

## Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 21st October 2019

**Present** Adrian Keward, Paul Mundy, Jane Hartley (Acting Chair), Claire Andersen, Joanne Akeju, Roanna Collis, Pat Sutlieff and Borough Councillor Emma Hobbs

**Apologies for Absence** Jim Gillett (Chair) and Neil Jackson

**Absent** Daljit Ryatt

**7322/19 Open Forum** – There were no residents present

**7323/19 Co-Option of new Councillors** – Roanna Collis and Joanne Akeju signed their declarations of Office and other paperwork at this point. Neil Jackson had done so before, in the presence of the Clerk, as he had to work and so could not attend this meeting. It was agreed that Cllrs Collis and Akeju would join the Planning, Environment and Highways Committee and Cllr Jackson would join the Amenities Committee

**7324/19 Declarations of Interest** – There were no declarations of interest

**7325/19 Minutes of the Council Meeting of the 16th September 2019** – These minutes were approved by Council.

### **FINANCE**

**7326/19 Finance Reports** – These were approved unanimously

**7327/19 Authorisation of Payments** – It was resolved that the Council should approve all the following outstanding payments, which was done unanimously:

£159.84 to Grundon Waste Management Ltd

£622.61 to Berkshire Pension Fund

£36.19 to British Gas Services Ltd

£924 to Heart Facilities Ltd

£123.88 to Aquacare

£188.45 to the Assistant Clerk

£22 to Hants Association for Local Councils

£78.90 to the Clerk

£113.37 to Mike Weldon

£1768.99 to Sunshine Commercial Services Ltd

£216.73 to NIC Services Group Ltd

£107.14 to Tivoli Ltd

£170.91 to Dual Energy

£80.16 to SSE

£10.52 to CNG Ltd

£375.54 to Roger Burns

£156 to SLCC

£55.20 to OCS Group

£2270 in payroll

**7328/19 To review and check Bank Statements against Reconciliations** – The Chair of Finance had reviewed all Bank Statements and found them correct.

**7329/19 To note that Cllr Sutlieff is now a signatory for the main accounts** – This was noted.

**7330/19** **To consider and approve the new Financial Regulations and conform spending limits where necessary** – It was resolved to keep the spending limits the same as last year, to adopt the requirement for budget holding committees to develop a three year forecast, and to ask a non-signatory to check the Bank Reconciliations but not to adopt any of the other optional clauses at this stage. Two that should be reviewed if Council changes to electronic payments were the option to require credit checks on Bank signatories and to require a Member's approval for the change of address or Bank Details of a supplier.

**7331/19** **Amenities Committee** – The minutes of a meeting on 7th October were noted. It had been decided to check the alarm in the pavilion.

**7332/19** **Planning, Environment and Highways Committee** – The minutes of the meeting on 14th October were noted. The following Planning Applications were considered.

192713 Application for the erection of one commercial storage building (Use Class B8) – no Parish Council comment

192648 Application for the erection of three commercial buildings at The Homestead – the clerk was asked to comment as follows:

*Charvil Parish Council would like to comment on this application as follows:*

1. *There is currently permission for nine commercial vehicles to be parked on this site. The application states that there is permission for 12 commercial vehicles – this is not the case as far as the Parish Council can ascertain; there is a Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence (GVOL) for 12, but not planning permission. There is no permission for the Bells and Two Tones vehicles, nor a Rabbit Self Hire vehicle that also has a GVOL to operate from the site. The Parish Council would have objected to the extension to 12 vehicles in the GVOL if it had been permitted, but Parish Council can only object in exceptional circumstance. The road is narrow, is now home to a Primary School, which was not the case when permission on this site was first granted and is now subject to a new development currently being built. The Parish Council has no objection to the site being used commercially but is concerned that the type of business allowed should not include increased goods vehicle movements as complaints from residents have increased in recent years. There are grave concerns that the conditions of only working on Mondays to Saturdays 7am to 8pm are not being enforced. It is not fair on the residents of Park Lane that such noisy vehicles should be using the road late at night and on Sundays and Bank Holidays.*

2. *Having read both the report from the Planning officer and the Planning, Design and Access Statement, that Bells and Two Tones Ltd create minimal vehicle usage on the local roads, we feel that this needs to be challenged. Residents of Charvil see these vehicles out and about daily – possibly some people assume they are genuine fire and rescue vehicles, which is why they don't cause much offence – but they are frequently moving from the site. Charvil Parish Council do not regard this site as suitable for this business either, because of this; if they were just being stored there, that one be one thing but because of their regular use, they also have an impact on Charvil residents.*

3. *In the Planning, Design and Access Statement, it states that there has been informal community engagement. It would have been helpful if this "Community Engagement" had stretched to the Parish Council, as there is no desire to prevent the site from use as a commercial site, but rather to balance commercial activity with the interests of residents.*

192675 Application for the prior approval of the erection of a single storey rear extension, which would extend beyond the rear wall of the original house by 8m, for which the maximum height would be 2.9m and the height of the eaves 2.4 m at 11, Old Bath Road (For Information only)

