
Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning, Environment and Highways Committee held on 7th September 2020 via Zoom

Present Jane Hartley, Claire Andersen and Roanna Collis

Apologies

Absent

129/20 OPEN FORUM - There were no residents present, but Mike Heath, as a prospective Parish Councillor, attended

130/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND ANY WRITTEN REQUESTS FOR PECUNIARY INTERESTS IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE CLERK - There were no interests declared

131/20 The Minutes of the Planning and Finance Meeting on 3rd August 2020 were noted.

132/20 Highways

The response from Reading Cycle Campaign (RCC) regarding the cycle path in Charvil was noted – their issues with the route are much more technical than our immediate concerns regarding maintenance. Cllr. Andersen was to go back to RCC to see if they can add weight to the need for regular maintenance of the track. The Cycle Design Guide published by the Government was noted and it was suggested that the requirements in this regarding maintenance could be used as a lever to push for WBC action.

CPC have been approached by Woodley Town Council to support their motion to ask WBC to put an off-road cycle path along Waingels Road. The Committee was very supportive of this idea and the clerk has been asked to convey this support, and to see if a proposal can be put together to put to the Borough.

The campaign for a pedestrian/cycle bridge between Shiplake and Wargrave seems to have been well supported by residents on both sides of the river, and CPC will continue to monitor the progress of this campaign.

CPC has been approached for their views on the possible naming of the Close that is going to be built to replace Jubilee Hall as Jubilee Close. Council is unanimous that this would not be a popular name given the history of the site and would prefer “St Patrick’s Close”. *Clerk’s note: St Patrick’s Close is seen as confusing, so the name put forward to the Post Office is “Old Church Close”.*

133/20 Environment

A meeting was held with a team from Earley Community Orchards at the park behind the Hawthorns, and they felt that this would be a suitable site for a community orchard. They felt 30 trees could be planted in groups of six. They have kindly shared their planting list with us so that Council has a starting point. The next step is to decide whether to push for a full asset transfer, or just to ask if we can plant the trees as a community project as part of our climate emergency response. This needs to be decided upon by Full Council.

The clerk met a representative of WBC’s housing department and looked at the sites off Cheviot Drive and Mendip Close about developing more vegetable plots, and he had no objection. The clerk is to write to all immediate residents and some of the councillors and residents will deliver it to try to garner the support needed for this project to go ahead.

The Environment Survey and Draft Energy Audit of the Hall were noted, and the clerk has been asked to provide a year's worth of gas and electricity use to see whether it is worth investigating renewable power sources. Some of the internal roofing tiles have slipped, and it was requested that when the roofer puts them back in place, he could take some pictures to see if there is any insulation up there. Cllr. Hartley is still investigating bat boxes.

Cllr Andersen and the Tree Warden hope to complete the tree survey before the Veteran Tree Association close their database at the end of the year. There are plans to commemorate the dead from Covid-19 in the Borough with a new wood.

134/20 Planning

a) The following Applications were discussed (246)

201928 Householder application for the proposed erection of a single storey front extension to form a porch with canopy roof and 1 no. roof light, a first floor front extension and a first floor rear extension with 2no. rooflights and Juliet balcony, plus removal of 1 no. chimney at 17 Charvil House Road – The Clerk was asked to comment as follows:

Charvil Parish Council were concerned that the site plan is rather misleading as the area bordering 17 Charvil House Road to the rear looks like a miscellaneous piece of land rather than the garden of 15C this may have some implications for whether a Juliet balcony is suitable in this context.

202063 Householder application for the proposed erection of a two storey front extension to form an atrium, a part two storey part single storey rear extension with 8 no. rooflights, replacement attached double garage and changes to fenestration, following part demolition of existing dwelling and detached double garage at Malabarn, Milestone Avenue – no Parish Council comment

202106 Full Planning application for the proposed erection of new meeting hall following demolition of existing meeting hall, relocation of three metal storage containers, plus car park improvements with the installation of a cycle stand at Paddick's Patch, Waingels Road – The clerk was asked to comment as follows:

Charvil Parish Council would like to support this application as it should enhance the site in the long term

b) The following Planning Application Approvals were noted

201783 Application for a certificate of lawfulness for the proposed erection of an outbuilding to form home office at 45 Chiltern Drive

201633 Householder application for proposed erection of a single storey rear extension to existing dwelling at 82 Old Bath Road

c) The following Planning refusal was noted

201444 Full planning change of use of buildings and land from agricultural use to general industrial use (Class B2). Removal of two unlawful structures (Retrospective) at Newland Farm, Loddon Drive

d) The following TPO request was noted

202126 APPLICATION FOR WORKS TO PROTECTED TREE(S) TPO 604/1993, T1 AND T2 T1, Birch - Fell T2, Birch – Fell at 29 Strathmore Drive

e) To Consider the Planning White Paper Consultation

There was a long discussion on the paper and other issues relating to the numbers of houses proposed for Wokingham. It was agreed that Cllr Hartley would draft some responses to the questions posed in the Consultation for discussion and approval at the full council meeting

Any other Planning business at the discretion of the Chairman

Items for Consideration

135/20 To consider and changes to the Objectives Document – The Chair ran through the matters not already covered on the agenda including the maps for the Country Park – Simon Bartlam is open to organising map boards for the Country Park but has asked that Council contributes to the cost as they are very expensive. The Village Society is

still looking at adopting the roundabout on Park Lane. The clerk has been asked to contact the new head of Cleaner and Greener.

The meeting closed at 9.17pm