

---

---

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning, Environment and Highways Committee held on**  
**14th January 2019**

**Present** Jane Hartley (Chair), Claire Andersen, Jackie Jeffery and Greg Elphick

**30/19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** – Daljit Ryatt

**31/19 OPEN FORUM** – Simon Bartlam attended from the Wokingham Countryside Service as the start of quarterly visits to update the Council on what is taking place in the Country Park and the Meadows, and to facilitate joint working where beneficial. He explained his role and explained that as a non-statutory department within the Borough, the Service must pay its way. It has managed to do this, largely through the commercial activities at Dinton Pastures, but they have also been helped by the funds that have accompanied the new green spaces that are a result of the Strategic Development Locations. The only money-making activity in Charvil is the fishing, but the intention is to keep Charvil as more of a wildlife area than a commercial one. Cllr. Jeffery was concerned about the use of cows as a form of countryside management – Simon explained that there are known ecological benefits of using a small number of the animals. Cllr. Jeffery was also concerned about the destruction of quite large trees with the flail – Simon admitted she was right to be concerned, and this should not happen again, but the paths need to be wide enough to allow access of machinery to the lakes etc. Her other concern was about the large chunks of cinder that had been put down on the paths as they make for a very uneven surface. The cinder should have been sifted so only the finer bits are used on paths and Simon will ensure this happens in future. There are some piles of cinder in evidence at various locations, and these were requested by the fishermen to build fishing swims as and when necessary. Cllr. Hartley asked if there were ways the Parish Council could help the smooth running of the areas under the Service's control. One way is to report incidents that are of concern – for example, vandalism, cows escaping, encroachment onto the Country Park by householders etc. If anyone has a concern, they should contact [countryside@wokingham.gov.uk](mailto:countryside@wokingham.gov.uk). The Service also runs working parties for volunteers, and it was agreed Council would promote these. Other ways of joint working with the community were discussed, and one idea is for local schools to build bird boxes and have them put in the trees nearby to help habitat. Finally, Cllr. Jeffery asked if it were possible to have handles, or slightly higher benches if they come to renewing the ones in the Country Park, as many of those using them are rather elderly and find it difficult to get up. Simon would see what he could do.

**32/19 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND ANY WRITTEN REQUESTS FOR PECUNIARY INTERESTS IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE CLERK** – There were no declarations of interest

**33/19 Highways**

The Speed Indicator Device has been moved to Waingels Road for a short period to monitor speeds ahead of the work by Thames Water. It is in Stealth mode and will provide accurate data to inform any further discussions with the Borough. It will be moved again to another location – possibly the A4 – once this exercise is complete. It has been noted that some repairs by the utility companies have been very poor, and the clerk has brought some of these to the attention of the Borough Council in the hope that the Utility company concerned will make the necessary repair. Simon Bartlam was to

find out what the rule is about asking the utilities repairing sub-standard work as it is a common problem. *Clerk's note: the poor repair in Waingels Road seems to have been resolved.*

**34/19 Environment**

There have been several concerns raised about the siting of the bottle bank on Park lane. Council will monitor it closely once it has been installed.

The clerk has arranged a meeting with the flood wardens on Tues 5th March and other councillors are welcome to attend.

It was agreed to hold the litter pick on Sunday 24th March 2-4pm, starting at the hall, with the usual refreshments.

**35/19 Planning**

a) **The following approvals were noted**

183348 Application for the proposed erection of a single storey front/side extension plus internal alterations at 60 Old Bath Road, Charvil

183117 Application for the proposed erection of a single storey rear extension 98 The Hawthorns

b) **The following refusal was noted**

182936 Application for a two-storey side extension and a single storey rear extension to dwelling at 47 Chiltern Drive

d) **To note an enforcement complaint raised by the clerk** - The clerk has raised an enforcement issue with the Borough after receiving a complaint by a resident as is waiting to hear of any developments

**Any other Planning business at the discretion of the Chairman**

**36/19 To consider the proposed long-term vision of this Committee and the draft document laying out the priorities**

– This was considered at some length. It was suggested that the leaflet advertising the Annual Parish Meeting should be revamped to try to boost interest, and any other ideas to boost awareness of the Council should be explored including something at the fete. Cllr Hartley is to try to have a meeting with Emma Hobbs to improve co-operation between the committee and the Borough. The clerk has been asked to invite Peter Baveystock to a future meeting. There was discussion about bins, and Simon Bartlam felt that the positioning, rather than the number of bins, was the critical point from his experience. The clerk was to see how much Sheffield bike stands would cost, and there was discussion about improving cycle routes. Simon Bartlam reported that there is a long-term plan to run a “greenway” from Winnersh to Twyford Station and there is a new greenways officer, and he would pass his details to the clerk to discuss this and other ideas.

The meeting closed at 9.55pm