

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 14th February 2022 at 8pm in Charvil Village Hall

Present Jane Hartley, Pat Sutlieff, Mike Heath, Narinder Ryatt, Matt Walker and Hilary Jones

Apologies for Absence Neil Jackson

Absent

22/7796 Open Forum

No residents attended.

22/7797 To co-opt Rob Jones to the Council upon signing the acceptance of office

This was deferred due to Covid issues.

22/7798 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest

22/7799 Minutes of the Council Meeting of the 17th of January were approved

Finance

22/7800 Finance Reports

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

22/7801 Authorisation of Payments

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

£61.94 to Aquacare
£63.54 to the Assistant Clerk
£1417.02 to Berkshire Pension Fund
£38.33 to British Gas Services Ltd
£22.44 to Bowak
£39 to Cathedral Leasing Ltd
£60 to Econet
£59.40 to Everflow
£90.10 to Grundon
£1237.95 to Heart Cleaning Ltd
£ 29.39 to Opus Energy
£108.23 to the Clerk
£362.08 to Playground Facilities Ltd
£458.04 to RES Systems Ltd
£317.74 to Smartest Energy

£28.75 to Scottish & Southern Energy
£2435.11 to Sunshine Commercial Services
£114 to The Blue Moose Graphic Company
£510 to The Parish Notice Board Company
£110.35 to Tivoli Group Ltd
£75.65 to Viking Stationery
£4580.46 in Payroll

22/7802 To consider the quotations for remedial tree work at East Park Farm, St Patricks' and on the corner of Park Lane and The Hawthorns, and to approve one for each site

It was resolved to accept the quotations from Canon Tree Care for the trees at East Park Farm and on Park Lane, and the quotation from Arborfield Tree Care for St Patrick's Recreation Ground, which were passed unanimously.

It was noted that one of the protected Lime trees needs to be felled as its condition has deteriorated in the last year.

22/7803 Planning, Environment and Highways Committee (PEH)

The minutes of the meeting on 29th November 2021 were approved and signed.

220182 Application for the proposed garage conversion to create habitable accommodation, changes to fenestration, plus the insertion of 2no. roof lights at 25, Park View Drive South – no Parish Council comments

220246 Application for the proposed single storey rear extension with 3no. rooflights and garage conversion along with single storey front extension with 2no. rooflights following demolition of existing porch to include changes in fenestration at Pebble Cottage, Milestone Avenue – no Parish Council comments

The following Planning refusals were noted

213424 Application for the proposed erection of a single storey side/rear extension following demolition of existing garage and the erection of new first floor including the insertion of 3no. rooflights, following demolition of existing first floor at 11 Old Bath Road

213815 Application for the proposed erection of a part single, part two storey front extension, erection of a part single, part two storey rear extension, insertion of 4no. rooflights plus the addition of 3no. "Juliet" balconies to rear and associated roof alterations at Iffleigh, Park Lane

To Consider where to plant the remaining Platinum Trees

There are five crab apples, five hazels, five rowans and three small-leafed limes to plant. The idea is to plant the hazels and crab apples in the hedge at St Patrick's, although there is a thought that one of the crab apples could be planted in the park at The Hawthorns to help pollination of the orchard trees. After some discussion, it was felt it would be appropriate to plant the rowans where the trees have been felled at East Park Farm. The limes are a bit more problematic, but it could be possible to plant them near the limes at East Park Farm, particularly as one will have to be felled. There was a discussion about whether anything can be planted on the roundabout near The Hawthorns.

There was a discussion about wildflower planting, at it was agreed that the clerk would contact Wokingham's Parks and Open Spaces team, to see if they could help. Possible sites suggested were the area on the junction of Park View Drive South and Old Bath Road; the grassy area on the entrance of Milestone Avenue; and the bank between the car park and Park Lane.

