



**CHARVIL**  
**PARISH COUNCIL**

Chairman: Jim Gillett

**Assistant Clerk to the Council:**

**Amanda Burton**  
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**Minutes of the Meeting of the Amenities Committee held on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2021 via Zoom**

**Present:** Paul Mundy, Jim Gillett, Pat Sutlieff, Neil Jackson and Hilary Jones

**Apologies:**

**Absent:**

- 551/21 Open Forum: Meeting was opened with a minute of silence for the Duke of Edinburgh who passed away last week. Before commencing, Cllr Mundy advised that every member of the public would be given 3 minutes each to speak and as the meeting was held by Zoom, they would then be muted by the Clerk but were welcome to sit and listen to the meeting taking place until it concluded at Part II where, by the virtue of the confidential nature of the business, all members of the public would be asked to leave. Attending from the public: David Blackmore: Concerns regarding the football teams using the fields (litter, urinating) and dogs on a lead signs, they affect Charvil residents and would like to see action and communication on both. David Allaway: creator of Toasty (coffee and toasties food van), wanting to preface it, cover any questions or concerns, reported has ideas on how to tackle the potential additional litter by litter picking events etc. Claire Burgess: Concerns regarding the possible siting of a food van on the service road by the Pavilion, had received no formal communication, has immediate questions/points as potential site is very close to residential housing and pavilion which has always been a sports facility; why couldn't the kitchen facilities within the existing building be used (or even those at the village hall) instead of siting a van there potentially creating noise and smell. Concern with having the vehicle at the bottom of the service road which until now has been a safe place for children to access the field. Questioned the operating times of the van and asked that the Council involve residents and give them a clearer understanding of the request. In addition she also wanted to question the signage that was put up on the field regarding dogs on a lead as they went up without public consultation, having just become a dog owner and wanted to exercise her pet on the field, feels that right has been taken away. Veronica Royle: main reason for joining was to listen but did ask what the plan was when the car park closes at 8pm for groups using the Pavilion facilities where sessions end after the car park closure time. Also attending Simon Webb and Sarah Hilling both wanting to listen to the proceedings.
- 552/21 The Minutes of the Amenities Committee Meeting held on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021 were approved by the committee and signed by Paul Mundy (Chair). Signed copy currently with the Chair and will be passed to the Assistant Clerk as soon as is reasonably practicable.
- 553/21 Declarations of interest and any written requests for pecuniary interests in items on the agenda to be considered by the Assistant Clerk: None.
- 554/21 Consider Park Inspection Weekly Reports: These have been received and only item to report was the noticeboard at the end of Beggars Hill Road which is broken and needs replacing. Assistant Clerk also advised the request for a new noticeboard was a later point on the agenda for discussion.

