

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 20th April 2015

Present Chris Drew (Chairman), James Bell, John Hobson, Jackie Jeffery, Liz Black and Borough Councillor Nick Ray

Apologies for absence Jim Gillett, John Davies, Paul Mundy, and Lauren McCann .

6381/15 Open Forum – Pauline Hobbs and Fiona Mowlem both attended to present their cases as to why they would make good Parish Councillors, and one resident attended regarding the planning application at the Wee Waif. This planning application is for some new play equipment which is not contentious but the plans show various other additions which the resident contends do need planning, and which would negatively impact upon the neighbouring properties. Amongst these are new skylights, larger doors and a smoking shelter. Most of these have either gone in, or are in the process of being added. The resident feels that most of her neighbours do not realise what is being proposed as the planning application is inaccurate, and that the situation will get as bad as it was three years ago when there was a previous smoking shelter. The Chair thanked the resident for coming, and it was agreed to move directly on to the planning application concerned.

Pauline Hobbs and Fiona Mowlem gave a brief introduction of themselves and why they would be interested in joining the Council. They both ran through their skill sets, and because they were both thorough, neither were asked any questions. They were both invited to stay for the rest of the meeting to observe.

6382/15 Declarations of Interest – There were no declarations of interest.

6383/15 Minutes of the Meeting held on 16th March 2015 –The minutes were approved by Council.

6384/15 Matters Arising from the above Minutes – There were no matters arising

6385/15 PLANNING (ref 184)

a) New Applications for Information and Comment:

0681 Proposed erection of new play equipment at the Wee Waif, Old Bath Road.

After some discussion, the clerk was asked to comment as follows:

Charvil Parish Council has the following concerns about this application:

1.The application is only for a play area, which the Parish Council has no objection to subject to suitable safety provisions being made, but the plans show a large number of other changes that cannot be regarded as permitted development in this case.

2.The most serious concern is the positioning of a new smoking shelter by the side door of the pub, next to the neighbouring properties in Kilowna Close and the Old Bath Road. A previous structure was removed in September 2012, after numerous complaints from the neighbours, interventions from the local police etc, and Council feel strongly that this is the wrong place for such a structure. There is no objection to a smoking shelter in principle, but Council feel that it should be situated as far as possible from neighbouring homes. There are also plans to extend the outside drinking area extensively, and Council feel this

also needs to be examined as a planning issue, so that neighbours can have their say on this as well.

- b) **Planning Applications Approved** – the following approval was noted
2725 Proposed erection of single storey rear extension to dwelling, plus replacing existing flat roof over the garage and utility at 70, Park View Drive North
- c) **Planning Application Rejected** – The following rejection was noted
2679 Proposed erection of one four bed detached dwelling at 1, Milestone Crescent
- d) **Appeal** The following was noted
2679 Proposed erection of one four bed detached dwelling at 1, Milestone Crescent
- e) **Enforcement** - The following were noted
158 Alleged breach on land to the rear of 25 and 27 Park View Drive South
161 Alleged breach at 4, East Park Farm Drive (This one is now closed as no breach)
- f) **To consider whether Council would like to adopt the suggested planning criteria checklist** – It was resolved to adopt this.

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

FINANCE

- 6386/15 **Finance Reports** – It was resolved that the Reports, including the year- end figures, be approved which they were unanimously. There was a discussion about planning to spend excess reserves, and it was agreed that the chair of finance would put together a list of suggestions for the Annual Parish Meeting.
- 6387/15 **Authorisation of Payments** – It was resolved that the Council should approve all outstanding payments, including £1040 to Fericon Press and £870.72 to NIC Services Group which they were unanimously
- 6388/15 **To consider three quotes for essential maintenance to the Village Hall roof, and approve one** – it was resolved that the contract be awarded to JFI Roofing, which it was unanimously

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

REPORTS

- 6389/15 **Village Hall Management Committee** – The minutes of the meeting on 30th March were noted.
It was noted that the clerk had received the invoice for the repairs to the lamppost damaged in the traffic incident in February, and Council asked the clerk to write to the alleged driver to try to recover the costs.
- 6390/15 **Amenities Committee** – The minutes of the meeting on 30th March were noted.
Council noted that there was still no firm start date for the remedial works to start at St Patricks Recreation ground.
The Borough Councillor reported that Wokingham Borough Council were still waiting on Thames Water to finish evaluating alternative sites for the pumping station for the Waingels Road sewer, and that Thames Water were supposed to be contacting the Parish Council to report on the latest developments.
The clerk reported that there are now five empty allotment plots. This would be further discussed at the Amenities committee, and included in the September Newsletter.
- 6391/15 **Staffing Committee** – Cllr Hobson reported that there was a lot to do, such as reviewing contracts, drawing up necessary policies etc. It has been confirmed that

Council has Employer's Liability insurance. The committee also felt training ought to be on a more formal basis.

- 6392/15 Borough Councillor's Report** – The Borough Councillor reported that because of the pre-election period, everything was on hold at present, but he also reported that he had met with Cllr. Baker of WBC, who was very keen that the Pavilion project is successful.
- 6393/15 ENVIRONMENT** – To consider the draft flood report from Wokingham. It was noted that the Parish Council would be expected to recruit flood wardens – an appeal will be made at the Annual Parish Meeting.
- TPO 223/1983** – It was noted that consent had been given to crown a London Plane at Jubilee Hall.
- 6394/15 To consider any progress on the East Park Farm discussions** – There has been some further communication with Wokingham, with a potential date to take over management of the pavilion of April 2016 being suggested. There still needs to be some clarification on financial details, and the extent of the condition survey. The clerk has been asked to chase for further developments, and hopefully arrange a meeting with the more senior people involved in these discussions to get things moving forward.
- 6395/15 To consider feedback from the litter pick** – It was agreed that the event had been very successful, with over thirty residents taking part, despite the weather not being great. It was agreed Charvil would get involved next year.
- 6396/15 To consider arrangements for the Annual Parish Meeting** – Cllr. Bell agreed to put together the presentation, which will be more visual.

As the public part of the meeting was over, the Borough Councillor, Mrs Mowlem and Mrs Hobson all left at 9.30 pm.

Part 2

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

Election of a new member to be co-opted to Council – Cllr. Hobson left the room as he declared a conflict of interest with Pauline Hobson being his wife. After a lengthy discussion the councillors present voted three to one in favour of Mrs. Mowlem.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.50pm

Chairman's Signature