



Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 16th June 2014

Present Chris Drew (Chairman), John Davies, Paul Mundy, Jackie Jeffery, Lauren McCann, Piran Trezise, Liz Black and James Bell. One member of the press was present.

Apologies for absence Jim Gillett and Borough Councillor Nick Ray

6187/14 Open Forum – John Hobson attended as a prospective Parish Councillor and Chris Jeffery attended to inform Council about the new Beaver group in Charvil. He explained that there are not enough beaver colonies in the area, and so a group of parents have organised one to start at the school in September. Mr Jeffery explained that he would be the treasurer, and they need help with start up costs. However, as they have no bank account or charity number yet, it seems they do not yet meet the criteria of the Council's grant form. Mr Jeffery was asked to give a breakdown of the financial requirements of the group and what they need help with to the clerk before the next meeting, and Council would consider what help they may be able to offer, as they are very supportive of the project.

John Hobson introduced himself, and gave a brief description of his work experience, how long he has lived in Charvil and why he would like to become a Parish Councillor. He was invited to stay for the rest of the meeting, to get a feel of how the Parish Council works. The Chairman thanked them both, and Mr Jeffery then left.

6188/14 Declarations of Interest – There were no declarations of interests.

6189/14 Minutes of the Meeting held on 19th May 2014 –The minutes were approved by Council and signed by the Chairman.

6190/14 Matters Arising from the above Minutes – There were no matters arising that were not on the agenda

Cllr. Black signed the acceptance of office declaration for the position of vice Chairman

6191/14 PLANNING (ref 174)

a) New Applications for Information and Comment:

0917 Application for advertisement consent for a non-illuminated fascia sign for proposed new fast food takeaway at 36, Park View Drive South. The clerk was asked to comment as follows: *Charvil Parish Council would like to object to this planning application for the following reason:*

Park View Drive South is a residential street, and Council feel that any more advertisements would be detrimental to the street scene.

0921 Proposed change of use of storage building use (B8 use) to fast food takeaway (A5 use) at 36, Park View Drive South. The clerk was asked to comment as follows:

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

1. 36, Park View Drive South is situated on the corner of Park View Drive South and A4. This junction is very busy, and vehicles frequently turn too fast into Park View Drive, which has led to many minor accidents over the years. The growth of the shop has already increased this hazard, and Council fear that the introduction of a takeaway, and the resultant increased street parking, would make this junction even more hazardous.

2. Parking is already an issue – many residents have complained that they have difficulty accessing their own homes at busy times. While there is a small car park, and these plans suggest the creation of two extra spaces, users of the shop frequently prefer to park on the road. The expectation is that the on-street parking would become an increasing problem into the evening, if an extra business were to be added to the site.

3. Park View Drive South is a quiet residential road. Experience from other villages suggest that it would be detrimental to the area in terms of noise from customers, increased smells, and even more litter deposited into residents' gardens and on the street. Council feels that this is not a good location on many levels for such a business. In addition, there is no mention of possible opening hours and Council is concerned that later opening would be unacceptable to local residents.

4. The application suggests the building is used as a store at present. Given that there is an enforcement notice to remove another storage building on the site, and the argument for this building was the shop did not have enough storage, Council is concerned that the change of use is going to exacerbate this problem.

For these reasons, Council would like this application to be rejected.

b) Planning Applications Approved – The following approval was noted

0430 Proposed erection of a single storey detached garage to front and side of main dwelling at 31, Park View Drive South, Charvil

c) Enforcement

The enforcement notice served on Newlands Farm for a replacement building bigger than the original and possible residential building was noted.

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

FINANCE

6192/14 Finance Reports up to the year end – It was resolved that the Reports be approved which they were unanimously.

6193/14 Authorisation of Payments – It was resolved that the Council should approve all outstanding payments. This resolution was unanimously carried.

6194/14 Approval of Annual Return and Governance Statement – It was resolved to approve these, which was done unanimously, and duly signed by the clerk and the chairman.

