



Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 20th January 2020

Present Adrian Keward, Paul Mundy, Jane Hartley (Acting Chair), Claire Andersen, Roanna Collis, Jo Akeju and Pat Sutlieff. Borough Councillor Emma Hobbs arrived at around 8.20 pm.

Apologies for Absence Neil Jackson

Absent Jim Gillett

7375/20 Open Forum – One resident attended and Borough Councillor Michael Firmager attended as Chair of the Borough Parish Liaison Forum. He introduced himself as Councillor for Sonning and Lead Member on Environment and Leisure. The role of the Liaison Forum is to act as a conduit between the Borough and the parishes, so if there are any items the parishes would like to bring forward, they are invited to do so. Cllr Hartley asked if there were some Terms of Reference available for this meeting, and Cllr. Firmager said he would have them forwarded to Charvil. *Clerk's Note: this was done, and the clerk distributed them to all Council members.* Cllr. Hartley felt there needed to be more dialogue, and Michael agreed, but pointed out that some topics were necessarily one-way – for example, when a new policy or plan was being rolled out and this forum was seen as an effective way of getting the message out to everyone. Cllr Hartley wondered whether the forum was a good opportunity to network with neighbouring parishes, but Cllr Firmager felt that was inappropriate for this meeting. Cllr Hartley thanked Cllr. Firmager for coming and he left at 8.15pm.

7376/20 Declarations of Interest – There were no declarations of interest

7377/20 Minutes of the Council Meeting of the 16th December 2019 – These minutes were approved by Council.

FINANCE

7378/20 Finance Reports – These were approved unanimously

7379/20 Authorisation of Payments – It was resolved that the Council should approve all the following outstanding payments, which was done unanimously:

£146.56 to Grundon Waste Management Ltd
£689.88 to HM Revenue and Customs
£36.19 to British Gas Services Ltd
£134.53 to A1 Locksmiths (Berkshire) Ltd
£673.90 to Berkshire Pension Fund
£171.82 to the Assistant Clerk
£61.94 to Aquacare
£69.05 to the Clerk
£962.59 to Sunshine Commercial Services Ltd
£325.88 to RES Systems Ltd
£107.14 to Tivoli Group Ltd
£382.55 to Dual Energy
£29.97 to SSE
£50 to Involve Community Services
£12 to Taurus Elite Security

£59.07 to Everflow
£770.50 to JJ Plumbing
£43.06 to the Village Warden
£1037.25 to MKR Electrical Services Ltd
£60 to Paul Corby
£18.60 to Contract Natural Gas
£1248 to Herald Graphics Ltd
£357.14 to Roger Burns
£2388.53 in payroll

- 7380/20 To approve the S137 donations of £150 to Berkshire Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre, £150 to Berkshire Vision, £100 to The Link Visiting Scheme and £300 to Home-Start Wokingham District, and a donation of £700 to the Citizen's Advice Centre in Wokingham** – Council resolved to approve all of these which was passed unanimously.
- 7381/20 To Review the Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting of 13th January and approve the Budget recommendations made by that Committee** - It was resolved to approve the recommendations for the Budget which was passed unanimously.
- 7382/20 To Approve the final Precept figure** – It was resolved that the precept should be set at £51,443, or £36.29 per Band D property, or 4.99%. This was agreed unanimously.
- 7383/20 Planning, Environment and Highways Committee** – The minutes of the meeting on 6th January were noted. Cllr. Hartley ran through them and highlighted the desire to speak to a local developer to get an idea of what their priorities are, and how the Parish can best work with them. *Clerk's note: this idea was mooted before the Local Plan sites were published so any conversations would be less theoretical than was originally envisaged.*
- 7384/20 Report from the Borough Councillor** – The Borough Councillor asked whether there would be any possibility of Council considering using some of its CIL money to build a Scout Hut. Cllr. Hartley explained that Council is in the process of drawing up a five-year plan, and one of the ideas in this was finding a way to incorporate the Scout Groups' needs into a wider plan for Village facilities.

Items for Consideration

- 7385/20 To consider how best to provide back-up for the Assistant Clerk at weekends until a caretaker is appointed** – Councillors will continue to help as required and are happy to accompany the Assistant Clerk to the pavilion for night-time opening and closings
- 7386/20 To consider the idea of setting up a "green team" to carry out environmental audits of our facilities** – This was approved and was seen as the remit of the PEH Committee.

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

- 7387/20 To consider over-time claims from the clerk and assistant clerk for extra hours worked since April 2019** – This were approved.
- 7388/20 To consider and approve suggested changes requested by the Parish Council to the East Park Farm Lease and what Council might like to do on that site, in the light of the meeting the Chairman and Cllr Sutlieff had with John Halsall and to approve the written response** – After some discussion about what the issues were; that the pavilion has a very limited lifespan; that there was not enough capacity to increase revenue to cover the "add-ons" such as the playground, car park etc. from the current building, and a better facility would be better placed to do this; to be able to develop the site into something to be proud of, the Parish needs security of tenure and this is not provided by the current lease; and the profit-sharing element is both unhelpful and unnecessary. Council considered the Chairman's draft to John Halsall, and felt it was a bit long, and the core message was rather buried, so it was agreed that Cllr.

Sutlieff, as an attendee of the original meeting, was best placed to do this, and it would then be sent by the clerk.

7389/20 **To think about how best to move forward on the ideas discussed at the meeting with Kim Bedford to formulate an effective five-year plan and to approve an extra-ordinary meeting on 27th January-** There were various threads that came out of this meeting and one of the recommendations was to consider a neighbourhood plan. Councillors needed to consider issues for the longer term (ie 10-15 years) but also a more detailed set of proposals for the next five years, some of which are very costly, but others are cheaper and possibly easier to do, whatever the outcome of the request to renegotiate the lease. The idea of an extra meeting was approved, and everyone was tasked with looking at the report and considering what could be done.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.55pm

Chairman's Signature