

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 15th October 2018

Present Jim Gillett, Adrian Keward, Daljit Ryatt, Claire Andersen, James Bell, Jackie Jeffery, and Jane Hartley

Apologies for Absence Paul Mundy

Absent

7134/18 Open Forum – Three residents attended to put themselves forward for co-option to the Parish Council. The chairman ran through the process and explained that there would be an election in a confidential section at the end of the meeting to choose two from the three candidates. All three candidates introduced themselves and ran through their work history, what they could bring to the Parish Council and why they wanted to join. They were then invited to stay for the rest of the public part of the meeting which they did

7135/18 Declarations of Interest – Cllr Bell declared a personal interest in the subject of junior football but not a prejudicial interest as advised by the clerk in accordance with the Code of Conduct. This advice was given because Cllr. Bell is a parent and a coach at AFC Charvil and a friend of the Chairman of the club. By declaring a personal interest, it meant that he would be able to join any debate on this subject whereas he would not if his interest were prejudicial. He felt that the advice had been poorly timed and had not known of such advice being offered before. *Clerk's note: As such advice is generally offered outside meetings with the councillor concerned, this advice would not normally be brought to the rest of Council's attention but there have been occasions when councillors have declared an interest and have either left the room or kept silent in a debate on the relevant topic.*

7136/18 Minutes of the Meeting held on 17th September 2018 – These minutes were approved by Council.

FINANCE

7137/18 Finance Reports – The Chair of Finance gave a summary of these before it was resolved that the financial reports be approved, which they were unanimously.

7138/18 Authorisation of Payments – It was resolved that the Council should approve all the following outstanding payments, which was done unanimously:

£140.88 to Grundon Waste Management Ltd
£732.66 to HM Revenue and Customs
£33.62 to British Gas Services Ltd
£177.45 to Scottish and Southern Energy
£35.58 to the Assistant Clerk
£147 to Society of Local Council Clerks
£77.39 to SSE Contracting Ltd
£63.23 to Everflow Ltd
£512.92 to the Clerk
£113.24 to Viking

£61.94 to Aquacare
£993.71 to Sunshine Commercial Services Ltd
£815.60 to NIC Services Group Ltd
£95.87 to A1 Locksmiths
£274 to ADD Plumbing Solutions
£306 to Dual Energy
£20 to Dominic McKeown
£555.68 to Berkshire Pension Fund
£20.58 to CNG Ltd
£672 to Loddon Door Services Ltd
£290.91 to Numatic International Ltd
£2270 in payroll

Reports

- 7139/18 Amenities Committee** – The minutes of the 1st October were noted.
The Village warden has removed some graffiti from the tennis court. The tennis court door needs repainting and the Village Warden will see whether he can do it, or whether we need to get a specialist decorator. There has been a complaint about noise from the hall and the assistant clerk is investigating whether noise levels are too high. There have been concerns raised about youngsters climbing on top of the youth shelter at East park Farm. It was agreed that Council would monitor the situation.
- 7140/18 Planning, Environment and Highways Committee** – The minutes of the meeting on 8th October were noted. There were no planning applications to comment on. Cllr Hartley attended the Scrutiny Committee Meeting and reported Council's concerns to the Borough and reported that the change of ownership of ISS, the grounds maintenance team, had caused a few issues, but these were settling down now. The long-term vision for the Committee was approved. A resident had complained to the Parish Council about WBC's lack of action over a drainage issue in Kilowna Close and the clerk was asked to follow up. The clerk was asked to find out if any progress had been made regarding bottle banks. *Clerk's note: WBC are due to put some in at the layby opposite the Homestead as a trial shortly.*
- 7141/18 Report from the Borough Councillor** – The Borough Councillor was not present and had nothing to report.
- ### **Items for Consideration**
- 7142/18 To consider the written reply to be sent to WBC regarding the Borough Plan** – Some Councillors would rather the original draft be toned down. It was agreed that the chairman and Cllr Hartley would agree a final version to be sent by the clerk.
- 7143/18 To note a report of the meeting with the headmaster of Piggott School and to approve the use of the sports pitches and tennis courts by the school in return for on-going co-operation on several issues including help with purchasing a defibrillator for East Park Farm** – It was agreed to allow the school free use of the football pitches after school for matches, the tennis courts and the sports area for sports day, providing they liaise with the assistant clerk so that the bookings are noted on the booking system to avoid any confusion. It was also approved to share the cost of a defibrillator with the school to be located at East Park Farm.
- 7144/18 To consider whether anyone should attend the Budget training being offered by BALC on 6th November** – While it would be good to have someone attend, no-one was available.
- 7145/18 To consider whether anyone could attend the BALC AGM on 14th November in Shinfield** – Cllr. Hartley will attend on behalf of Council
- 7146/18 To consider a letter sent by a resident of Park View Drive North regarding various issues arising from the use of St Patrick's Recreation Ground by AFC Reading** – the complaints were noted, and the clerk was to talk with them to see what can be done. *Clerk's note: the club had erected a sign on their match day to prohibit parking on the northern section of Park View Drive North, and this had been effective. After talking to*