To note the completion of the pruning works by the Grounds Maintenance team at East Park Farm, and further unauthorised pruning of vegetation bordering the park. To develop a plan of action to bring this to an end through a pro-active maintenance schedule by the Grounds Maintenance team after consultation with the relevant residents

The clerk was to assess what work needs to be done with the advice of the Grounds Maintenance company. Once there is a plan, residents will be contacted by councillors with a letter from the Council stating the Council's position. *Clerk's note: the Grounds Maintenance company suggested the Council needs to adopt a tree management policy to reinforce the point that up to this point, residents taking matters into their own hands are acting unlawfully, and that this needs to stop.*

22/7804 Amenities Committee

To approve the Minutes of the Amenities Committee on 7th December 2021

These were approved and signed.

To decide upon the 2022/23 Price Increase for the Facilities

It was resolved to leave the Standard rate as it is, but to increase all other rates by 5%, rounded to the nearest 5p, which was approved unanimously.

To decide whether to increase the maximum numbers in the hall from 60 with the relaxation of Covid regulations

It was agreed to leave this as it is, and review in April

To consider offering a discount on the changing rooms with broken showers in the Pavilion

It was agreed to give a discount of £15 if they ask for it.

22/7805 Report from the Borough Councillor

Borough Councillor Akhtar ran through issues he has been dealing with on behalf of residents, including raising a successful enforcement issue about missing hedgerow on the edge of the Hicks development; reporting potholes in the area; working with the school to achieve plastic free status; reporting broken streetlights, trying to organise a police speed operation on the A4; trying to sort out the issue of the missing bins on the WBC portal; the repainting of the roundabout on the Old Bath Road/Park Lane junction; and the missing bus stop near the wee Waif.

Items for Consideration

22/7806 To hear an update on the Neighbourhood Plan Progress

The public meeting on 5th February was quite successful, with 40 people attending over the day. A few people were willing to join working groups, but more needs to be done to find people who could join these. Rob Jones is working on analysing more data, which the working groups can build upon. One thing that became evident, was the concerns of residents in places like Charvil Meadow Road, of the effects of the current housing proposals on the likelihood of flooding of their homes.

22/7807 To consider what needs to be done for the Platinum Jubilee picnic, including whether to pay for a band and for a plaque

After some discussion, it was felt that there are too many competing events to hold a successful picnic, so it was decided to help residents with advice as to how organise street closures for street parties. It was also agreed to organise a treasure hunt for children and to unveil a plaque, possibly at the hall, for the Platinum Jubilee trees, as part of the Annual Parish Meeting.

22/7808 To consider what issues may need publicising this month

The issues that need publicising include reporting on the Neighbourhood Plan meeting, the possibility of planting wildflowers, what will be done for the Jubilee, and the litter pick.

22/7809 To hear an update from the Borough Parish Liaison Meeting

The main item was the Tree Strategy. The Borough will help with trees and hedges, and it may be a good idea for the Neighbourhood Plan to look at identifying areas for tree planting in its land allocation plan, as the Borough is willing to talk to private landowners to help reach its 250,000 target.

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.

22/7810 To agree the Scope document and tender brief for the proposed pavilion project

After a long discussion around the subject, it was agreed to approve the document once some inaccuracies and assumptions were corrected.

22/7811 To approve the list of suppliers as presented in the Update document

Councillor Ryatt expressed an interest in that he is friends with one of the suppliers and has worked professionally with two of the others. He explained the background of each potential supplier. All four on the list were approved and were to be sent the Scope document and tender brief.

22/7812 To approve the proposed plan and timetable

It was explained that the only part of the timetable that could be fixed at this stage was the time between issuing the Scope document and receiving back the tenders for a choice to be made at the next meeting. The plan was approved in principle.

22/7813 To decide on a plan of action for Resident Consultation and a date for an initial meeting

It was agreed that the Consultation process should work in parallel with the tender process and that the Scope document should be shared with the current users and interested parties. No date for a meeting was set.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10pm

Chairman's Signature