

## Notes of the Meeting of the Council held on 18th October 2021 via Zoom

**Present** Jane Hartley, Jim Gillett, Pat Sutlieff, Mike Heath, Narinder Ryatt, Hilary Jones and Neil Jackson. Also in attendance was Borough Councillor Sam Akhtar and prospective Parish Councillor, Matt Walker

**Apologies for Absence**

**Absent**

**21/7715 Open Forum**

No residents attended

**21/7716 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest

**21/7717 The resignation of Councillor Andersen was noted**

**21/7718** The Chair thanked her for all her hard work

**21/7719 Minutes of the Council Meeting of the 20th of September were noted**

Because this meeting cannot be a formal Council meeting as it is not being held in person, the contents of the previous meeting were noted.

**Finance**

**21/7720 Finance Reports**

It was resolved to recommend approval of the reports which was done unanimously.

**21/7721 Authorisation of Payments**

It was resolved to recommend approval the payments of invoices as follows, which was carried unanimously.

£1795.20 to Heart Cleaning Ltd  
£122 to Omega Security  
£79.71 to the Assistant Clerk  
£61.94 to Aquacare  
£1011.73 to Berkshire Pension Fund  
£38.33 to British Gas Services Ltd  
£952.12 to Playground Facilities Ltd  
£166 to Society of Local Council Clerks  
£48.38 to Everflow  
£93.44 to Grundon  
£8.12 to Opus Energy  
£82.39 to the Clerk  
£239.65 to The Heritage Tree Company

£1.87 to Royal Mail  
£30.33 to Scottish & Southern Energy  
£161.41 to Smartest Energy  
£1055.11 to Sunshine Commercial Services  
£110.35 to Tivoli Group Ltd  
£2883.38 in Payroll

**21/7722 To consider the two proposals for the repairs to the emergency lighting at the Pavilion and to approve one of them**

It was recommended that the clerk selects MKR Electricals for the work

**21/7723 Planning, Environment and Highways Committee (PEH)**

The Minutes of a meeting on 4th October were noted. Cllr Ryatt reported that he had been contacted by a resident concerning a planning application, who was unhappy that the Parish Council had objected to their application, but the clerk had contacted them to say that they could have attended the meeting where the application was discussed, and that as the closing date for comments had passed, there was little point in meeting to discuss further.

It was reported that there would be a meeting with volunteers for the Community Orchard the following weekend, and that they would be encouraged to help with the planting of the Platinum trees as well. It is hoped to plant them all on Sunday 28th November. The clerk has conditional approval from the University but still needs to get permission from the Borough Council to plant the elm at the end of Chiltern Drive and rowans on Charvil House Road. The clerk reported that she had been approached by the Wokingham Paper who are keen to cover the tree planning, and the Community Orchard in particular, and it was agreed that the Council should also contact the Henley Standard and to see whether Theresa May could attend. Cllr Akhtar was interested in attending as well.

It was also reported that a resident had felled some trees of Simmons Field, on land believed to be managed by the Parish Council. Wokingham's property services are investigating where the boundary lies before the Parish Council can consider a suitable course of action. Cllr. Akhtar offered to take this up with the Borough Council if the clerk has no joy.

**21/7724 Amenities Committee**

The minutes of the meeting on 11th October were noted. It was noted that the gates at East Park Farm would return to being locked at 6pm after half term as it will be dark by 6pm.

The draft metal detecting policy that had been recommended for approval by the Amenities Committee was considered and it was agreed that Cllr. Gillett would redraft to make it read like more of a policy and it would be reconsidered for approval at the next meeting.

A resident who would like to trial a food van at East Park Farm had been in touch with the Council again to see if now a suitable time to consider having a mobile van. After some discussion, it was decided that Council would not be able to be able to consider any such thing until after the Staffing Review had been concluded so the Clerk was asked to say that Council could not consider this topic now but would review in September 2022.

