



Chairman: Jane Hartley

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Clerk to the Council
Miranda Parker
Charvil Village Hall
The Hawthorns
Charvil, Reading
Berks RG10 9TT

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 27th February 2023 at 8pm in Charvil Village Hall

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

Apologies for Absence

Absent Narinder Ryatt

23/8007 Open Forum

Two residents, one who is potentially interested in joining the Parish Council, and a Henley Standard journalist attended to listen to the discussion. No points were raised in the open forum.

23/8008 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest

23/8009 Minutes of the Council Meeting of the 23rd January 2023 and the Extra-ordinary Meeting on 20th February were approved

Finance

23/8010 Finance Reports

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

23/8011 Authorisation of Payments

It was resolved to recommend approval of the payments of invoices and S137 and Grant donations, which was carried unanimously.

£150 to 1st Charvil Scouts
£51.98 to the Assistant Clerk
£1345.64 to Aquacare
£1627.53 to Berkshire Pension Fund
£200 to Berkshire Vision (S137)
£106.79 to Bowak
£21 to Bernie Leicester
£116.97 to Cathedral Leasing Ltd
£207.56 to Everflow
£133.34 to Glasdon Uk Ltd
£78.54 to Greenbarnes Ltd
£162.66 to Grundon
£151.36 to JJ Plumbing and Heating
£440.10 to the clerk
£111.06 to MKR Electrical Services Ltd
£51.23 to Opus Energy Ltd
£596.28 to RES Systems Ltd

£455.22 to Smartest Energy
£74.49 to Scottish & Southern Energy
£2400 to Stanhope Wilkinson Associates
£1081.64 to Sunshine Commercial Services
£116.98 to Tivoli Group Ltd
£4341.76 in Payroll

23/8012 To approve the signatories for the NS & I account to be Patricia Sutlieff, Miranda Parker, Jane Hartley, and Matthew Walker

It was resolved to approve these signatories, which was carried unanimously, and the paperwork was signed

23/8013 To note the receipt of £834.55 from Wokingham Borough Council to cover the costs of the tree planting last autumn, and to note that the expense was incurred by a third party, Councillor Mike Heath, and to approve the transfer of funds to said third party

This was noted, and it was resolved to approve the transfer. the Councillor Mike Heath was also thanked for his hard work.

23/8014 To consider the two quotations for the opening-up of various parts of the pavilion structure to inform what works may need doing that are not initially obvious, and to approve one of them

It was resolved to accept the quotation from Concept 17.

23/8015 To note the changes to the rules on VAT concerning sports pitches, and the changes to the procurement process

The change in VAT rules means that sports facilities can now be treated as non-business for VAT purposes, and the procurement process will be easier for smaller projects

23/8016 To consider whether now is a good time for the Clerk to seek advice on VAT issues regarding the renovation/rebuild of the Pavilion

The Council agreed that this would be a good idea, and the Clerk was instructed to find out how much this would cost

23/8017 To decide whether to allow the Skipton Bond to roll-over for another year

It was resolved to re-invest for a further year which was passed unanimously

**23/8018 Planning, Environment and Highways Committee (PEH)
The following planning applications were considered**

230113 Full application for the proposed erection of 1 no x 5-bedroom dwelling house and formation of new access following the stopping up of the existing access serving Lakeside on land adjoining Lakeside on Waingels Road – The clerk was asked to comment as follows:

Charvil Parish Council objects to this application because it is further encroachment on land designated as countryside. This site is next to the only remaining ancient woodland in Charvil, is close to a bird sanctuary, and to bat roosts.

While this plan is an improvement on an earlier one, it is still a development on a greenfield site, and is likely to disturb an area rich in wildlife.

It also creates a precedent for other homes in the area to build in their gardens, slowly urbanising this area of countryside, and changing its character.

- 230221 Application for the proposed erection of a single storey side extension, including alterations to the rear fenestration at Craigalea, Lands' End Lane – no Parish Council comment
- 230108 Application for the proposed erection of a first-floor front extension to form 3 no. front-facing gables, plus changes to fenestration at 73, Park View Drive North – no Parish Council comment

230259 Application for the prior approval of the erection of a single storey rear extension, which would extend beyond the rear wall of the original house by 6.00m, for which the maximum height would be 3.00m and the height of the eaves 2.80m at 20 Old Bath Road – for information only.

To note the following planning approvals

223747 Application for the proposed loft conversion to create habitable accommodation with two dormers and rooflight to front elevation at 14 Thornbers Way

223785 application for the proposed erection of part single part two storey front extension, first floor rear extension plus changes to fenestration at 55 Park View Drive North

To note the following Tree Preservation Order works Application

230189 APPLICATION FOR WORKS TO PROTECTED TREE(S) 866/1997, T1 Lime – Re-pollard back to previous pollard points

b) **To consider a response to the Reform to National Planning policy**

It was agreed that the Clerk would respond on behalf of the Council. The comments would include that building should happen around infrastructure; that over-supply should be taken into account when considering the housing needs for an area; that beauty was too subjective a term to be useful in law; and that the Council welcomed the idea of Neighbourhood Plans' legal weight would be extended to five years from adoption, but that the period should be as long as a Local Plan is valid.

c) **To Note the Speed Indicator Figures in Stealth mode and to decide where to move it next**

It was noted that, perhaps surprisingly, the visual reminder offered by the Speed Device in full mode has little effect on the speed of traffic in this location. It was decided to move it to measure speeds on the Old Bath Road, from the Wee Waif and the mini roundabout at Park Lane.

