



Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 21st October 2013

Present Alice Wilkinson (Chairman), Jim Gillett, James Bell, Jackie Jeffery, Paul Mundy, Chris Drew and Lauren McCann.

Apologies for absence John Davies, Liz Black, Piran Trezise and Borough Councillor Nick Ray

- 6026/13 Open Forum** – No members of the public were present. Nicholas Durman of Wokingham Healthwatch arrived at 8.50pm to explain what his organisation is, its origins, and if there was any way to promote it. Healthwatch has been set up to be the legitimate patient voice for the NHS and Social Care as part of the new system of giving GPs more powers. They hope to be able to provide a strong evidence base to back up patients' concerns, rather than have them brushed off as "anecdotal" as in the past. They also have the power to "enter and view" care homes and hospitals if there are concerns about the quality of care. To be able to do any of this, people need to know Healthwatch exists, so they are working through the Citizen's Advice Bureau, and are having a major media launch on 20th November. The Chairman offered the opportunity to put an article in the next edition of the Newsletter, and the clerk was asked to pass on Cllr. Black's details so they can liaise directly. The Chairman thanked Mr. Durman who left at 9pm.
- 6027/13 Declaration of Interest** – Cllr. Mundy lives next door to 123, East Park Farm Drive, and Cllrs. Wilkinson and Drew know the owners of 4, Righton Close well, so they withdrew from any decisions made about the respective planning applications
- 6028/13 Minutes of the Meeting held on 16th September 2013** – 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

6029/13 PLANNING (ref 166)

a) New Applications for Information and Comment:

- 1822 Proposed erection of a single storey rear extension to dwelling 123, East Park Farm Drive – No Parish Council comment
- 1868 Proposed raising of the garage roof to create habitable accommodation at first floor level and rear dormer extension at 4 Righton Close – No Parish Council comment
- 1874 Proposed erection of one new dwelling with car port on land behind 15B Charvil House Road – No Parish Council comment
- 1962 Proposed conversion of previously converted garage to play room back to garage space, conversion of existing garage to additional habitable accommodation at 58, East Park Farm Drive – No Parish Council comment.
- 1953 Proposed demolition of existing dwelling and erection of 1x4 bedroom and 1x5 bedroom detached dwellings with associated parking and access at 1, Strathmore Drive – The clerk was asked to comment as follows:

1. *While the Council acknowledges that the applicant has taken into account the objections raised by the planning inspector, the fact remains that this plot is considerably narrower than the plot on the other corner of Strathmore Drive, and that any effort to build two houses is consequently going to appear cramped and out of keeping with the homes around it.*
2. *To fit two houses onto this plot, the nominal building line has been breached, which will be out of line with the rest of the houses facing onto the Old Bath Road. Council believes the character of the area would be diminished if this were allowed to happen.*
3. *The issue of parking on this corner has long been contentious, and by allowing two homes on this site, this problem will only get worse. If this development is to be allowed, Council requests the introduction of double yellow lines at this junction to improve safety. For these reasons Council requests that this application be refused.*

2009 Proposed single storey rear extension at 20, The Hawthorns – No Parish Council comment

0761 Revised Application for the erection of 73 residential units with associated access, parking and landscaping (adjoining parish) – No Parish Council comment

b) Planning Applications Approved – The following approvals were noted

1527 Proposed erection of single storey rear extension at 30, Strathmore Drive

1635 Proposed single storey side and front garage extension including garage conversion to habitable accommodation at 19, Wenlock Edge

1799 Application for non-material amendment to planning consent F/2012/1799 to allow the replacement of the approved bi-folding doors with a single Upvc window at 6, Thornbers Way

1766 Proposed erection single storey front porch extension at 56, Park View Drive North

HH/2013/1814 Application for prior approval for a single storey rear extension not exceeding 8 metres at 20, Park View Drive South

1605 Proposed single storey rear extension with glazed roof lantern at 27, East Park Farm Drive

c) Planning Application Rejected – The following was noted

CLP/2013/1285 Erection of single storey front extension to form a porch at 28, Park View Drive South

d) Planning Applications Withdrawn – The following was noted

1521 Proposed erection of two new dwellings with access to Gingells Farm Road at 36, 28 and 43 Gingells Farm Road

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

FINANCE

6030/13 Finance Reports – Reports were unanimously approved.