192523 Application for the erection of a proposed single storey rear extension to enhance kitchen and living area and proposed single storey rear/side extension to convert store area into habitable space at 28 Charvil House Road – no Parish Council comment

- 7333/19 To note the visit of Sam Akhtar to the meeting on 14th October** – It was noted that the aim was to work more closely together, and that amongst other things, he had mentioned the rat issue in Charvil. There seemed various causes, but it was noted there was a need for some action.
- 7334/19 Report from the Borough Councillor** – The Borough Councillor had also reported that the lights at the zebra crossing were not working and said she would keep pressing the Council for a solution. She reported that there had been more fly-tipping, particularly near to the ford. She was alerted to the safety issues around the mini roundabout at the junction of Park Lane and Old Bath Road. She also suggested that the Parish Council should consider adopting a byelaw to prohibit pavement parking but was checking whether this was possible and/or enforceable.
- Items for Consideration**
- 7335/19 To note that the facilitated session is to take place on Monday 25th November at 6pm and to confirm topics for discussion at this meeting** – It was suggested that the first thing to do was to agree on a vision for the Council. It was felt that the Council needed a plan but also needed to find an effective way to consult with residents so that it could be more representative. There was a concern that views from all over the village should be heard, including north of the A4. Council should also identify good practice from other Councils. It was agreed that the clerk would send every councillor the ward data, and there was also concern about the future of the pavilion.
- 7336/19 To consider the proposal for Youth Provision from Berkshire Youth** – At present Council contributes to the Twyford Youth Club, whose youth workers would be happy to come and do street work in Charvil if it was needed. Because most local children go to Piggott, they generally want to be with their friends so if their friends go to Twyford (or to the Church Youth Club in Sonning), they will tend to go to these as well. Consequently, Council would be happier if Berkshire Youth were willing to work with, and possibly enhance, the services already provided, rather than effectively go into competition with them. The clerk was asked whether the Twyford Youth Centre could provide a quarterly report, so Council had a better idea of its work. It was agreed that Cllr. Collis would attend the Twyford Youth Centre AGM. *Clerk's note: the wrong date was advertised – it is on Tues 12th Nov.*
- 7337/19 To hear verbal reports from Cllr. Hartley on the Borough Parish Liaison Forum, the Fete Committee and the Village Society** – At the Forum, the main point of discussion was the announcement of a climate emergency and how the aim was for the Borough to be carbon neutral by 2030, and ideas were asked for what could be done locally. As far as the Fete Committee was concerned, Cllr. Hartley continues to be a member. No date has been set for next year's event yet, but payments have been made to local charities with the surplus funds. The clerk is to send the unpaid cleaning invoice to Cllr. Hartley who will arrange payment. The Village Society has finally found new people to join the committee, including Cllr. Hartley, and while it will prioritise social event, it would like to do more.
- 7338/19 To hear a verbal report on a Transport meeting attended by Cllr. Sutlieff** – This meeting was set up by the South-East Strategic Group trying to get recognition for its work. It is developing transport and business applications to improve transport integration. There will be a public consultation on how best to do this.
- 7339/19 To note the Michael Firmager, the Chair of the Borough Parish Liaison Group will attend the December meeting** – This was noted
- 7340/19 To hear a report on a meeting with Radu Cosmin of Thames Valley Police regarding the Speed-watch initiative and how we might get involved** – The clerk and Assistant clerk met Radu, who administers Speed watch. The programme depends entirely on volunteers, who must be vetted by the police because they will have access to Loddon Valley Police Station to collect the necessary equipment. The idea is to slow people down, rather than to catch them out – if you do a check per week for up to three months, it tends to start altering people's behaviour. It is only done on more local roads with a speed limit of 30mph or less. There needs to be three or four people to run them successfully. If people speed, they will be sent a letter by police, and if they are persistent offenders, then they will attract more attention from the traffic police. This area

needs more volunteers as there is only one at present. This does not mean we cannot request a team to come to this area, but if we could encourage volunteers, it would mean a greater presence locally. It was agreed that something would be written in the Parish Magazine and that Council would ask Sam Akhtar to help find volunteers.

**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**

**7341/19 To Decide whether to re-instate the Family Tennis Pass, whether to open this up to non-residents, whether to cap the numbers and to decide what the price should be if Council decide to go ahead** – Cllr. Keward ran through the history for the benefit of the new councillors. The basic issue is that the more money generated, the easier it is to spend money on the courts, and it is hoped that the family pass would help provide this. Council resolved to re-instate the family pass, and to issue up to 20 in the first instance. Usage would be monitored to see whether this could be extended – it would be restricted to residents only in the first instance, but if take-up is slow, it would be extended to non-residents. The price would be decided by the Amenities Committee, but it was agreed that Council continued to support the tennis club and would pass on details to enquirers where appropriate, but they would also remind the club that offering them the pass was a trial that Council felt had not worked, as there was only one associate member, which was the reason it has been taken back in-house. Safeguarding issues have also been raised, and Cllr. Keward has brought these to the attention of the club so hopefully these will be resolved. It was agreed that the new pass will be introduced in April 2020

**There being no further business the meeting closed at 10pm**

**Chairman's Signature .....**