- 555/21 Decide when to implement the summer closure hours (opening 7am and closing 8pm) for the car park gates at EPF: Cllr Mundy gave a quick reminder as to why the gates were put in place originally (prevention of traveller incursions and to stop anti-social behaviour at night) and asked for other Cllrs opinions. Cllr Jones proposed the change to summer hours went ahead as face to face meetings for the regular pavilion groups were starting back up as well as tennis bookings. Assistant Clerk stated that the uniform groups had been offered keys to enable access for parents after 8pm. Motion was carried unanimously.
- 556/21 To hear from the Assistant Clerk about the complaints raised via Facebook and emails to the Clerk regarding the behaviour of the footballers at EPF, the litter left on the field following the game and the follow up that took place with the teams immediately: The Assistant Clerk advised that on being made aware of the reports of anti-social behaviour of individuals on the fields (littering, urinating and defecating in the country park) on 3<sup>rd</sup> April, she made immediate contact with the home teams that were playing on the grounds that day and was reassured that none of the offenders were the home teams (the description and colour of the top of the person believed to be defecating in the bushes did not match any of the football teams playing that day home or away) and that all players were aware the toilet facilities were open in the pavilion. The Assistant Clerk has reiterated to the teams that they are responsible for their home team, away team and associated supporters, that they must make the users of the facility aware of the rules of conduct at EPF including the disposal of litter (every team has a dustbin that they must collect all rubbish in and dispose of in the Grundon bin outside the building, at the end of each match provide a video or photographic evidence they have left the fields clean, to remind their players home and away regarding the use of toilets, no bad language and for the players to demonstrate respect to the local community and facilities. Following the games last weekend such evidence was provided by the teams confirming the fields were clean on their departure. It is unclear where the few discarded bottles originated from that were pictured on Facebook. *Assistant Clerk's note: This situation will be monitored closely and she will be in contact with the teams every week going forward and that the teams are aware there will be consequences for non-compliance.*
- 557/21 To hear from the Assistant Clerk regarding the reaction to the new signs requesting that dogs be kept on a lead on the football pitches: The Assistant Clerk reported that following the decision made at the Planning, Environments and Highways Committee to appeal to dog owners to keep their dogs on leads whilst on pitches and the subsequent erection of signs to remind/advise dog owners/walkers of this was received with mixed reviews, majority of the comments were negative. In support of the decision made to prevent dogs running free on the fields, Cllr Sutlieff reported that two ladies had been nearly knocked over by dogs running free and are now nervous using the country park and fields, she believes that there are many areas in Charvil that dogs are allowed to run freely and that it is not unreasonable to ask that they are kept on leads whilst on the sports pitches, she reported that in Wargrave they have a strict rule of no dogs at all in their park. Cllr Jones echoed the comments made by Cllr Sutlieff but asked if it would be possible to advertise the details of dog wardens so that anyone would be able to report badly behaved dogs and commented how to a small child a large dog running at them can be very frightening and it isn't acceptable. Cllr Jackson admitted that initially he was against the idea of the signs but after thought believes it is the best compromise, the area where it has been requested dogs are kept on a lead is only the sports pitch area so relatively small, all other areas in Charvil dogs can be walked off lead for exercise. Cllr Gillett commented that he was also initially not in favour but had come around to agreeing. Cllr Mundy concluded the discussion, stating the Parish Council (several of which are dog owners) are not anti-dog but trying to do what is right for the whole community, he recognises that many dog owners are very responsible but there are others that do not pick up after their dog (excrement found by the children's play park being an example), to restrict dogs running free on the pitches whilst allowing them to run free in many other areas gives balance to the community.

558/21 To further discuss the deferred topic from the last Full Council Meeting of the possibility of siting a coffee van or similar at EPF. The outcome of this decision will form the basis of a referral back to Full Council as a recommendation of a final decision: Cllr Mundy stated he was not in favour of the van. Cllr Jones reminded the committee that if a decision were made to go ahead with the van that in the past several requests had been received so all would need to be contacted to ascertain if they would be interested still, she proposed a set of questions be asked of each application, how they would deal with : power to the van, what hours were needed, noise implications, rubbish and vermin. Although the initial request the Council received was for the siting of a coffee van on the service road by the pavilion, following the comments made by Claire Burgess in the open forum that the Councillors agreed any such van would be better placed at the far end of the car park by the stream so there would be far less impact on residents and it would be more accessible for people using the country park. Cllr Mundy raised the issue of access to the car park by the van as it would presumably require the top barrier to be open, it was decreed that the van holder could be given responsibility for the barrier as with other contractors that use the car park. Cllr Mundy expressed concerns with public liability insurance, what happens if someone were injured if as a result of having the van, also if the gate were left unsecured by the party running the van and as a result there was a traveller incursion – who would be responsible? Cllr Jones suggested it be written into the contract for the person running the food van that they are responsible for the gate. Cllr Gillett suggested by way of Facebook, the website and village news the Council consult the local residents to see if there was support for a food van and for their opinions but to have a deadline for responses. Cllr Jones suggested trying to get public opinion may take too long and put a significant delay on starting of the business. Cllr Sutlieff questioned whether it was fair to only ask the opinions of those who use Facebook as the website is not necessarily used very well and some other residents may have something to say. Bringing the discussion to a conclusion, Cllr Jones proposed the recommendation to full Council would be for a food van to be given a trial period for one month and during that time each applicant (past and present) be contacted and asked if there are interested still, location would be far side of the car park by the stream, questions to be asked: how they tackle: power, hours, noise, litter solutions and what insurance do they carry. CPC will also seek public opinion. Cllr Gillett seconded the proposal.