**21/7725 Report from the Borough Councillor**

The Borough Councillor reported that he would conduct an online survey to gauge support for a Pre-school. He is working to get bushes cut locally and is dealing with the complaint about lorries turning from Park Lane onto Old Bath Road early in the morning. He is still pursuing a solution for wheelchair access from East Park Farm to Pennine Way and from Vale View to Chiltern Drive. It is relatively straightforward at Pennine Way, but the current gate would have to be taken out

completely at Vale View and he is asking for the Parish Council view on this before suggesting complete removal. He has asked for new bins at Milestone Avenue and pushed for the repair of the drain on Park Lane. He is also pushing for signage to warn car drivers of small mammals crossing our roads. Finally, the issue of a company dumping out of date Lidl food by the bottle bank has been resolved, but he would still like to see the culprits prosecuted.

### **Items for Consideration**

**21/7726 To hear an update on the Neighbourhood Plan Progress and to consider what policies and plans the Council should have to complement the Neighbourhood Plan policies**

The data has now all been entered into a central spreadsheet and the next step is to work out how to do the data analysis. There was a discussion about how the Parish Council policies need to reflect those of the Neighbourhood Plan.

Councillor Heath suggested that as the Neighbourhood Plan policies have legal weight, then these will inevitably drive the Parish policies – as it is, the main Parish plans currently in process are tree planting and the pavilion development and these are likely to be supported by the Neighbourhood Plan.

**21/7727 To consider the Consultation on Secondary School places**

This was discussed at some length and the clerk was asked to complete this on behalf of the Council, to say that most parents currently moving to Charvil expect their children to be able to attend Piggott, and that as Waingels is increasingly seen as a Woodley school, the Piggott needs to expand to accommodate children in its existing catchment, and there is a danger that Charvil and Sonning will be forgotten as the major area of concern has been that children in south Twyford could not get places at Piggott. Also, the Local Plan will lead to more homes in the catchment, and there is a danger this will impact on Charvil parents as well.

**21/7728 To consider the Consultation on Housing Allocation**

The Council did not feel qualified to respond to this Consultation

**21/7729 To hear an update on the Pavilion Project**

Councillor Ryatt reported that the Construction is extra-ordinarily busy now and so it is unlikely to be possible to get any preliminary drawings until the New Year. As far as tendering goes, two of his contacts are too busy but he has the details of the company that built the Binfield extension, and the details that Councillor Sutlieff had for a company that had done a lot of work for Parish Councils.

Councillor Andersen had passed on the concerns of staff that the building is becoming increasingly dilapidated, and that the staff feel they need to be more involved in the decision-making process. Councillor Ryatt agreed it would be a good idea to view the pavilion with the Amenities Manager, and then come up with a schedule of works if appropriate, although the clerk feels that this would be a questionable use of Council resources.

**21/7730 To note a meeting with Locality and how they might be able to help with the Pavilion funding**

Locality helped Shinfield with the funding of their new buildings, and one suggestion they had was to apply to the Community Ownership Fund, that can provide up to £250,000 of grants. They can also help with planning the project, feasibility studies etc., and with bid-writing. Councillor Ryatt felt that any help in this area would be helpful. The Chairman suggested that we ask them to review what we have done already to see how they approach things, but Councillor Jones felt that we ought to be more careful using their goodwill and should not do anything until we have consulted with residents. There are various rounds of the Community Ownership Fund, and the one most suitable for us is May 2022.

Councillor Jackson asked for the information they had sent out to be forwarded to the whole Council, and there was agreement in principle to use them when the time was right. *Clerk's note: the information had been circulated already.*

**21/7731 To approve the CLASP Charter**

It was resolved to recommend approval the Charter, which was done unanimously

**21/7732 To consider what issues need advertising this month**

It was agreed that the change of time for closing the gates at East Park Farm needed advertising. The clerk felt that publicity should be done by staff, but it was agreed that the Chair would put something out on a trial basis up until Christmas.

**21/7733 To hear an update from the Borough Parish Working Group**

Councillor Heath attended via Teams and reported that most items were deferred. There was an item on publicising planning applications, and it was noted that WBC do the bare minimum required on this topic.

**21/7734 To note the BALC AGM and to nominate someone to attend**

This was noted and the Chairman might be able to attend

**There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.52pm**

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