

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 20th October 2014

Present Chris Drew (Chairman), Liz Black, Paul Mundy, Jim Gillett, Piran Trezise, John Hobson, Lauren McCann and Jackie Jeffery. One member of the press attended

.Apologies for absence John Davies, James Bell and Borough Councillor Nick Ray

6266/14 Open Forum – Richard Greenwood, a town planner, attended to explain his company's plan to develop land adjoining 111, Old Bath Road. He explained that he had been talking to the planning department and the neighbours to this plot about his plans, and had had a reasonable response from both. The biggest issue had been the removal of the leylandii, but he was offering to plant extra trees on the council land to the rear of the plot. Unfortunately some of the plans sent to Council had been wrong, but he produced corrected versions for discussion. He was asked about flood levels and parking spaces, and he explained that both topics had been adequately considered in his plans, and there was enough space for residents to turn their cars round in the drive given a two car household. Mr Greenwood left once the planning application had been discussed.

6267/14 Declarations of Interest – There were no declarations of interest.

6268/14 Minutes of the Meeting held on 15th September 2014 –The minutes were approved by Council and signed by the acting Chairman.

6269/14 Matters Arising from the above Minutes – There were no matters arising that were not on the agenda

6270/14 PLANNING (ref 178)

a) New Applications for Information and Comment:

2041 Proposed stationing of 5no mobile homes on existing mobile home site at Walleys Mobile Home Park, A4, Charvil – no Parish Council comment

2072 Proposed erection of detached dwelling with new access, hard and soft landscaping and associated work at 111, Old Bath Road – no Parish Council comment

2146 Proposed erection of first floor side extension at 12, Gingells Farm Road – no Parish Council comment

2248 Proposed construction of a 2m x 1.7m slipway and storage of a 3.2m x 1.45m dinghy – no Parish Council comment

b) Planning Applications Approved – The following approvals were noted

0654 Proposed erection of one detached dwelling on land to the rear of 23a, Park View Drive South

1366 Application for retention of building and proposed amendments to include reduction of length and height of building at 36, Park View Drive South

c) **Appeal Dismissed** – the following was noted:

2250 Application to erect one detached dwelling on land at 17 Charvil House Road

d) **Enforcement** - The following were noted:

0256 Enforcement closure on investigation at 11, Foxes Walk – Planning Permission sought

0244 Enforcement closure on investigation at 40, Chiltern Drive – does not breach planning controls

006 Enforcement closure on investigation at 36, Park View Drive South – Planning Permission granted for modified design

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

FINANCE

6271/14 **Finance Reports** – It was resolved that the Reports be approved which they were unanimously.

6272/14 **Authorisation of Payments** – It was resolved that the Council should approve all outstanding payments, including £931.20 to AES Ltd and £1001.44 to NIC Services Group. This resolution was unanimously carried.

6273/14 **Pensions** – Because of queries brought up by Cllr. Gillett about the potential risks of the Defined Benefit Scheme that had been agreed upon the previous month, the issue of passing a resolution agreeing to join the Berkshire Pension Scheme was deferred until Cllr. Hobson had sought relevant answers.

6274/14 **Annual Return** – It was noted that this had been returned by the auditors without any comments

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

REPORTS

6275/14 **Village Hall Management Committee** – The notes of the meeting on 6th October were noted.

The Council will consider the terms of Reference at the next meeting when everyone has had a chance to read them. Council approved the floor seal to be done over Christmas at a cost of £900. It was decided to delay the electrical works in the hall until everyone was clear as to what kind of lights to install and where.

6276/14 **Amenities Committee** – The notes of a meeting on 6th October were noted.

There is a continuing problem with footballers leaving rubbish after their games. The clerk has sent two requests to see if they can be reminded to clear up after themselves – councillors will monitor the situation. There were reports of dog fouling on the paths near the school – this seems to have diminished of late, but there is more of a problem on the paths in the Country Park side of the stream. The new bins are due to be fitted at St Patricks on 31st October. The repair of the gate at the play park at St Patricks will be discussed at the Amenities committee meeting.

Cllr Gillett reported that Thames Water was finally mapping and contacting residents in Waingels Road as to where existing soil pipes are. He has contacted all affected residents to ask them to respond to Thames Water so they know that everyone wants the sewer. He is concerned that Thames Water need to buy some land off Waingels College for the pumping station, and was going to contact Borough Councillor Ray to see if he can make sure Wokingham appreciate the need to progress with this quickly as the pumping station should be installed next Spring.

6277/14 **Borough Councillor's Report** – Cllr. Ray asked whether Council had anything to add to the final consultation on the policy on verges and footways, and they did not.

- 6278/14 **ENVIRONMENT** – Cllr McCann has been trying to get an update from Simon Bartlam on the Nature trail, but she believes it is still in draft stage. Cllr McCann will try to get an update for the next meeting.
- 6279/14 **To consider the possible transfer of assets from Wokingham Borough Council, including the Pavilion, playing fields and even the tennis courts, and also to consider whether Council should pursue the idea of installing an artificial cricket pitch at east Park Farm** – Cllrs Hobbs, Mundy, Drew, Trezise and the clerk met to talk over points for discussion with Wokingham Borough Council on 24th October. All felt it was important to get to the bottom of the costs before committing to any transfer. An agenda has been drawn up and will be circulated to attendees. It was noted that Wokingham have not yet produced any financial information, but will hopefully produce something by 24th. The above councillors will report back to the next meeting.
- 6280/14 **To consider how to develop the website** – Cllr. Hobson explained that he had two quotations that he would circulate via the clerk for a decision to be made at the next meeting. It would be helpful if all councillors could look at the examples of the designers' work so they have an idea of what each one can offer. It was also agreed that the brief should include e-mail accounts for each councillor as well as clerk and assistant clerk.
- 6281/14 **To consider whether Council would like to lend support to the larger parishes to ask Wokingham to consult more fully before withdrawing the precept support grant** – it was unanimously agreed that Council supported them and Cllr. Jeffery would support this motion at the Borough Parish meeting on 23rd October.
- 6282/14 **To consider a response to the Wokingham Flood Plan Consultation** – It was agreed that the clerk would complete this for the Council, and that Council would try to find flood wardens for the areas most affected by flooding.
- 6283/14 **To find out if there are any residents' associations in Charvil and possible contacts** - Council have been asked if they know of any resident associations in the village by Wokingham, who would like to use this information as a way of disseminating consultations, local information etc more effectively. The Chairman will include something in the Newsletter at Christmas.
- 6284/14 **Feedback from Councillor training and Chairmanship courses** – Cllrs Mundy, Hobson and Drew attended the new councillor training which they all found very useful. It was noted that decisions could only be made on items included on the agenda, and so councillors need to let the clerk know at least a week before the next meeting if they have an agenda item. They also became aware of the need for reviewing the insurance policy and having a risk assessment policy. The Chairman, on his training, learnt that Council should have a staffing committee consisting of at least three members. It was agreed that this would be formed at the next meeting. *Clerk's note: the clerk was aware of the issue regarding the agenda, but welcomes the realisation by councillors that this is the case. Insurance and the risk assessment policy are both dealt with adequately with annual reviews as necessary.*
- 6285/14 **To approve a move toward making the agenda less general** – this was unanimously approved.
- 6286/14 **To approve amendments to the Standing Order to reflect changes in legislation** – these were unanimously approved.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

The lady from the press left at 9.55pm.

Part 2

The chairman had spotted that there was some confusion over how staff should claim overtime payments, and it was agreed that all income (including Stage) should go through the payroll system. The whole system would be reviewed by the staffing committee once formed.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.10pm

Chairman's Signature