

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 20th September 2021 at the Village Hall

Present Jane Hartley, Jim Gillett, Pat Sutlieff, Mike Heath, Narinder Ryatt,
Hilary Jones, Neil Jackson, and Claire Andersen

Apologies for Absence

Absent

21/7692 **Open Forum**

One resident attended who is interested in being co-opted onto the Council and one other had sent in a written submission.

Matthew Walker introduced himself, explaining that he lived on East Park Farm Drive and that he had recently moved from Twyford. He explained that now he was no longer commuting, he had more time to invest in the community, and is interested in helping the village develop. The Chair gave him a bit more background, and he stayed for the rest of the public part of the meeting.

The written submission was then relayed to Council and related to the redevelopment of the Margaret Gimblett Pavilion from a group of residents who back onto the sports fields. They request that Council understands the noise impact on the existing houses for either a new building or tennis courts in its feasibility, viability, and budget planning; that it notes existing Government legislation regarding noise limits near housing; that it understands the noise nuisance already there when users are outside; to include noise mitigation schemes should any development go ahead; and to be clear with residents that Council understands the potential noise implications and ensure it has been costed into the building budget.

It was noted that the clerk had contacted the Environmental Health team at Wokingham Borough Council, who had sent over information if residents had existing concerns, and that as part of the Planning process, if they had any concerns regarding noise, they would ask Council to include mitigation plans as part of the Planning conditions.

21/7693 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest

21/7694 **Minutes of the Council Meeting of the 19th of July and the Finance and Planning meeting of the 9th of August 2021**

Both sets of minutes were approved.

Finance

21/7695 **Finance Reports**

It was resolved to approve these which was passed unanimously.

21/7696 Authorisation of Payments

It was resolved to approve the payments of invoices as follows, which was approved unanimously.

£71.00 to A1 Locksmith
£67.20 to Edge IT Systems
£36.99 to the Assistant Clerk
£957.62 to Aquacare
£1068.14 to Berkshire Pension Fund
£38.33 to British Gas Services Ltd
£453.60 to Industrial Air Ltd
£1.62 to the Caretaker
£33.71 to Everflow
£71.72 to Grundon
£420 to Perry Edwards (on completion of work)
£65.00 to Paul Corby
£1690.96 to HMRC Cumbernauld
£82.39 to the Clerk
£720.00 to PKF Littlejohn
£84.00 to RES Systems Ltd
£58.66 to Royal Mail
£30.33 to Scottish & Southern Energy
£134.22 to Smartest Energy
£1384.11 to Sunshine Commercial Services
£110.35 to Tivoli Group Ltd
£3012.50 in Payroll

21/7697 To note the completion of the external audit

This was noted.

21/7698 To consider information received by Cllr Sutlieff and the clerk regarding re-investment of the one-year bond held by Skipton Building Society and to approve the re-investment of these funds in accordance with this information

It was resolved to invest the funds in a seventeen-month bond as this had a higher rate of interest.

21/7699 To note the setting up of the one-year bond with the Nationwide Building Society

This was noted

21/7700 Planning, Environment and Highways Committee (PEH)

The Minutes of the meeting on 6th September were noted. Councillor Heath ran through the main points, and it was emphasised that once the Speedwatch equipment is repaired, there needs to be a Facebook push for volunteers. He was asked whether he had taken up residents' concerns about the Local Plan assessment of the land west of Park Lane, and he had forwarded them to the relevant person, but that he had not been able to arrange a meeting with Wayne Smith.

21/7701 To approve the recommendation to order trees from the Woodland Trust for the Platinum Anniversary Tree project.

Councillor Heath has ordered 15 free trees, which are a mixture of hazel, rowan, and crab apple. Also, we can source another disease resistant elm, and order other trees as well. The idea is to plant two crab apples on Charvil House Road, some birches at St Patrick's, a small leaf lime where the tree came down near to the St Patrick's play area, and to enhance the hedge along the roadway at the

Recreation ground. It was hoped that the elm could be planted near the Village Hall. The clerk is to get in touch with the University for permission, and a plaque would be installed at the Village Hall explaining where all the anniversary trees had been planted. There was some concern that the free trees would not arrive until March 2022, and this could hinder survival of these small plants. *Clerk's note: the elm could grow very large, and Council has been advised against planting it near buildings.*

21/7702 To approve the recommendation to purchase the first tranche of trees for the Community Orchard

The clerk was asked to order suitable trees and to then get re-imbursed from sponsors.