the residents, the clerk has asked the club to continue with this signage, and to also ask people not to park on the corners as this is quite dangerous for residents.

7147/18 To hear a report from the Borough Parish Liaison Group meeting – Much of this meeting was about the Borough Plan. There had been 800 replies to the survey and the headlines were too many houses, not enough infrastructure, and the need for affordable housing. There were complaints about too many roadworks and the need for more usable recycling. The group was told that the borough needed to save another £1.7 million and so needed to have more help from the voluntary sector. There is currently a polling station review – there is a need to get them out of schools as there is already a disruption to schools in May with the Bank Holidays.

By virtue of the confidential nature of the business to be contracted the press and public are excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item under Section 2 of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960

7148/18 To elect two councillors from those putting themselves forward to be co-opted, if necessary – After a short debate Mr Elphick and Mr Sharma were elected to Council subject to checks on eligibility and the completion of the relevant paperwork. *Clerk's note: On checking the electoral register, the clerk discovered that Mr Sharma was not on it and on contacting Electoral Services at WBC was informed that Mr Sharma would not be on it until 1st December and that: The Local Government Act 1972 dictates that councillors must be registered electors. Therefore, in order to be co-opted the potential councillor must be a registered elector to be appointed and so his selection at this point was null and void. Given that there were two eligible candidates at point of choosing who to co-opt, Mrs Sutlieff and Mr Elphick are both to be co-opted.*

7149/18 To consider and approve the proposed Policy for Hiring Council Facilities – this was approved.

7150/18 To decide whether to accommodate children's football use at East Park Farm, considering the usage figures and other relevant information provided by the assistant clerk – The Assistant Clerk had provided Council with costs and income from current usage, together with the projected income from junior football based on our current published rates, which would suggest that Council would be significantly worse off with junior football. The Chairman stated that no proper decision could be made at this point as it was clear that AFC Charvil, and possibly other local teams, may wish to come up with a proposal that would not reduce Council's income on the facility. Although this was not supposed to be a discussion on AFC Charvil, Cllr Bell stated that they have committed to matching Council's current income, and Cllr. Andersen felt that if it would benefit local children, then it would build on the cohesive benefits that the school has brought to the community. Cllr. Bell also stated that there would still be one 11-a-side pitch available for adult teams to hire if desired. Cllr Jeffery was concerned about giving notice to clubs that have provided Council with a regular income, and putting all our eggs in one basket – if anything were to go wrong, would it be hard to re-establish adult teams in the future? Cllr. Ryatt was also concerned about the impression given by giving notice to these clubs in favour of another. Cllr. Bell said that the financial proposition would bring money to Charvil and would bring the largest youth group for Charvil youngsters back to Charvil. There was a reminder that other youth groups may have an interest in using the facilities including AFC Reading and Berkshire Elite, so it is not a decision to offer the facilities to AFC Charvil at this point but to any interested junior teams. There was a concern that the final decision needed to be made in a timely fashion to allow affected clubs to make plans for next season. There were several concerns raised about parking, as this is a greater issue with children's football than adult, and about the depreciation of the recently installed boilers as these may not be used at all if the afternoon senior teams choose to leave as they have indicated they might if junior football goes ahead. It was decided to draw up a list of questions to be put to any interested junior clubs by the Chairman of Amenities and score them so that the benefits and costs of each club could be considered. Council already knows most of the information from the existing clubs, apart from how many Charvil based players does

each team have. Hopefully this information will allow Council to make an objective and informed decision. The assistant clerk reminded everyone that the existing use of the pavilion also needs to be factored in if groups would like to use the main room as well. Each club will be asked to submit a proposal by 12th Nov, in time for a final decision to be taken at the next meeting.

There being no further business the open meeting closed at 9.50pm

Chairman's Signature