

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 16th September 2019

Present Jim Gillett (Chair), Paul Mundy, Jane Hartley, and Pat Sutlieff

Apologies for Absence

Absent Adrian Keward, Daljit Ryatt and Claire Andersen

7304/19 Open Forum – There were three prospective Parish Councillors present. Each one confirmed their address and that they are eligible to stand and then introduced themselves, explaining their specialisms and why they would like to join the Council. It was explained to them that there was a fourth candidate who, because of holidays, had submitted a brief introduction in writing. There were concerns that one of the candidates may struggle to make the meetings because of his job but he allayed those fears as he has other Monday commitments he does not miss often, and there were questions to another candidate regarding an enforcement issue on a new house adjacent to his stated address but he assured the Council that he had nothing to do with this new property. They were then invited to stay for the rest of the meeting, which they did.

7305/19 Declarations of Interest – There were no declarations of interest

7306/19 Minutes of the Planning and Finance Meeting held on 12th August 2019 – These minutes were approved by Council.

FINANCE

7307/19 Finance Reports – These were approved unanimously

7308/19 Authorisation of Payments – It was resolved that the Council should approve all the following outstanding payments, which was done unanimously:

£166.54 to Grundon Waste Management Ltd
£676.45 to Berkshire Pension Fund
£33.62 to British Gas Services Ltd
£361.20 to Heart Facilities Ltd
£63.50 to A1 Locksmiths
£387.74 to the Assistant Clerk
£480 to PKF Littlejohn LLP
£988.51 to the Clerk
£84 to CCB
£962.59 to Sunshine Commercial Services Ltd
£223.51 to NIC Services Group Ltd
£107.14 to Tivoli Ltd
£127.51 to Dual Energy
£49.04 to SSE
£8.69 to CNG Ltd
£70.74 to Viking
£775.01 to HM Revenue and Customs
£4176 to MRM Commercial
£2270 in payroll

7309/19 To review and check Bank Statements against Reconciliations – The Chair of Finance had reviewed all Bank Statements and found them correct.

- 7310/19 **To ask all existing and potential signatories to sign a letter to the Skipton Building Society to start the process of changing signatories for the one year Savings Bond** – this was signed by those present and the clerk will get the remaining signatures when other signatories are available.
- 7311/19 **To note the maturity of the Savings bond and to approve the roll-over for another year** – The clerk reported that the rate of interest would be 1.4% and it was resolved to do this which was approved unanimously
- 7312/19 **To ask the Chair of Finance to confirm his change of signature for Barclays Bank to complete the change of signatories for the main Bank Accounts** – The Chair of Finance provided a further specimen signatory.
- 7313/19 **To consider and approve the policy for granting concessions for fundraising events** – This was approved with one minor amendment.
- 7314/19 **To note the external auditor's approval of the annual return** – This was noted.
- 7315/19 **Amenities Committee** – The minutes of a meeting on 2nd September were noted. Council considered the recommendation from the Amenities Committee to revoke the agreement with the Tennis Club regarding the Family Pass as no satisfactory promotional material has been forthcoming. After some discussion, it was resolved that the assistant clerk would send out one final request to see any new promotions, and that if this were not forthcoming, the clerk would contact the clerk notifying them of the termination of this agreement in line with the relevant clauses which was approved unanimously. The Amenities Committee had approved the change of sanitary waste provider subject to various queries being answered satisfactorily, but the further information was not as Council had hoped, so therefore it was resolved to stay with the current provider which was agreed unanimously.
- 7316/19 **Planning, Environment and Highways Committee** – The minutes of the meeting on 9th September were noted. The Committee would like to invite Peter Baveystock to a future meeting but want to ensure they can drive the agenda rather than the agenda being led by WBC.
- 7317/19 **Report from the Borough Councillor** – There was no report in the absence of the Borough Councillor
- Items for Consideration**
- 7318/19 **To note that the facilitated session is to take place on Monday 25th November and to confirm how early councillors could make for an early as possible start. To ask each member of the Council to think about long term projects they would like to see discussed and for everyone to send ideas to the clerk as soon as possible** – The clerk was to see whether the start could be pushed back to 6pm from the suggested start time of 5.30pm. Cllr. Hartley felt that any long-term plan needs to be framed within an agreed direction of travel and a strong idea of what the Council is trying to achieve.
- 7319/19 **To consider Planning Application 191788 Application for the proposed change of use of buildings and land from Agricultural to General Industrial use plus erection of two additional buildings (part retrospective)** – The clerk was asked to comment as follows:

Charvil Parish Council would like to object to this application as follows:

1. Council objected to the withdrawn application 190672 on the grounds that several of the barns were only given permission given the exceptional circumstance of allowing an agricultural enterprise, and if this use were to change, then they should be removed. The applicant suggests that there is still an exceptional circumstance, to help rural enterprise. Given that there are a number of empty commercial properties in the area, this argument seems weak and is, in the opinion of the Parish Council, outweighed both by the site being in Flood Zone 3, thereby putting any potential businesses at risk, and by the proximity of a national cycle route and major route to the Piggott School which would be compromised by increased vehicular access on an already busy road.

2. The applicant argues that the businesses using the site are not customer based, but if permission were to be granted, there is nothing stopping a more customer-based client basing themselves there. There is a business based there that has many

commercial vehicles stored there already, and this would surely grow if official permission were given.

3. The applicant suggests that the site has good transport links; the closest bus services are 10-15 minutes' walk away and the station around 30 minutes away so realistically, people are only likely to access the site by motor transport, or less likely, by bike. This does not seem sustainable.

4. The extra buildings that have no permission yet seem to add to an already rather cramped site visually, and while they are not hugely visible from the main road, do impact negatively on the residents of both Loddon Drive and Park View Drive North. Moreover, the hard surfaces that have accompanied the expansion of the built up part of the site since the last period of extensive flooding in 2014 will impact negatively on the residents further north on Loddon Drive as it will push more flood water toward the road way leading to these other vulnerable properties and to the agricultural worker's property also on the site.

5. The junction of Loddon Drive with the A4 was designed to deal with the minimal car movements of the homes on the Drive; these have always been few enough and vehicles were driven in an appropriate manner not to be a major problem. The unauthorised use of the site as light industrial already impacts negatively on the users of shared cycle/footway, as there are frequently vehicles pulling across the track with no regard for anyone on it. Currently, it is an accident waiting to happen, and indeed there have been at least two accidents on the road itself in recent months that, while were not caused by anyone to do with Loddon Drive, reflect that this is not a safe piece of road. The junction would need a radical rethink if the site were to be used by more businesses that would inevitably be the case if change of use permission were granted.

For these reasons, Charvil Parish Council would like this application to be refused.

7320/19 To note that there is a temporary flood barrier to be used in Charvil in any future flooding episodes – noted.

The open part of the meeting was concluded at 8.50. The Chairman thanked the three candidates for attending and they left at this point.

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

7321/19 To Elect New Councillors - Council then voted on the three candidates standing for co-option, and they unanimously elected Joanna Akeju, Roanna Collis and Neil Jackson

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.05pm

Chairman's Signature