

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 17th June 2019

Present Jim Gillett (Chair), Paul Mundy, Adrian Keward, Jane Hartley, and Pat Sutlieff

Apologies for Absence Daljit Ryatt

Absent Claire Andersen

7267/19 Open Forum – There were no residents present

7268/19 Declarations of Interest – There were no declarations of interest

7269/19 Minutes of the Meeting held on 20th May 2019 – These minutes were approved by Council.

FINANCE

7270/19 Finance Reports – There was a long discussion about the Finance reports, and whether they could be changed so that income and expenditure could be measured against a monthly budget, rather than the whole annual budget. The clerk explained that this was not possible in the new Finance system. At the end of the discussion, it was resolved to approve the reports, which was done unanimously.

7271/19 Authorisation of Payments – It was resolved that the Council should approve all the following outstanding payments, which was done unanimously:

£166.54 to Grundon Waste Management Ltd
£582.61 to Berkshire Pension Fund
£33.62 to British Gas Services Ltd
£123.88 to Aquacare
£27.33 to the Assistant Clerk
£53.75 to Bowak Ltd
£169.65 to Everflow
£64.33 to the Clerk
£676.26 to BALC
£2578.99 to Sunshine Commercial Services Ltd
£1044.73 to NIC Services Group Ltd
£400 to Claire Connell
£233.11 to Dual Energy
£55.15 to Viking
£9.12 to CNG Ltd
£58.80 to AED Locator (EU) Ltd
£24 to Taurus Elite Security
£192 to Street Furniture Direct Ltd
£2270 in payroll

7272/19 To review and check Bank Statements against Reconciliations – The new Chair of Finance will do this before the next meeting and will meet with the clerk to run through things.

7273/19 To consider whether Council wishes to renew its membership of BALC, and if so, to approve payment – The clerk reported that many of the other Councils are going to renew their membership reluctantly, because they want to remain part of NALC, and have to be a member of their County Association to access the benefits of the national association. It was resolved to renew the membership and approve payment, which was passed unanimously, but that someone would attend the BALC AGM in November to raise the concerns of the Council.

Reports

7274/19 Amenities Committee – The minutes of a meeting on 3rd June were noted. There was a brief discussion about the change in the times to end music, which was now 10.30. It was approved to pursue the idea of advertising for a caretaker and the clerk would expand the job description. There was a long discussion on the Tennis Club and whether they were advertising the associate membership adequately, and it was decided that the Chairman and Cllr. Keward would try to meet with the Chair of the Tennis Club to bring up the concerns of the Council before the end of June.

7275/19 Planning, Environment and Highways Committee – The minutes of the meeting on 10th June were noted. It was noted that the Committee had decided not to respond positively to a request to cut the trees next to one of the houses at East Park Farm as the growth is not likely to cause any damage. Borough Councillor Hobbs has already reported the breaking up of the anti-skid strip approaching the mini roundabout on the Old Bath Road.

7276/19 Report from the Borough Councillor – The Borough Councillor reported that that John Halsall is the new head of the Council. She also reported that there has been some movement in Council house residents, with older residents moving out of some larger homes, freeing up family homes. The traffic survey on Park Lane did not show a high enough density of traffic to justify a crossing, but there are now 20pmh flashing lights near to the school. The Speed Indicator Device needs to be moved to measure speeds from the other direction on the A4, and a fresh effort needs to be made to get a response from the police, but because very few accidents occur, neither the Old Bath Road nor the A4 are high priority. Residents would like it returned to the Old Bath Road, and this will happen in time.

Items for Consideration

7277/19 To consider any matters arising from the Annual Parish Meeting – This was a further discussion on the same subject that had been on the May agenda. Not much was added – the assistant clerk is to add a link on Facebook to the Current Agenda page, and there was a long discussion about gateway signs for Charvil. There was no consensus as to whether these were a good idea, and Cllr. Hartley was to look at what signage there is already before there is any further discussion on this. It was agreed that Council should promote Adopt-a-Street. There was a discussion as to whether Parishes can pass byelaws to restrict pavement parking, but short of this, there is little that can be done. *Clerk's note: Parishes cannot pass byelaws on this.*

7278/19 To consider any actions for the fete – The fete runs from 2pm to 6pm and there will need to be some help with setting up and manning the bar and Parish Council table. The Chairman will provide a gazebo. Cllr. Hartley would like to find a younger person to help judge the dog mess posters and the clerk agreed to look for someone. *Clerk's note: a suitable volunteer has been found.*

7279/19 To consider whether to respond to the Post Office consultation on the closure of Charvil Post Office – the clerk was asked to write to emphasise that this is an important local amenity, and the closure will be a hardship to many of the more vulnerable people in the village. *Clerk's note: in response to the clerk's comments, the post office claim they are committed to re-opening in Charvil.*

7280/19 To consider the draft specification to send out to potential website companies – Cllr. Keward ran through the draft to explain that the purpose of this task was to ensure legal compliance, improve performance and support and to sort out the e-mail problems, rather than a complete recreation. The clerk would try to source three companies to bring to Council for a decision at the next meeting.

7281/19 To remind everyone of the unveiling of the memorial bench on Friday 21st June at 7pm – This was noted. There was a concern about the request that Council should adopt the bench – it is happy to insure it but it does not have the manpower to maintain it to a high standard, and it does not wish to commit itself to replacing it if damaged or broken.

7282/19 To consider how best to publish the results of the Pre-school survey and what conclusions have been reached – The results were inconclusive but should be published on the website. The conclusion was that there was not enough support to spend the money that would be needed for a new building. There was a brief discussion about whether a new building should be built, or the hall extended, and it was agreed that this would be discussed at a later date.

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

Chairman's Signature