23/8019 Amenities Committee

To consider the request to house the Round Table sleigh on Charvil Parish Council managed property

While the Council was sympathetic, there is no suitable location that could keep it safe and secure on Parish lands.

To consider a request from the Borough Councillor for the Parish Council to pay for a bin to be placed at the cut-through between Pennine Way and East Park Farm Drive

The Borough Councillor had provided the costs, but it was decided to ask for either the missing LB337 that was promised to return to Chiltern Drive, be placed there, or to move one of the two that are near the entrance into Vale View. The concern of the Council is, if they pay for this one, the Borough will slowly try to move more bins to be paid for by the Parish. The Village Warden has placed anti-littering signs at the offensive location, and has been litter picking there regularly, so the problem is less than it was, in any case.

23/8020 Report from the Borough Councillor

The Borough Councillor sent a note to say that due to work commitments, he struggles to get back in time for the meeting. He sent a report, including the issue of the bin (see previous Minute), the continued problems of anti-social parking, the flashing lights near the school are not working, and the bushes are blocking them in any case, and the speed humps on Park Lane are ineffective.

Items for Consideration

23/8021 To hear an update on the Neighbourhood Plan

The group has been putting together the first draft of the plan. The Plan can accept allocated sites from the Local Plan, or can nominate them. They can even "Master-Plan". The next step is to find out the options and to then share with residents, as it is becoming increasingly clear that the nominated sites in Charvil will remain part of the plan.

23/8022 To approve the cost of printing the litter pick leaflets and to arrange who can deliver them

It was resolved to ask Blue Moose to print them this time, and everyone present said they could help deliver the leaflets.

23/8023 To discuss the draft Guidelines for Social Media post and to approve the final version

The version from Councillor Jones was approved with a few modifications. It was agreed that Councillor Bray and Councillor Heath would discuss what events would be effective to promote on social media with the recent appointee, Neil Durrant.

23/8024 To consider and approve a consistent branding for the Parish Council across all formats

It was agreed that the tree without the square box was the best (the one currently used on Minutes etc)

23/8025 To consider and approve a common theme to our Social Media post templates, using the samples from the Social Media officer as a starting point

It was agreed that the simplest one was most effective.

23/8026 In the light of the reply from the dog warden that there is no Public Space Protection Order in Charvil, there are no dog controls, and that she is unaware of any further issues beyond the one well-known case at school pick-up time, but that she will visit when she has time, is there a need to ask Wokingham whether they have any plans to limit the number of dogs one person can walk at a time

The clerk was to ask for a limit to the number of dogs walked by a professional dog walker at any one time.

23/8027 To consider whether the time has come to move all Council staff to Parish mobile phones, and to have these as the official numbers on which to contact staff, and to approve the cost

It was agreed that this would be a good idea, and the cost was approved.

23/8028 To hear an update from the Brough Parish Liaison group

There was an update on Climate Change that was relevant to Charvil, and also Partnership working. There will be a meeting with a company called New Local, to help to work on effective partnership working with the Borough and its stakeholders including Parish Councils.

23/8029 To hear an update from the Northern Parishes Group, and to consider the growing development threat from the lack of a Local Plan, and what the Council view on this is

With the change of the political balance, most of the Planning Committee now represent the southern parishes, so there is perceived to be a new threat to the northern parishes. They are thinking of resurrecting the Campaign to save Rural Wokingham, but this may not be of great interest to Charvil, as nearly everything that can be built on in Charvil is likely to be in the Local Plan anyway.

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

23/8030 To consider the detailed costings from the architect for the refurbishment of the pavilion, and to decide which items can safely be left out, which ones are necessary and which of the possibles the Council would like to include

The necessary items are:

- 3.1 External walls below floor level
- 7.3 Ceilings Type B
- 8.1 Internal wall linings generally
- 8.2 Internal wall linings in shower areas
- 8.3 Internal wall linings in Changing rooms
- 9.1 General floor finishes
- 9.2 floor finishes in shower areas
- 9.3 Floor finishes in changing rooms
- 11.2 changing shower heads
- 12.2 Accessible WC's
- 15.1 Internet connectivity
- 17.1 & 2 Space heating generally but possibly a cheaper solution
- 18.1 -18.4 Lighting
- 21.1 External works – paving
- 23.1 Flooring repairs in Gents' toilet

Possible items include insulation and repairs to windows

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.05pm

Chairman's Signature