6031/13 Authorisation of Payments – Council unanimously approved all payments.

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

REPORTS

6032/13 Village Hall Management Committee – There was no meeting this month.

The clerk is waiting to hear back from Thames Water as they seem to be having difficulty finding records of the repair in July. One of the trees planted in March 2012 is not well but is out of guarantee. The vendor says it may well pick up next year. Quadron have been instructed to be careful not to strim the bark of these trees when cutting the grass. Council approved the quotation from AMB landscapes to cut back the plants in

front of the Village Hall at a cost of £230 and have instructed the assistant clerk to find out how much it would cost to dig out and re-plant the triangular bed between the entrance paths as this has brambles growing through it. Council instructed the assistant clerk to enforce the terms and conditions of booking in relation to a cancelled booking on 9th November as she had to turn other potential users away for that date. Council agreed to waive the fee for the committee room for a Macmillan coffee morning as most of the funds raised went to pay the booking.

6033/13 Amenities Committee – There was no meeting this month

The amended Vegetable Plot agreements have been returned, and the new water supply paid for. The clerk is now trying to find a plumber to install the required pipe work on the vegetable plots as this needs to be done before Thames Water can do their part.

Council considered whether it would be a good idea to put a second notice board on the corner of Park Lane as the present one is always too full. It was felt this would not be a good idea but the assistant clerk was to get quotations for one at the East Park Farm car park and also to investigate the possibility for one in the outside porch area at the Village Hall.

6034/13 Borough Councillor's Report – The Borough Councillor was absent so there was no report.

6035/13 ENVIRONMENT - The clerk was asked to organise a meeting with Simon Bartlam and Cllrs McCann and Jeffery on any Monday that he is available. Topics to be discussed include the possibility of a nature trail, benches near to the river/lakes and the progress of work at the Country Park.

Cllr. McCann has approached the home-owner on the corner of Strathmore Drive to see if he would be happy to sponsor a planter on the corner outside his house that would be to commemorate the centenary of the start of World War One. He is happy in principle, as are Wokingham Borough Council, but finer details (like size and cost) are yet to be agreed.

6036/13 HIGHWAYS - The road under the railway bridge in Park Lane has now been repaired. WBC are due to re-paint the lines at the mini roundabout at the junction of Old Bath Road and Park Lane to try to improve safety. A resident has written to complain about the difficulties driving from East Park Farm to the A4 in the morning. Cllr Drew is to try to get back in touch with a representative from Highways who said he would look into the problems of the morning rush hour earlier this year. The resident also complained about the safety of the zebra crossing on the Old Bath Road as her daughter had to jump out of the way when a car failed to stop. The chairman reported that there needs to be at least two serious injuries involving a competent driver (ie one that is not drunk or otherwise seriously impaired) for major changes to be made. The clerk was asked to contact Wokingham to see if any improvements could be made, particularly the possibility of putting coloured tarmac on the approach to the crossing, and also to cut back the trees obscuring the street light above the crossing.

6037/13 Update on East Park Farm, school and other amenities – There was a long discussion about the pavilion and it was agreed that Council needs a lot more information before being able to make a decision on whether to take it on. Allan Tiplady, of WBC, has replied to the points brought up by Cllr. Ray on our behalf from the last meeting regarding additional amenities. Some issues will be discussed with the Country side service (see above), but there are others that need costings before any decisions can be made (football pitch fencing and the shelter), and others that need further thought from the Parish Council, such as the re-siting of the benches and whether Council would agree to work with the tennis court regarding a notice board near to the tennis courts.

6038/13 Polling Place Review– As nothing is due to change in Charvil, this was noted.
Section 106 information – This is to be updated and accessible on the Wokingham website.

- 6039/13 **Wokingham Borough Sports Awards** – Cllr McCann to attend this event
6040/13 **2014 Meeting dates** – These have been agreed and the final version will be agreed at the next meeting.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Any Other Business

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.40pm