



## Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2014

**Present** Chris Drew (Chairman), Liz Black, Paul Mundy, John Hobson, James Bell, Jackie Jeffery and Borough Councillor Nick Ray

**Apologies for absence** Jim Gillett, Piran Trezise, John Davies, and Lauren McCann

**6249/14 Open Forum** – One resident attended to listen to the business. Vince Martyn attended on behalf of the fete committee to explain how things are going, how they dispersed their surplus if they have one and how they viewed going forward. He explained that because of the lack of support, they have asked other groups to take on some of the more lucrative parts of the fete – for example, the pre-school has been running the refreshments for the past two years. This inevitably means there will be a smaller surplus each year, but once they have ensured their reserves are large enough to cover a washout one year, they still disperse funds to small local groups. This used to be once a year, but now they can do this throughout the year if groups can put forward a good case for support. Groups they have supported are Age Concern and the Brownies and Guides. Going forward, while they have had a stable committee, they do need more members, both to come up with fresh ideas, and to share the workload. Cllr. Black asked if an article could be included in the next newsletter, and also an article after each fete, as she felt this may be of some interest. The Chairman thanked Vince Martyn and he and the other resident both left at 8.15pm.

**6250/14 Declarations of Interest** – There were no declarations of interest.

**6251/14 Minutes of the Meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> August 2014** –The minutes were approved by Council and signed by the acting Chairman.

**6252/14 Matters Arising from the above Minutes** – There were no matters arising that were not on the agenda

**6253/14 PLANNING** (ref 177)

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

1709 Proposed extension of front hall by repositioning front door to the limit of the existing porch. Continuation of garage roofline to form new open porch which extends the original building line at 1, Gingells Farm Road – no Parish Council comment

1774 Proposed erection of garden gazebo at 11, Foxes Walk – the Council commented as follows:

*1. This construction seems very intrusive to nearby households, affecting their privacy.*

*2. The gazebo is very tall to be so close to the boundary wall.*

3. Council is concerned that if this gazebo is allowed to remain without some modifications, then it could set a precedent.

1824 Proposed part conversion of garage to create habitable accommodation at 20, Gingells Farm Road – no Parish Council comment

1917 (Adjoining Parish) Proposed erection of one further detached dwelling on land adjoining 6, Phillips Close, Woodley – the Parish Council objected as follows:

1. Although one house has already been granted permission on this site (F/2012/0414), Council believes that this site was removed from the settlement area of Woodley by the MDD DPD, which had not been adopted in 2012. This means that this site should not be developed any further.

2. Even if the site were included in the settlement area, it is on the very edge of Woodley, and adjoins part of Charvil that is designated countryside. To have two dwellings on this site would have a detrimental impact on this area, which at present has a rural feel.

3. Beggars Hill Road has a number of dwellings at low density, which is consistent with countryside. Given that access to both dwellings will be via Beggars Hill Road, the site would visibly appear to be in Charvil, even if geographically it is in Woodley. Council feels that because of this, the nature of Beggars Hill Road needs to be taken into account, rather than the housing density of Phillips Close, and so an extra dwelling in this location would be out of character.

4. Council is also concerned about increased traffic, particularly as this part of Beggars Hill Road is basically traffic free at present.

1959 Proposed erection of first floor extension over existing garage at 25, Gingells Farm Road – no Parish Council comment.

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

0706 Proposed erection of replacement detached bungalow and garage following demolition and removal of existing subsiding bungalow and double garage at Brookside, Old Acres

1454 Proposed erection of a single storey front extension to form entrance porch at 25, Milestone Crescent

1567 Proposed erection of single storey rear extension at 30, Park View Drive South.

**c) Planning Applications Rejected** – The following refusal was noted

0921 Proposed change of use of storage building (B8) to fast food takeaway (A5) at 36, Park View Drive South

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

## **FINANCE**

**6254/14 Finance Reports** – It was resolved that the Reports be approved which they were unanimously.

**6255/14 Authorisation of Payments** – It was resolved that the Council should approve all outstanding payments, including £1850 to Cox Decorators, £888 to Westgate Electrical Services, Home as Office payments to the clerk and assistant clerk, and a transfer of £70,000 to the Skipton Building Society to set up the one year bond. This resolution was unanimously carried.

**6256/14 Thank yous** It was noted that all of the recipients of grants in August had written to thank the Parish Council

**6257/14 Pensions** – Cllr. Hobson is making good progress in investigating what would be best for the Parish Council. This was further discussed in Part 2.

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

## **REPORTS**

- 6258/14 Village Hall Management Committee** – The notes of the meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> September were noted.  
The party on 30<sup>th</sup> August was a little noisy but the issues were sorted out amicably.  
The lighting work will be completed in October, and the decorating has been completed.
- 6259/14 Amenities Committee** – The notes of a meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> September were noted.  
Council is still waiting for a bin to be relocated near to the youth shelter.
- 6260/14 Borough Councillor's Report** – The main issue of note was East Park Farm (see below)
- 6261/14 ENVIRONMENT** – The streetlight contractors have invited Council to send a representative to find out more about the costs and savings of LED lights.
- 6262/14 HIGHWAYS** – Either Cllr. Bell or the chairman would try to attend the Wokingham Plus Traffic Forum on 2<sup>nd</sup> October. The clerk was to send a reply to Matt Davey and the Borough Councillor was to see if he could encourage the Highways Department to meet with Cllr. Bell to discuss a possible way forward with the zebra crossing. Council was also concerned about some of the anti-social driving late at night and asked the clerk to contact the PCSOs. *Clerk's note: message sent to PCSOs but no reply.*
- 6263/14 To consider the possible transfer of assets from Wokingham Borough Council, including the Pavilion, playing fields and even the tennis courts, and also to consider whether Council should pursue the idea of installing an artificial cricket pitch at east Park Farm** - Borough Councillor Nick Ray met with Wokingham to re-open the discussions started by Allan Tiplady about the parish taking over the management of the pavilion, and possibly some of the other assets. After a lengthy discussion, it was agreed to form a group consisting of Cllrs. Drew, Mundy, Trezise and Hobson to meet with Wokingham to discuss these issues further. The clerk was to set a date. *Clerk's note: the date has been set for 24<sup>th</sup> October.*
- 6264/14 To consider how to develop the website** – Cllr. Hobson has found a potential web designer, but will also look at other ones to get a competitive price. There would be a development cost and an annual maintenance cost. The clerk is to circulate a draft specification, and once agreed, he will get quotations based on this.
- 6265/14 To Consider the Gypsy and Traveller Local Plan** – After a brief discussion, the clerk was asked to complete this, circulate, and once everyone was happy, then submit it. *Clerk's note: this was submitted.*

## **ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

Borough Councillor Nick Ray departed at 9.50pm.

### **Part 2**

Cllr. Hobson has looked into the issue of auto-enrolment and has found that while neither member of staff automatically qualifies, once the system applies to Charvil PC, they can ask for a pension. Cllr. Hobson has looked at two schemes, and it was felt the better one was that offered by the Royal Berkshire Pension Scheme. This will need a resolution to be passed by Council before the Parish Council can join it. The clerk will add this to the next agenda.

**There being no further business the meeting closed at 10pm**

**Chairman's Signature .....**

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Chairman's Initials.....

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