



Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 17th March 2014

Present Alice Wilkinson (Chairman), Jim Gillett, John Davies, Paul Mundy, Chris Drew, Liz Black, Piran Trezise and Borough Councillor Nick Ray

Apologies for absence Jackie Jeffery, Lauren McCann and James Bell

6127/14 Open Forum – The Chair of Charvil Pre-school attended to talk about the future of the pre-school now that the new primary had opened, and what threats and opportunities this offered. She explained that she had spoken again with Piggott School who do intend to open some kind of pre-school facility as this would be popular with the parents. This would go out to tender and Charvil Pre-school would be welcome to apply, but would be by no means certain of being successful. If they were not, then in all probability they would have to close. If they were, then they would have to move to the school. The alternative could be a move to the pavilion, which was discounted some years ago as it offered nothing over Jubilee Hall, but as it is next to the school, this now changes the equation. Clearly it would be a costly venture to move, but the Chair felt that to do nothing is not an option. The Chairman explained that Council is presently considering whether to take over the management of the pavilion, and asked the clerk to investigate the arrangement Twyford Parish Council had with the nursery in the pavilion in Stanlake Meadow. The Chair of the Pre-school was asked to find out how much it would cost to make the pavilion a suitable venue. It was accepted that this would adversely affect Jubilee Hall, but the present scenario would almost definitely mean the Pre-school leaving this venue in the near future whether they moved to the pavilion or not. The Chair of the Pre-school left at 8.30.

6128/14 Declarations of Interest – Paul Mundy has a planning application up for discussion (129, East Park Farm Drive), and Piran Trezise is a neighbour of 20, St. Patrick's Avenue. His wife also works for the Pre-school.

6129/14 Minutes of the Meeting held on 17th January 2014 –The minutes were approved by Council and signed by the Chairman.

Matters Arising from the above Minutes – There were no matters arising that were not on the agenda

6130/14 PLANNING (ref 171)

a) New Applications for Information and Comment:

0272 Proposed part conversion of garage to habitable accommodation, plus single storey front infill extension to link converted garage to 129, East Park Farm Drive – No Parish Council comment. Cllr Mundy left the room while this application was discussed.

0472 Proposed erection of a single storey rear extension to dwelling following the demolition and removal of existing conservatory at 22, Newbury Close– No Parish Council comment

0390 Proposed part conversion of double garage to create habitable accommodation at 20, St. Patrick's Avenue – No Parish Council comment

- b) Planning Applications Approved** – The following approvals were noted
- 0060 Proposed erection of a single storey front extension to dwelling to form an entrance porch at The Shrubbery on Milestone Avenue
- 0064 Proposed erection of a part two storey and part single storey rear extension to dwelling following removal of conservatory (amendment to planning consent F/2013/1152) at 63, Park View Drive North
- 2492 Variation of conditions of planning consent to substitute approved drawings to allow an additional side window, deeper sill to rear window, additional photovoltaic panels and 3no roof lights to loft space at 15b, Charvil House Road
- 2465 Application for a non-material amendment to planning consent F/2012/1190 to allow the shape of the access road to be curved in the opposite direction on land to the rear of 25 & 27, Park View Drive South
- c) Enforcement** – The following were noted
- 0311 Enforcement closure at 2, Milestone Crescent (ride removed)
Enforcement Notice served on 36, Park View Drive South to remove illegal building

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

FINANCE

- 6131/14 Finance Reports** – Reports were unanimously approved.
- 6132/14 Authorisation of Payments** – Council unanimously approved all payments including Home as Office payments of £250 each to the clerk and assistant clerk, £500.72 to NIC Services group Ltd, £1250 to Twyford Youth Centre plus other invoices of amounts less than £500.
- 6133/14 To approve, and for two signatories to sign, a letter confirming the standing order for clerk's and assistant clerk's salary for 2014-15** This was unanimously approved and signed.
- 6134/14 To review signatories for the bank accounts** – It was unanimously agreed that Cllr. Black would replace Cllr. Wilkinson as a signatory.
- 6135/14 To consider what ideas Council would like to put to residents to improve amenity in the village** – This was partially discussed, but no firm ideas were forthcoming beyond possible expenditure on the pavilion if Council agreed to take on its management
- 6136/14 Investments** – The clerk reported that Barclays are no longer offering suitable bonds and so the clerk has been asked to investigate suitable alternatives.

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

REPORTS

- 6137/14 Village Hall Management Committee** – The minutes of a meeting on 3rd March were noted
- It was reported that the floor would have to be replaced in the next 2-3 years.
- 6138/14 Amenities Committee** – The minutes of a meeting on 3rd March were noted
- 6139/14 Borough Councillor's Report** – The Borough Councillor explained how he had been taken to see the damage caused by the flooding in Thornbers Way and Edward Road, and that the Borough Council would come to look at the effects on drainage and electricity, and what can be done to reduce damage in the future. He had not been able to speak to Pauline Jorgensen of WBC, but it had been announced in the press that the Community Hub would be sited in the old Polehampton School site if the funds can be raised. He also mentioned the kebab van, and the flashing light on the side of it. Apparently these are illegal when fitted to vehicles, and residents are concerned that it lowers the tone somewhat.

- 6140/14 ENVIRONMENT** – In the absence of Cllr. McCann, there was nothing to report
- 6141/14 HIGHWAYS** - Cllr. Trezise reported that the islands had been cut back on St. Patrick's Avenue, and were much improved. The clerk was asked to chase Wokingham about when they are likely to install the 30 MPH speed limit on Park Lane to the railway bridge.
- 6142/14 Update on The Pavilion and surrounding area** – In addition to the Open Forum, Council discussed a proposal from Wokingham to remove completely the fence round the football pitches. The clerk was asked to object to this as Council felt it served a purpose to reduce dog fouling on the pitch, protect walkers from footballs etc. *Clerk's note: Woodley Town Football club also said it was needed to comply with the league's rules to separate spectators from players. Wokingham say they will replace it when funds are available.*
- 6143/14 Youth Centre Meeting** – The clerk attended this and explained that the new constitution had finally been adopted with a policy to encourage as broad a membership as possible. Council had committed to granting them £1500, and this could now be honoured as a bank account had finally been set up.
- 6144/14 Sewerage Issue in Waingels Road** – Thames Water have agreed to do the work in 2015 but a site for a suitable pumping station needs to be found. The Borough Councillor felt that it may fall to the Parish Council to chase up both Wokingham and Waingels School as they are the ones who own the most suitable land. The Vice Chairman will approach the school informally so that in the event of Thames Water approaching them, they will hopefully be supportive. He is also delivering a letter approved by Council, to all the residents affected, to keep them informed and to stress the importance of responding when Thames Water write to them to gauge interest in the take-up for the sewer.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Any Other Business

Cllr Drew mentioned the issue of filming in meetings to see if other people were against it as he was. Generally councillors appreciated the objections posted by the clerk to this proposal.

Part 2

There was a discussion about the procedure for the Chairman to stand down. It was agreed she would stand down at the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council (AGM), where a new chair would be elected. Cllr Wilkinson made her apologies and left at 9.35. The discussion continued around the difficulty of Cllrs Trezise and Gillett to attend meetings regularly because of work commitments. So far, neither had come close to missing six months of meetings consecutively and the clerk was asked to check if councillors have to step down automatically if this does happen. Council felt that they valued the contributions made by both men, and would like them to continue. *Clerk's note: If Council approves the reason for a councillor to miss a meeting (say through work), then the said councillor would not have to resign.*

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.50pm