



Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 19th November 2018

Present Paul Mundy, Adrian Keward, Claire Andersen, James Bell (acting Chair), Jackie Jeffery, and Jane Hartley

Apologies for Absence Jim Gillett and Daljit Ryatt

Absent

- 7151/18 Open Forum** – One resident attended to bring to the Council’s attention the poor supervision of dogs by dog walkers on the football field. She told Council that she often sees dogs marking their territory on the goalposts and no effort is made to prevent this. Also, she was concerned that they do not pick up mess on the field, which is dangerous for the other users of the field. It was agreed that the Amenities Committee would consider putting some fresh signage up, and maybe something could be written the Charvil Village News.
- 7152/18 Co-Option of Councillors** – Greg Elphick and Pat Sutlieff were both co-opted onto the Council with Greg Elphick choosing to join the Planning, Environment and Highways Committee and Pat Sutlieff happy to join the Amenities Committee. The declaration of acceptance of office and Code of Conduct were signed, and the Member’s Interest forms completed.
- 7153/18 Declarations of Interest** – Cllr Bell declared a personal interest in the subject of junior football as did Cllr Mundy. *Clerk’s note: Cllr Bell had contacted the Monitoring Officer regarding his personal interest, who said he was free to declare how he thought fit. The advice to Cllr. Mundy was that his interest was a personal one.*
- 7154/18 Minutes of the Meeting held on 15th October 2018** – These minutes were approved by Council.

FINANCE

- 7155/18 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.
- 7156/18 Authorisation of Payments** – It was resolved that the Council should approve all the following outstanding payments, which was done unanimously:
- £160.30 to Grundon Waste Management Ltd
 - £12 to Taurus Elite Security
 - £33.62 to British Gas Services Ltd
 - £47.84 to Bowak
 - £47.19 to the Assistant Clerk
 - £21.63 to Castle Water
 - £38.99 to Cathedral Leasing Ltd
 - £65.33 to Everflow Ltd
 - £55.96 to the Clerk
 - £30.18 to Village Warden
 - £123.88 to Aquacare

£957.96 to Sunshine Commercial Services Ltd
£2011 to NIC Services Group Ltd
£39.02 to A1 Locksmiths
£144 to ADD Plumbing Solutions
£288.59 to Dual Energy
£70 to Dominic McKeown
£555.68 to Berkshire Pension Fund
£11.26 to CNG Ltd
£282 to Playsafety Ltd
£352.35 to Roger Burns
£2270 in payroll

7157/18 To review and check Bank Statements against Reconciliations – Some were checked as time would allow – they will be brought to subsequent meetings for checking.

Reports

7158/18 Amenities Committee – The minutes of the 5th November were noted.

The Risk Assessment at the pavilion needs to be completed. Cllr. Bell will complete it when he can. The height barrier took another knock. It has been repaired by the school's caretaker and an insurance claim is in process. The Grounds Maintenance team broke one of the goalposts so one of the football games was postponed. It was reported that the Amenities Committee had noted that the Village Hall car park will need resurfacing at some point. The work on the hall floor to try to correct the problems caused by excessive heat in the summer will take place just before Christmas.

7159/18 Planning, Environment and Highways Committee – The minutes of the meeting on 12th November were noted. The Committee commented on the application to replace the existing dwelling at Thatcher's Mead on Thames Drive to ask for a condition to make sure heavy vehicles do not access the site as there is a weight limit on the bridge. *Clerk's note – because the road is private, WBC has no jurisdiction on this.* There were no other comments on any applications. Cllr. Hartley attended the Local Plan Update meeting and reported that there were to be a series of consultations in the next few weeks. She felt there was a deliberate attempt to by-pass parishes, to access residents directly because the parishes are not informing the residents enough. Council needs to consider whether it would like to get involved in a Neighbourhood Plan. Planning officers have been liaising with central govt regarding the number of homes and also the issues around planning appeals being allowed even though it is accepted that the Borough is one of the few local authorities who have done as they have asked in terms of housing strategy. There is a general feeling that the Inspectorate is undermining the Borough's attempts to build sustainable communities. Cllr. Hartley felt that the Local Plan consultation was is too much about housing and not enough on the wider infrastructure issues. Cllr Hartley also reported that the Planning, Environment and Highways Committee was looking into what its priorities should be, and how to best engage with the public. To this end, she felt that more effort needed to be made to engage local groups and to draw up a longer-term Local Plan for the Council. She felt that maybe there needed to be an extra member of staff employed as a Communications Officer and it was suggested that this idea should be taken to the Staffing Committee next week.

7160/18 Report from the Borough Councillor – The Borough Councillor had points to add regarding the Local Plan, in that she felt that it was most likely that Grazeley would go ahead, which would take the pressure off other areas of the Borough but that Twyford and Hurst would probably have to accept some housing. She reported that there would soon be a new leader of the Council in Wokingham. The heron at the ford would like to put some signs up from the Old Bath Road to remind people of its existence, and a sign on the Roundabout outside the Hall – this would be an issue for the Borough and the Village Society. She also reported that she is still trying to get a crossing for the school

on Park Lane and will liaise with the headmaster of the Piggott School regarding the car park issues.

Items for Consideration

7161/18 To hear a report back from the BALC AGM on 14th November – The administration for the County has been contracted to the Hampshire Association for a three-month trial. This is to be extended for a further three months, with a view to making it a permanent arrangement. There was a presentation from the President of NALC, touching on subjects such as the diversity of councillors, dealing with speeding issues and local plans. As regards training, they are looking for suitable venues in Berkshire where they can preferably provide refreshments, such as hotels.

7162/18 To consider and approve the dates for the Council meetings in 2019 – The draft proposal was approved unanimously.

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

7163/18 To consider and approve the proposed scoring system for junior football team should Council choose to change from their current usage – Cllr Keward explained that a letter had been sent to the interested junior teams asking for various pieces of information such as ability to make at least a two to three year commitment, and to match the current level of income the parish receives from present hirers, how to deal with any parking issues, how many local players, what else they could bring to the community and what usage they envisaged making of the facilities. The aim of the exercise was to be as fair and objective as possible so that no club could claim the process was unfair. After some discussion, the only change that was agreed was to give a higher weighting to parking.

7164/18 To decide whether to move from adult football to junior football based on all available evidence and if so, to invite the two highest scoring teams (using the system approved above) to the next meeting to answer any questions prior to a final decision – The Clerk had distributed a potted history of the process of taking over the management of the site and what had been done so far. In the meeting, she read the various other pieces of information that has been gathered since the councillor packs had been sent out, most notably, the advice from the Borough that there were more junior pitches available borough-wide than adult, although there were more adult pitches available in the Borough of Reading. The advice was also that given the size and current usage of the East Park Farm pitches, it was advisable to leave them as adult pitches due to damage to the Council's reputation, and, there are inevitably parking issues surrounding junior football.

There followed a long discussion regarding the advantages and disadvantages of making the change. Some councillors were very concerned about parking and about upsetting the status quo unnecessarily, given that the pitches and pavilion were well used on a Saturday, but others felt that the Council had taken on the facility to benefit local people, and the change to junior football would honour that. Cllr Hartley asked whether, if Council agreed to make the change and then subsequently felt that neither of the two strongest proposals were suitable, that the decision could be made to stay adult football after all. This was agreed to be a sensible amendment and was accepted. Standing orders were suspended at 10pm, so that the discussion could be concluded, and the vote taken. The vote was as follow: three to remain with adult football, three to change to junior football and two abstentions. The Chairman then had a casting vote and voted in support of junior football.

There being no further business the open meeting closed at 10.05pm

Chairman's Signature