



Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 24th April 2017

Present Chris Drew (Chairman), Jim Gillett, John Hobson, Jackie Jeffery, Paul Mundy, James Bell and Fiona Mowlem

Apologies for Absence Cllr McCann has resigned from the Council

Absent John Davies

6804/17 Open Forum – No residents attended. Jane Hartley is ineligible to join the Council until the autumn, but Council asked the clerk to see if she would like to join the Amenities Committee in the interim as non-councillors can be co-opted onto this committee.

6805/17 Declarations of Interest – There were no declarations of interest.

6806/17 Minutes of the Meeting held on 20th March 2017 - The minutes were approved by Council.

6807/17 PLANNING (ref 208)

a) New Applications for Information and Comment

170586 Application to vary condition 2 and remove condition 10 of planning consent F/2014/2072 (proposed erection of detached dwelling with new access, hard and soft landscaping and associated works). Variation of condition 2 to change approved plans to allow re-siting of approved dwelling by 1.5 metres. Removal of condition 10 to remove the requirement to comply with the code for sustainable homes at 111 Old Bath Road – no Parish Council comment

b) Planning Applications Approved – The following were noted

170304 Application for a Certificate of Lawfulness for the proposed erection of a single storey rear extension plus side dormer window at 11 Park Lane

170358 Application for a Certificate of Lawfulness for the proposed erection of a single storey rear extension to 11 Strathmore Drive

c) Planning Application Withdrawn

170317 Application for the proposed erection of two linked detached bungalows on land to the rear of 70-72 Old Bath Road

d) Appeal – the following was noted

163141 Application for the proposed first floor side extension to 12 Quantock Close

e) Suggestions for agenda items for a local plan meeting with the Northern Parishes and related reports from Cllrs. Gillett and Jeffery – Council had no agenda items for a meeting with the Northern Parishes as it feels there is not enough new information at this point. Cllr Hobbs requested that Council asked for a hard copy map of the local plan sites, and Council agreed to do this. The Borough Liaison Group considered the Local Plan and the five-year housing supply. Charvil is being used as an example of what can go wrong if not enough houses are built. There was also an update on the asset review process. Cllrs Jeffery and Gillett intend to attend the appeal hearing on the traveller site adjacent to Model Farm Cottages..

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

FINANCE

6808/17 Finance Reports – It was resolved that the financial reports be approved, which they were unanimously. Cllr. Bell did a short presentation breaking down the figures, including the financial position of the pavilion.

6809/17 Authorisation of Payments – It was resolved that the Council should approve all the following outstanding payments:

£50.47 to the assistant clerk
£163 to ADD Plumbing Solutions
£736.48 to ISS Facility Services Ltd
£949.38 to NIC Services Ltd
£120.25 to Castle Water
£798.04 to Corona Energy
£114.30 to EDF Energy
£82.26 to Safe I.S. Ltd
£62.73 to the clerk
£482.40 to Roger Burns
£7.46 to Castle Water
£978 to Herald Graphics
£54 to OCS Group
£146.81 to Southern Electric
£184.93 to SSE Contracting
£216.82 to Sunshine Commercial Services Ltd
£4354.62 to Wokingham Borough Council
£504.39 to Royal Berks Pension Fund

6810/17 To note the financial position of the pavilion in its first year of trading under Charvil Parish Council management – Trading has been in a positive direction. Activities at East Park Farm have made a loss this year because of the installation of the cricket pitch.

6811/17 To Approve the asset register – Subject to a couple of typos, this was approved.

6812/17 To Approve Cllr Mundy becoming a signatory and the signing of a letter to Skipton Building Society changing signatories to include Cllrs Mundy and Mowlem – It was resolved to approve these changes, which was done unanimously.