21/7703 To note the communication from a Hawthorns resident about the Council's lack of response to the Local Green Space Consultation, and to consider a response to this resident.

The clerk explained that this Consultation was conducted at the height of the first Lockdown, and that with so much else going on, Council failed to respond, in common with many of the other smaller Councils. In normal circumstances, the Borough may well have reminded us, but they, like us, were stretched. The clerk has been in touch with the team at the Borough, and while it is too late to put forward sites at this point, there will be a further opportunity for both the Council and residents as part of the next Local plan consultation, and sites can be included as part of the Neighbourhood Plan. The clerk has been asked to reply to the resident, that the sites Charvil would have included are St Patrick's Recreation Ground, the crop circles off Park View Drive North, East Park Farm Sports Fields, Charvil Meadows, the Country Park, The Hawthorns Park, and the Vegetable Plots in Wenlock Edge.

It was noted that a group of Councillors, residents and the clerk walked all the footpaths in the village on Monday 2nd August.

21/7704 Amenities Committee

The minutes of the meeting on 13th September were noted.

21/7705 Report from the Borough Councillor

There was no report this month as the Borough Councillor could not attend due to a clash of meetings.

Items for Consideration

21/7706 To hear an update on the Neighbourhood Plan Progress

The survey is now closed. The next job is to collate and analyse the results. Rob Jones is creating a template and then people can enter the data.

A small group met with a group from the Sonning Neighbourhood Plan group, and it would appear we will have policies in common, so we will liaise again when we are at a stage to develop these.

21/7707 To hear an update on the Consultations run at the fete that are not relevant to other agenda items

The Chairman thanked everyone who helped at the fete and the residents on the Neighbourhood Plan group. She noted that there are very strong views on dogs amongst residents, and that this issue needs to be dealt with.

21/7708 To discuss the responses received at the fete regarding a replacement pavilion and to consider visits to other places we could learn from
Councillor Gillett had collated all the responses, and most were very similar; that the Council should build a building for the future, and the best location was on the current tennis courts.

21/7709 To approve the Pavilion Project Charter
It was resolved to approve this, which was passed unanimously

21/7710 To approve the Pavilion Development Project Scope
It was resolved to approve this, subject to the caveat that once some initial drawings are provided, there will be public consultation, and at depending upon the outcome of this, the project scope may change. This was approved unanimously.

21/7711 To approve the sourcing of architects to recommend the building design and location (quotes to be submitted to CPC for approval prior to start of work)
It was resolved to approve at least three quotes being sought, subject to the rules laid out in the Financial Regulations. The approval is for quotations up to Stage 3 of the building process, at which point, the responsibility will shift to the chosen building contractor. Councillor Ryatt is to source preliminary drawings. *Clerk's note: if the quotes are likely to be over £25,000, the request must be added to the open register to allow any interested parties to tender.*

21/7712 To arrange a date for a public meeting at the pavilion to discuss the plans for the pavilion
Councillor Ryatt will provide preliminary drawings for next meeting, and the quotes from architects (see Clerk's note, above). It was agreed to arrange for two dates to be booked in at the pavilion, one on a weekday after school, and the other at a weekend, both in mid-December, to discuss the Council's proposals with the public. This should give the Council time to digest the preliminary drawings and to ask for amendments if necessary.

21/7713 To consider a response to the Wokingham Borough Gambling Policy
There was no Council comment

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.

21/7714 To consider the two proposals for the Staffing review and to approve one of them
The clerk was asked to see if the Local Government Resource Centre would be able to conduct the review more cheaply – maybe by conducting some of the interviews virtually, and to clarify the number of working days the review will take. The clerk was to ask the Local Council Consultancy if they could give us some case studies of work they had undertaken, and to ask both about what the mileage cost was likely to be.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10pm

Chairman's Signature