explain their planning decisions to Parishes more, when parishes have objected to applications then allowed. It was also asked why the contract for grass cutting was given to a company based in Somerset.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Any Other Business

Cllr Black asked if the website could be discussed at the next meeting

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.15pm

Chairman’s Signature