6195/14 Investments – Because two of the proposed signatories were absent, the forms will have to be completed at the next meeting.

6196/14 To approve the final version of the asset register – Councillors would like the barbecue and gazebo included. There was a question mark over the ownership of the new shelter at East Park Farm. The clerk was asked to investigate.

6197/14 To consider the report from the internal auditor – The internal auditor highlighted that the council needs a wider range of policies, and that the reserves are too big. He also suggested that the Village hall audit should be done by a councillor outside the Village Hall Committee

6198/14 Pension arrangements – It was noted that the Parish Council will be obliged to offer its staff a pension from 2015, and Cllr. Bell will investigate this further.

6199/14 Approval for Chairman to attend Chairman's training – This was unanimously approved. The clerk was to invite all councillors to attend the new councillor's training in September.

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

REPORTS

6200/14 Village Hall Management Committee – There was no meeting this month
The assistant clerk was to see if the payback team would dig out the bushes at the front of the hall.

The wall kettle has had problems, but these are manageable. The assistant clerk has purchased a catering kettle for smaller users.

The PAT testing has been completed.

The meetings are to go back to monthly. The dates are yet to be confirmed.

The clerk has produced some sample terms of reference for the committee. Cllr. Davies will see if he can come up with something suitable for the next Village Hall meeting.

6201/14 Amenities Committee – There was no meeting this month

The payback team are to cut back the vegetation at the side of the car park.

There have been many complaints regarding the grass-cutting schedule. The Borough Council has a contract for eight cuts per year, which is too few. Council would like to liaise with other local councils to see if we could club together to get a good deal for another two to three cuts in the year. The clerk was to investigate.

Council approved the purchase of a new bin from Neptune Outdoor furniture for £600 including installation. *Clerk's note: the assistant clerk has since suggested that two smaller bins may be better for emptying and the clerk will investigate the price.*

It was decided that Cllr. Mundy should have a key to the padlock at the St. Patrick's Recreation ground.

The clerk passed some sample terms of reference to Cllr. Mundy to draft something for the Amenities Committee

6202/14 Borough Councillor's Report – There was no report in the absence of the Borough Councillor.

6203/14 ENVIRONMENT – Simon Bartlam is to attend the next meeting in July.

6204/14 HIGHWAYS – The give way triangle has now been painted on the Old Bath Road leading to the Park Lane roundabout.

The clerk investigated the possibility of having a mirror at the junction of Waingels Road and Park Lane, but this would not be allowed by Highways.

Cllr. Bell is drafting a letter about the zebra crossing on the Old Bath Road which will cover excessive speed, poor lighting on the north side of the crossing, the issue of the trees that need cutting back, the possibility of upgrading the beacons and the planning condition suggesting the raising of the crossing. He has contacted the school who support the Council's position.

6205/14 Update on The Pavilion and surrounding area – There has been no progress on this, and the clerk will ask the Borough councillor to chase this up.

6206/14 Waingels Road Sewerage Issue - deferred.

6207/14 Policy on parking on Verges, Footways and Footpaths – The main comment was that new homes should have more parking allocated to them.

6208/14 Fete – The barbecue went very well and made around £300. Everyone enjoyed helping, and it was agreed that the councillors would take more responsibility for the organisation next year as the assistant clerk was left in the dark as to who was doing what. The clerk was to ensure that the fete was on the agenda for the April and May meetings next year.

6209/14 Area managers and future liaison with Wokingham – The area manager system has been done away with, and the Borough Council Working Group will assume a more important role.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Any Other Business

The clerk had had a call from a man complaining that residents are putting rubbish out too early and it is getting shredded by birds.

At this point the lady of the press and John Hobson left the meeting

Part 2

Council discussed the possible co-option of Mr Hobson, and it was unanimously agreed to ask him to be co-opted if he was happy to join the Council.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.55pm

Chairman's Signature