

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning, Environment and Highways Committee
held on 29th March 2021 via Zoom**

Present Jane Hartley (Chair), Claire Andersen, Narinder Ryatt and Mike Heath
Apologies None

Absent Roanna Collis

21/172 OPEN FORUM - There were no residents present. Simon Bartlam of the Wokingham Countryside service attended to discuss issues in common with the Council and Countryside Service. One such issue is signage in the Country Park and at East Park Farm. Simon Bartlam agreed to send an example of a recent information board he has developed for one of the new greenspaces in the Borough and these would cost around £5000 for four signs. The clerk asked about the idea for coloured routes for recreational trails, and Simon Bartlam suggested that some of these should take in a wider area – for example, a walk to Dinton Pastures for those who enjoy a longer walk. These trails should happen this year – lots of things were delayed last year because the Pandemic prevented the service taking on seasonal staff, and so only essential tasks were undertaken. This would also need footpath waymarking. Dog fouling was another issue discussed. Simon Bartlam has funding for two dog waste bins in the Park but would like advice on where these should be located. Councillor Andersen suggested asking Councillor Mundy as he had cleared a lot of discarded bags in the area. A litter pick takes place in the park once a week. The issue of biodiversity was raised, and Simon Bartlam explained that because of the Pandemic, 5,000 volunteering hours were lost last year, but the teams are starting up again now to deal with conservation issues. Councillor Hartley explained that the Council is keen to promote biodiversity, and Simon Bartlam mentioned the importance of the wetland meadows, which are surveyed every few years to see how biodiversity is increasing. As far as trees go, Simon Bartlam thought that the area of scrub to the rear of Vale View may make a good location for an orchard, as these have an important part to play in the eco system. He would discuss with Duncan Fisher who is the Borough's Ecology expert. Other tree planting could take place on the area by the railway line, although the current scrub provides the ideal habitat for nightingales, whose numbers are plummeting at present. It may be possible, however, to do some in planting. The clerk asked about the state of the path between Canberra and the river, and the areas near to The Heronry. The issue with the path near Canberra is that it washes away in the floods, so they are going to tarmac a short stretch to see if this is more robust. Road planings will be added to the other paths but unfortunately these are not so plentiful as the current contractor charges for them, and they were free before. It was agreed to arrange a site visit in May or June to discuss progress. The Chairman thanked Simon Bartlam and he left at 8.42pm.

21/173 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

21/174 The Minutes of the Meeting on 1st March 2021 were approved.

- 21/175 Highways**
 There were no speed statistics as the battery life is increasingly short and it was agreed to investigate getting some replacement batteries. There was recently two road closures with little notice to either residents or the Parish Council. This is not acceptable as many people rely on us helping to publicise these closures. The clerk will contact Highways to see if more time can be given in future.
- 21/176 Environment**
 The leaflets consulting neighbours of the plan for a community orchard have been well received. The clerk has been trying to get some more information from Emma Pilgrim, and will continue to try as she is pivotal in the project progressing. The issue of dog poo stations was discussed, and it was agreed to see how effective new bins are in the Country Park.
- 21/177 Planning**
- a) The following Applications were discussed (251)**
- 210854 Application for the proposed erection of a part single, part two storey rear extension with the insertion of 2 no. rooflights, following demolition of the existing conservatory, plus changes to fenestration at 12 Gingells Farm Road – no Parish Council comment
- 210930 Application for the proposed erection of a single storey side extension including the insertion of 1no. roof light, erection of a single storey rear extension, plus the erection of a veranda to the rear of the property at 43 East Park Farm Drive – The Clerk was asked to comment as follows *Council is concerned that this is overdevelopment on the site, but is more concerned that no mention is made of a soakaway at the front of the dwelling to mitigate flooding issues created by the bigger footprint on the public right of way to the front of the property.*
- b) The following Planning Applications were approved**
- 203423 Application for the proposed first floor side extension to existing dwelling, single storey front extension to existing garage and single storey canopy to form porch at 9 Kilowna Close
- 210051 Application to vary condition 3 and 8 of planning consent F/2009/0164 for the Change of use of land for the storage and distribution of empty skips and portable WCs (retrospective). Condition 3 refers to Storage only of empty skips & WCs and the variation is to allow all storage from the B8 class. Condition 8 refers to maximum number of vehicles this shall not exceed 14 (7 in 7 out) Monday to Saturday and the variation is to remove this condition at The Homestead, Park Lane
- c) The following Planning Application was withdrawn**
- 203072 Application to vary conditions 2 and 3 of planning consent 181175 for the Full application for the proposed conversion of existing residential units to 4no self-contained flats, associated parking and amenity space. Condition 2 refers to the Approved details and Condition 3 Hard and Soft Landscaping Scheme. The variation is to vary the approved plan set to retain the detached garage and provide details of a hard and soft landscaping scheme and provide amended cycle storage details. (Part Retrospective) at 36 Park View Drive South
- d) Tree Preservation Order works applied for**
- 210541 Application for works to protected trees TPO 640/1994 T1, Sycamore- Tip reduce the lowest two limbs growing towards the house by 2.5 metres to reduce over lengthy lateral growth. T2, Sycamore- Fell to ground level. T3, Sycamore- Fell to ground level. T4, Sycamore x 4- . Reduce the canopies of the four trees by 4 metres) at 25, Gingells Farm Road
- e) Tree Works Decision**
- 210170 APPLICATION FOR WORKS TO PROTECTED TREES TPO 266/1984 – G1 SILVER FIRS– T1, T2, T3 & T4 T1 Silver Fir – to be felled, T2 Silver Fir – to be

felled, T3 Silver Fir – to be felled and T4 Silver Fir – to be felled at 15 Foxes Walk – The decision was to fell one as it was diseased but not the others.

Any other Planning business at the discretion of the Chairman

21/178 licensing Application

APPLICATION TO RENEW STREET TRADING CONSENT APPLICATION No: ST06 APPLICANT: Mr M ALPAR – ALPAR KEBABS TRADING TIMES: SUNDAY TO THURSDAY 16:00 TO 00:30 HOURS, FRIDAY & SATURDAY 16:00 TO 02:00 HOURS at entrance of Milestone Avenue – no Parish Council comment

Items for Consideration

21/179 To consider and changes to the Objectives Document – This deferred

The meeting closed at 9.13pm