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

REPORTS

6813/17 Amenities Committee- The Minutes of a meeting on 3rd April were noted. Cllr Bell had conducted the internal audit for the assistant clerk, and noted that processes had improved since last year. He was still concerned that the terms Standard and Community were not clear enough in the hire rates. There was also a discussion about security at the hall and this has been passed to the Amenities Committee to discuss further. It was explained that the level of football being played at East Park Farm did not require a “spectator respect barrier” but that it was preferable, and the Amenities Committee have a vision of turning the area into a “Sports Hub”. Council was then asked to consider the question of whether there should be a replacement fence round the football pitches This was approved unanimously. On the question of what kind of fence there should be, the Amenities Committee had recommended a single metal rail, but other members of the Council were not so keen on this, and when put to a vote, four were in favour of a wooden fence, two were in favour of a metal fence and there was one abstention. Consequently, the issue has been returned to the Amenities Committee to gather and consider quotes for a wooden fence. There was also a discussion as to why no bollards have been installed next to the tennis courts and the assistant clerk has been asked to obtain quotes for this as a matter of urgency.

- 6814/17 Report from the Borough Councillor**
The Borough Councillor did not attend and did not send a report. Council asked the clerk to write to her to express its disappointment with her poor attendance in the past year, and requested she tried to attend more meetings in future as her absence is adversely affecting Council's effectiveness when requesting action from the Borough.
- 6815/17 Staffing Committee** – The minutes of the Staffing Committee meeting on 10th April were noted. It was resolved to approve a slight change of publication date for the Charvil News to even out the workload for the assistant clerk, which was approved.
- 6816/17 Environment**
To consider whether Council wishes to complain to the Borough about the use of weedkiller – Council took on board the reason that WBC had sanctioned the use of weedkiller, that they were getting claims from car drivers when stones inadvertently hit their cars when passing a strimmer, but the feeling was that this was purely a cost cutting measure, made worse by poor application. Council wished to express its dissatisfaction with this policy.
To note the approval of TPO application 170298 to prune a walnut and cherry tree at 42, Park View Drive North – This was noted
To Note the Pollution of the stream and the environment agency's response – The Environment Agency asked Thames water to investigate as they have an outlet close to the spot where pollution was noticed, but they need to see it happening to be able to trace it to the source. Council would like this to be done, as it is concerned that it is harmful.
Council wished to pass on its thanks to Cllr McCann for all her hard work on the environment over the past few years.
- 6817/17 Highways** – Council considered whether to purchase speed monitoring devices to try to discourage speeding, as well as requesting periodic usage of the monitoring device purchased by the local police. This was approved and Cllr Mowlem would consider what was available. It was noted that the police had run a course to train residents to use hand held devices, but Council was not aware of anyone from Charvil coming forward. Cllr Mowlem also reported back on feedback she had had from a Highways officer regarding the adoption of Pipistrelle Way by the Borough. There are significant impediments due to poor drainage, non-standard streetlights and incursion by residents onto the utility strips. Council awaits a formal response from more senior Highways officers before being completely sure of the outcome.
- 6818/17 To consider topics and slides for the Annual Parish Meeting** – Cllrs Bell and Gillett will not be present. The Chairman will present the slides, but councillors will dot themselves around tables like last year as this seemed to work well in interacting with residents.
- 6819/17 To consider who can help with the fete barbecue on Sat 17th June** - Cllrs Bell and Hobson will be away. Cllrs Mowlem, Jeffery, Mundy and Gillett can help, as will Cllr Drew. It was suggested to ask Jane Hartley is she would like to get involved. *Clerk's note: the fete committee have since suggested that they may like the councillors to run the train instead.*
- 6820/17 To consider changes that need to be made to the website** – This was deferred.

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(s) under Section 2 of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960

- 6821 To approve changing the Clerk's contract to be in line with that of the assistant clerk. To consider whether to put the clerk up a spinal point in line with the recommendations of the new contract in regard to passing CiLCA.**

It was resolved to approve these which was done unanimously.

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

Chairman's Signature