

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 20th June 2022 at 8pm in Charvil Village Hall

Present	Jane Hartley, Pat Sutlieff, Mike Heath, Hilary Jones, and Rob Jones
Apologies for Absence	Narinder Ryatt
Absent	David Oppong and Matt Walker

22/7878 Open Forum

Three residents attended, two to listen and one who wished to raise a concern with the Council. The problem concerns goods vehicles driving along Park Lane at all hours of the day and night, and there seems little that can be done. The landowner where these trucks are stored has all the necessary planning permissions and licences, but the scale of the operation has expanded significantly over the years and the vehicles are bigger than the original ones, so are more invasive than they used to be. Because of the size, they are noisy, they drive down the middle of the road, endangering other motorists, and they tend to swing wide at the mini roundabout, which is also dangerous. They also tend to make the houses shake when they pass. The complainant was particularly aggrieved that there seem to be no avenues open to residents to object to traffic noise unless they live close to the depot – once vehicles are on the public highway, unless they are breaking the law, there is little to be done. Councillor Sutlieff suggested he contact Theresa May to see if there is anything that can be done, and the Chair offered sympathy and pointed out that the Parish Council had frequently objected to the changes in the planning permissions at this location, and to the changes to the Vehicle Licence to Wokingham Borough Council, who can then complain to the Traffic Commissioner, but to no avail. It was suggested that the Parish Council should see whether a weight limit could be put on the road to protect residents, and it might be worth gathering evidence regarding noise and the quality of driving. There was then a wider discussion about the general traffic issues on Old Bath Road and Park Lane, and Councillor Rob Jones suggested that this topic tied in with the Neighbourhood Plan. The Chair thanked the residents for their input and one left at the end of this discussion.

22/7879 To officially co-opt Isabelle Bray and the signing of the acceptance of office and other papers

Isabelle Bray signed all the papers and was duly co-opted.

22/7880 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest

22/7881 Minutes of the Council Meeting of the 23rd^{of} May and the Minutes of the Annual Meeting were approved, and the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting were noted

Finance

22/7882 Finance Reports

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

22/7883 Authorisation of Payments

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

£14.75 to A1 Locksmiths

£108 to A Star Signs Ltd

£61.94 to Aquacare

£22.14 to Bowak Ltd

£400 to Claire Connell

£1322.47 to Berkshire Pension Fund

£324 to Drain and Able

£65.02 to Everflow

£38.24 to British Gas Services Ltd

£101.51 to Grundon

£2023.84 to Heart Cleaning Ltd

£280.37 to the Clerk

£22 to Opus Energy Ltd

£223.68 to Smartest Energy

£29.54 to Scottish & Southern Energy

£1081.64 to Sunshine Commercial Services

£116.98 to Tivoli Group Ltd

£70.18 to Viking Payments

£3496.85 in Payroll

22/7884 To approve the purchase of a new laptop for the clerk

It was resolved to approve this up to a limit of £1000-£1200

22/7885 Planning, Environment and Highways Committee (PEH)

The following planning applications were considered

221558 Application for the proposed erection of a part single part two storey front extension to create porch and first floor ensuite, plus insertion of 2no bay windows and 2no rooflights at 49, Old Bath Road - no Parish Council comment

221665 Application for a certificate of existing lawful development for a garage conversion to create habitable accommodation and alterations of Hipped roof to form gable end including Loft conversion with rear dormer and changes to fenestration at 2, Park Lane– for information only

221692 Application for the proposed partial conversion of the garage to habitable accommodation, including the associated insertion of a window and 2 no. roof lights at 28, Thornbers Way – no Parish Council comment

To note a report on the second stage of the Queen's Green Canopy planting and to consider how to encourage residents to donate time and money to the project

The Woodland Trust has approved the applications for more trees. The next step is to get residents involved, and to get donations of the extras, like fencing etc, which will cost in the region of £500. It was suggested that the Council could use Facebook, the Village News, the website, and perhaps a flyer to be given out at the Primary school. Councillor Heath offered to draft something.

To note the meeting that Councillor Heath and the Clerk attended regarding the proposed cycle track between Twyford Station and Charvil and to confirm the Council's interest in supporting this project

It was reported that this was a positive meeting, and it was agreed to write to Theresa May to ask for her support for this project as this would help try to secure Government funding. *Clerk's note: the Clerk wrote to Theresa May, and had a reply that she was fully behind this project.*

To consider a request by Conserve Reading on Wednesdays for us to support up to three more conservation tasks at The Hawthorns Park next winter

It was resolved to approve this which was carried unanimously

22/7886 Amenities Committee

To approve the cost of clearing detritus from East Park Farm

It was resolved to approve this which was carried unanimously

To note the Annual Report, from the Fete Committee

This was noted

22/7887 Report from the Borough Councillor

The Borough Councillor could not attend but gave a short report that included relief that the mini roundabout at the Park Lane/Old Bath Road had been repainted; that one of the signs at Chiltern Drive was pointing the wrong way; and some vans had been reported to him for parking on Milestone Avenue, making visibility difficult.

Items for Consideration

22/7888 To hear an update on the Neighbourhood Plan Progress

Councillor Rob Jones explained that the group are now putting together working groups on the following topics: traffic and transport, flooding, green and blue spaces, housing, and community hub. Evidence is being gathered throughout the process, and policies will be identified for land allocation, and plans will be identified for the Parish Council to adopt.

22/7889 To consider the success of the Platinum Jubilee Treasure Hunt

In the absence of Councillor Walker, this was difficult to evaluate, but those that did it enjoyed it, but there were reports of difficulty accessing it, and some issues with accessing the questions. Something on these lines may be taken up by the Fete Committee.

22/7890 To consider what issues may need publicising this month

The issues that need publicising this month include the results of the Treasure Hunt, the change in Councillors, the Annual Parish Meeting, the pre-school, the tree planting plans, and the proposed cycleway.

22/7891 To hear an update on the Pavilion Project

The architect had sent some more detailed plans of possible changing room configurations, which had been discussed at a working group meeting. The choice really depended upon whether football teams were allowed to stagger their start times – if this is allowed, then a two-changing room option would be preferable. It was pointed out that not all the Councillors had the dimensions of the existing building, and the likely size of the proposed new building. The Chair thought that the proposed building would have a similar footprint to the existing building. The assistant clerk was asked to arrange a meeting with interested parties as soon as practicable. *Clerk's note: the Clerk sent round the proposed dimensions suggested by the architect at the beginning of April, as it appeared these were not widely known.*

22/7892 To review Council performance last year including anything that could be done better in 2022/23

There was little comment on this item

22/7893 To confirm the continuation of objectives for the coming year are the same as those for the previous year, namely the Neighbourhood Plan, the Pavilion redevelopment, and the Community Orchard/Queen's Green Canopy

These were duly confirmed.

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.

22/7894 To consider whether to allow the proposed pre-school to use the existing pavilion from January 2023

After some discussion, it was resolved to agree in principle to this change, subject to agreement on various details. The assistant clerk was to see how many of the existing daytime users she might be able to accommodate in the Village Hall. It was also agreed that by accepting this organisation as a tenant, did not mean the Council would automatically offer them the lease in the newbuild. It was also accepted that the rent would be based on the current community rate for the building despite this being a business, as it is offering something that the community needs, and is recognition that the building is not ideal.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.55pm

Chairman's Signature