559/21 To hear from the Assistant Clerk the current status regarding access to the tennis courts following the damage incurred to the gate lock during lockdown: The Assistant Clerk reported that during lockdown the lock had once again been broken, is inoperable and has been removed. As there is no power to the tennis courts it is not possible to go down the route of a smart lock. All recommendations for the various companies have been for the same lock that was the on courts already; reported to be the best on the market. The AC advised that access is currently by a simple chain and combination padlock but so far is working well, although it does require the hirer to ensure everything is secured on exiting. As the hole in the door where the chain goes through is not designed for this use, it needs to be made safer and a price has been sought for this and estimated in the region of £50 to £70. *Assistant Clerk's note: no formal quotation has been received as yet.* Cllr Jones highlighted a possible problem with security - if one court is being used, access to the courts is possible by someone else not necessarily with a booking and on the departure of the initial person booking it is not acceptable to make them responsible to challenge the other user so therefore it could be that the courts are left unsecure. It was proposed that perhaps the hirer could lock themselves in the court to counteract this. Assistant Clerk was asked to get a formal price for the making safe of the chain access hole in the door.

560/21 Consider a replacement Parish noticeboard on Beggars Hill Road as the existing one is falling apart (as identified on the Park Inspection Weekly Report): Unanimously agreed that the board had fallen into disrepair and needed replacing. Assistant Clerk requested to get quotations for a suitable replacement (not wood).

561/21 Consider the idea of installing Eco Litter Stations: Cllr Sutlieff wanted to explore the possibility and associated costs of installing eco litter stations – a station with a provision of biodegradable bags supplied by the council for the general public. Cllr Gillett commented he wasn't sure that providing bags would encourage some individuals to pick up dog waste or similar. Assistant Clerk reported that a similar discussion had already taken place on the Planning, Environments & Highway Committee for Dog Waste Stations but had not been progressed as wasn't considered a feasible option, she also reported that she had viewed on a Community Clerks Network Group that such schemes had been trialled in other parishes with very mixed results, some have seen a decrease in dog waste and litter but for others it made no difference and if anything added to the litter were unused bags themselves, in some the litter stations were vandalised and the idea behind was abused and the Council found that the bags were having to be replaced sometimes twice a day as a result of people taking handfuls at a time – one clerk estimated it cost their parish £1000 before they removed them; other clerks offered they had started selling the biodegradable bags via local shops (at cost price) and that had been very popular. Cllr Sutlieff is willing to investigate further to gain more information and report back if she feels that it may be a viable option.

At this point in the meeting, Cllr Mundy thanked the members of the public for attending the meeting and for their comments and asked if they had further questions that they send them directly via email to the Clerk or Assistant Clerk. By virtue of the confidential nature of the business to be contracted the press and public were excluded from the remainder of the meeting under Section 2 of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960.

562/21 Review the contract between Ed Francis and CPC for tennis coaching at EPF for recommendation to Full Council: The Cllrs reviewed the document and one amendment was made to point 5.1 to state that only soft balls are to be used inside the building. Cllr Gillett offered to make the amendment and forward to the Assistant Clerk and Clerk for inclusion in the materials for the next Full Council Meeting – Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

The Meeting closed at 9:22pm

Signed:

Date:

**The next meeting is Monday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2021**