

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 17th October 2022 at 8pm in Charvil Village Hall

Present Pat Sutlieff (Chair), Mike Heath, Matt Walker, David Oppong,
Narinder Ryatt, and Rob Jones.

Apologies for Absence

Absent Jane Hartley and Isabelle Bray

22/7933 Open Forum

There were no residents present.

22/7934 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest

22/7935 Minutes of the Council Meeting of the 26th September 2020 were approved

Finance

22/7936 Finance Reports

The clerk reported that the costs of the preliminary work for the pavilion can be spent from the CIL contributions. It was resolved to approve the reports, which was passed unanimously.

22/7937 Authorisation of Payments

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

£675.71 to A1 Locksmiths
£81 to Aquacare
£42 to A Star Signs
£1087.13 to Berkshire Pension Fund
£152.52 to the Assistant Clerk
£75.22 to Everflow
£38.24 to British Gas Services Ltd
£148.98 to Grundon
£2003.50 to Heart Cleaning Ltd
£1231.05 to HMRC
£234 to Industrial Air Ltd
£82.39 to the Clerk
£21.49 to Opus Energy Ltd
£330.29 to MKR Electrical Services Ltd
£803.96 to Nisbets
£147.46 to Smartest Energy
£81.48 to Scottish & Southern Energy
£1195.64 to Sunshine Commercial Services

£90 to The Blue Moose
£116.98 to Tivoli Group Ltd
£3101.38 in Payroll

22/7938 To consider whether the Council should pursue the idea of installing CCTV in the light of information from a neighbouring Council

After some discussion, it was decided to defer a decision on CCTV until January, or another bout of anti-social behaviour, whichever is the soonest, as it may be a short-term problem.

22/7939 Planning, Environment and Highways Committee (PEH) – The Minutes of a Meeting on 3rd October 2022 were noted.

To consider the plan to encourage residents to volunteer to help with the tree planting

Various volunteers have come forward from those who helped last year, the Community Orchard group, and the tree wardens. A Facebook advertising campaign will start shortly, in the hope of getting a few more helpers. Councillor Heath will approach Theresa May, to see if she would come along to plant an oak in memory of the Queen, and Councillor Jones is to investigate the cost of a tree and of a wooden plaque. The clerk is to contact Wokingham to get permission to plant an oak in the park behind the Village Hall.

To consider the following Planning Application

222704 Application for the proposed erection of a single storey rear flat roof extension and a single storey side/rear flat roof extension, following the demolition of the existing garage at 11, Old Bath Road - the clerk was asked to comment as follows:

The Parish Council would like to make the observation that the application form is misleading because, although there is existing planning permission for extensions, what has been built does not have permission, therefore this application is at least part retrospective. Accurate applications are necessary as part of a fair planning process.

To approve a contribution toward the display boards in the Country Park

£1500 had already been approved for this project in a previous year, and the Women's Club have donated £344 to the Parish Council as a contribution, so it was resolved that the clerk would include a payment of £1844 in the payment run next month for this purpose.

22/7940 Amenities Committee - The Minutes of a Meeting on 10th October were noted.

In the light of the issues of fly-tipping and trespass, to reconsider a letter for residents backing onto East Park Farm fields and St Patrick's Recreation Ground

It was agreed that this should be done. The letter was approved subject to some minor amendments to be made by the clerk. It should be delivered by the Chairman as previously agreed.

22/7941 Staffing Committee

It was agreed to defer the next Staffing Committee meeting until 5th December, when it will take place on the conclusion of the Amenities Meeting, to allow for staff appraisals to be completed beforehand.

22/7942 Report from the Borough Councillor

The Borough Councillor did not attend but forwarded a report. He has organised a Wildlife Walk in Charvil Meadows for 5th November, meeting at Charvil Piggott primary at 10am. He would still like to investigate the possibility of gateway signs into Charvil despite the apparent lack of suitable locations – although this would need to be funded by the Parish Council. He is helping some residents with housing issues, trying to get speed checks in the area, helping the primary school

to achieve plastic free status, and is exploring the possibility of Charvil in Bloom for next year.

Items for Consideration

22/7943 To hear an update on the Neighbourhood Plan Progress

There is going to be a face-to-face meeting on 29th October and all the Parish Councillors are invited to attend. The aim is to pull together the themes, policies, and plans that the group think should be included in the Plan, and that would be the basis of what the group would ask a consultant to work on. Possibly the most contentious issue is around land allocation, and it is important that the wider Parish Council appreciates the issues, and how the group and Parish Council could be helped on this by consultants.

22/7944 To hear an update on the Pavilion Project, to note the quotes for two alternative courses of action from SWA Associates, the current cost projections from Sport England and the notes on a visit from the Wokingham Borough Council Energy manager

After a long discussion where various members raised concerns that we have spent a lot of money with no tangible outcome, it was agreed that the Council should opt for option A but that the clerk should clarify whether, if it transpires that rebuilding makes more sense once all the investigations have been done, the cost of option B would be much reduced as much of the work is the same as for option A. It was also agreed that the Council would like to keep the original plan in a dormant state, rather than disregarded altogether, as it may be that once the current world turbulence settles down, the plan can be re-visited.

22/7945 To consider and approve the responses to the Electoral Commission Consultation on Wards for the Borough Council

After some discussion as to why the Parish needs to have three Borough Councillors representing it, it was agreed to respond that the members feel that Charvil would be better served by sharing councillors with Sonning, Wargrave or Hurst as all three are similar in size to Charvil and have more common concerns than Twyford or Woodley.

22/7946 To consider pursuing the idea of a mobile Post Office

Councillor Sutlieff has been looking into this upon a request from a resident, and while the service does not have capacity at present, it was agreed this is something that should be pursued, and Councillor Sutlieff agreed to continue to champion this.

22/7947 To consider who might like to attend the BALC Annual General Meeting

It was agreed to ask the Chair to go, as that would be most appropriate.

22/7948 To note that due to a backlog of work at OFSTED, the Pre-school is unlikely to be able to start before September

This was noted, and the clerk would remain in dialogue with Oliver Cloke

22/7949 To consider the co-funding bid for California Country Park

The Councillors had read all the evidence and the notes from the Assistant Clerk, and it was agreed that the Parish Council does not think this is good use of its CIL.

22/7950 There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.56pm

Chairman's Signature