

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 21st November 2022 at 8pm in Charvil Village Hall

Present Jane Hartley, Pat Sutlieff, Mike Heath, Matt Walker, and Isabelle Bray

Apologies for Absence David Oppong, Rob Jones, and Narinder Ryatt

Absent

22/7951 Open Forum

Two residents attended to discuss concerns about the current planning application at Iffleigh, Park Lane. Although this is not on the agenda as it will be on the Planning, Environment and Highways agenda for 28th November, the two residents still raised various points. The adjoining neighbour to this dwelling informed the Council that, because the cavity wall had not been sealed, and there was lots of food left lying around on the building site, there are now rats in the cavity. A pest control expert has been employed and hopefully the problem will be dealt with. The second resident is concerned that yet again, there is a retrospective planning application to regularise what has been built, rather than what had been approved to build, and this approach deeply concerns him as it is happening more and more frequently. He is also concerned that in this case, they are intimidating their elderly neighbours, which is immoral. He asked for the Parish Council to write to Sam Akhtar to see whether he could exert some influence on this and similar applications. At the end of the Open forum, one resident left and the other stayed for the rest of the meeting. *Clerk's note: the clerk has written to Sam Akhtar, the deputy leader of the Council, and the lead for Planning at Wokingham on the subject of the cynical use of retrospective Planning Applications.*

22/7952 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest

22/7953 Minutes of the Council Meeting of the 17th October 2020 were approved

Finance

22/7954 Finance Reports

It was resolved to approve the reports, which was passed unanimously.

22/7955 Authorisation of Payments

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

£36.50 to A1 Locksmiths

£321 to Advance Glass

£56.66 to the Assistant Clerk

£1984.07 to Berkshire Pension Fund
£97.20 to Berkshire Electrical Services Ltd
£26.80 to the Village Warden
£38.24 to British Gas Services Ltd
£102.30 to Bowak Ltd
£77.98 to Cathedral Leasing Ltd
£62.17 to Everflow
£1116.95 to Greenbarnes Ltd
£103.55 to Grundon
£42 to Hags-SMP Ltd
£285.57 to the clerk
£66 to MKR Electrical Services Ltd
£55.89 to Neil Durrant
£194.96 to Numatic International Ltd
£1200 to Stanhope Wilkinson Associates
£248.06 to Smartest Energy
£74.49 to Scottish & Southern Energy
£1081.64 to Sunshine Commercial Services
£12 to Taurus Elite Security
£116.98 to Tivoli Group Ltd
£214.13 to Viking Payments
£1844 to Wokingham Borough Council
£5036.46 in Payroll

22/7956 Planning, Environment and Highways Committee (PEH) – The Minutes of a Meeting on 7th November 2022 were noted.

To note how the tree planting is progressing

So far, the tree planting has gone well, with many families getting involved. The final session will be on the weekend of 3rd/4th December, and the project is now being supported by WBC, in terms of helping with the costs and helping to ensure a good survival rate in years to come.

The Queen's Oak tree is to be planted on 26th November – the next stage of the Community Orchard was also due to be planted then, but due to the warm and wet weather, the trees were not dormant, and the ground was unsuitable to dig them up, so that has been put back to Saturday 10th December.

The oak tree planting will be advertised on Facebook and on the Notice Boards.

22/7957 Amenities Committee - The Minutes of a Meeting on 14th November were noted.

22/7958 Staffing Committee

There was a reminder that the next meeting is after the Amenities Meeting on 5th December

22/7959 Report from the Borough Councillor

The Borough Councillor could not attend but forwarded a report. The Wildlife Walk in Charvil Meadows on 5th November went well despite the rain. He is still working with the school on plastic-free status and is trying to improve the appearance of Chiltern Drive.

Items for Consideration

22/7960 To hear an update on the in-person meeting held on 29th October and to consider and approve a consultant for supporting the Neighbourhood Plan

The face-to-face meeting went well and was very useful in that it identified common policy areas that crossed over the themes – particularly on environment and housing. Since then, two green-blue space workshops have been held, so that topic is now progressing faster. Councillor Heath mentioned that there may be

some benefit of land allocation as that would give us more control of what is built. The approval of a consultant was deferred as so far there is only one applicant, and Councillor Jones could not come to this meeting.

22/7961 To note that an initial survey for remedial works has been done by SWA, and that we need to find three contractors to quote for drilling trial holes, to enable accurate repair costs to be provided

Steve Wolstenholme and his company's quantity surveyor met with the clerk and assistant clerk to survey the building, and various questions have arisen out of this visit before a contractor can be employed to drill trial holes.

22/7962 To consider whether the Council wish to comment on the final draft of the constituency boundary review

The Council decided it would not submit any comments.

22/7963 To note that a mobile post office is to be sited in Charvil every Wednesday morning 8am-9am

This was noted as a useful addition to the village.

22/7964 To hear a report from the Borough Parish Liaison Forum

Councillor Heath attended, and there was an interesting presentation on Partnership working, as well as one on the Hardship Fund and Project Joy. This is a project set up to help people be signposted to GP and other services, and the intention is to broaden it out to include other activities that may help health and wellbeing. Each Parish has been asked to come up with three topics for future consideration at these meetings, and it was agreed that this would be on the next Full Council agenda, with reference to the Forum's new Terms of Reference.

22/7965 To note the work of the Hardship Alliance and to consider what else the Parish can do to support this

Due to our buildings are unmanned, and there is no staff capacity to host warm spaces, this was not something that could be accommodated in Charvil, but it was felt that it would be useful if we could promote any warm spaces in Twyford. There is now a drop-off point for contributions to the Woodley Foodbank in the Village Hall. It was also agreed that an article would be included in the Village News to publicise any such spaces, and that people could contact the clerk for help in directing them to suitable sources of help.

22/7966 To consider who should co-ordinate the Village News deliveries now that the long-standing volunteer has retired

It was agreed that the assistant clerk would do the next edition, with a view to the new administration assistant taking it over. Overtime will be paid as required.

22/7967 To approve the dates of next year's meetings and to consider whether some should be suspended due to the shortage of Councillors

The dates were approved and will be circulated shortly. It was agreed that from January, the Amenities and Planning, Environment and Highways Committee meetings would be suspended until more Councillors can be recruited.

22/7968 To Consider how to fill Councillor Vacancies

It was agreed that the usual methods of leaflets and posters be tried again, and it was also agreed that agendas should be publicised on Facebook, and that the Councillors would start to hold Surgeries, possibly on Thursdays, once a month in the local pubs, alternating between the Heron and the Wee Waif.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.36pm

Chairman's Signature