

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 22nd May 2023 in Charvil Village Hall Following the Annual Meeting of the Council

Present Jane Hartley, Pat Sutlieff, Mike Heath, Matt Walker, Narinder Ryatt, Rob Jones, and Stephen Lucas.

Apologies for Absence

Absent Isabelle Bray

23/8077 Open Forum

Two residents attended, one to listen to the discussion, and the other to raise a couple of points. The media assistant was also present. The resident who wished to speak wanted to thank all concerned who had worked to solve the parking issues caused by building works in Park Lane but thinks that consideration should be given to the effects of building works on neighbours when planning permission is granted. Councillor Heath pointed out that the residents had tried to reduce the disruption on the road, but that it was unfortunate two properties had works happening at the same time. The resident left at 9.51 pm.

23/8078 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest

23/8079 Minutes of the Council Meeting of the 24th of April 2023 were approved

Finance

23/8080 To receive and approve the financial reports for April

It was resolved to approve these which was passed unanimously

23/8081 Authorisation of Payments

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

£82.50 A1 Locksmiths

£129.49 to the Assistant Clerk

£123.24 to Aquacare

£1284.36 to Berkshire Pension Fund

£828 to Canon Tree Care

£116.97 to Cathedral Leasing Ltd

£112.65 to Grundon

£713.84 to Hampshire Association of Local Councils

£118.82 to JJ Plumbing and Heating

£234.17 to the clerk

£103.32 to MKR Electrical Services Ltd

£46 to Neil Durrant
£270 to Playsafety Ltd
£327.28 to Smartest Energy
£2880 to Stanhope Wilkinson Associates
£1135.73 to Sunshine Commercial Services
£1135.73 to Tactical Facilities Management Ltd
£24 to Taurus Elite Security
£3756.72 in Payroll

23/8082 To note the Minutes of the Finance Meeting on 15th May 2023

These were noted, and recommendations were accepted on relevant points.

23/8083 To note the internal auditor's final report and the report for the internal audit

The report was noted, and the clerk was thanked for her hard work.

23/8084 To complete and sign the Annual Governance Statement for 2022-23

This was completed and signed

23/8085 To complete and sign the Annual Return for 2022-23

It was completed and signed

23/8086 To accept the Finance Committee's recommendation to approve the insurance costs for the next year

It was resolved to approve this which was passed unanimously

23/8087 To accept the Finance Committee's recommendation to set a budget for one-off Community events of £1500, including the spend on the Coronation party, and to note this will be covered by reserves

It was resolved to approve this which was carried unanimously

23/8088 Planning, Environment and Highways Committee (PEH)

a) The following planning approval was noted

230159 Application for the proposed erection of a first-floor extension and single storey front extension at 15b, Charvil House Road

c) To note the following Tree Preservation Application

231088 APPLICATION FOR WORKS TO PROTECTED TREE(S) TPO-1852-2022 (G2) G2, deciduous trees of all species (G2 on TPO) – To prune back and maintain the trees that severely overhang my boundary fence at 10 Simmons Field – Council chose to support this.

b) To Note the Speed Data

It was noted that this location has produced the slowest average speeds

To consider a request from Wargrave Parish Council to loan the Speed Indicator Device to Wargrave to measure speed on the Wargrave Road

The Council have yet to receive an official request, but if it materialises, then it was approved to loan it for a month assuming all necessary insurances are in place.

23/8089 Amenities Committee

To decide whether to re-introduce Amenities and Planning, Environment and Highways Meetings from June

The Council agreed that it was time to re-start all meetings from June.

23/8090 Staffing Committee

To note the appointment of a new Village Warden

The Council has appointed Caleb Lucas as the new Village Warden.

23/8091 Report from the Borough Councillor

The Borough Councillor could not attend but sent a written report. The issues he has been dealing with include abandoned vehicles in Milestone Avenue – for one, the owner has been notified and asked to remove it, but the owner is not obliged to do so. There is concern about the overgrown grass in Charvil, and this should be done by the end of the month. There have been complaints around dog fouling in Milestone Avenue, and he is looking at ways to combat this including signage and possibly a new bin. Hopefully WBC will be repairing the broken 20mph sign outside of the school by the end of May, and he is chasing for the broken sign near the Wee Waif to be repaired as soon as possible.

Items for Consideration

23/8092 To hear an update on the Neighbourhood Plan

Councillor Jones said there was not much to report. The next meeting for the group is on 26th May. There is conjecture that Neighbourhood Plans will be watered down, so they have less influence. The promised funding for this year has yet to be released.

23/8093 To hear feedback on the Annual Parish Meeting

This meeting had some good engagement, but unfortunately, was not very well-attended. The proposed pre-school provider attended but there were few who were interested in his presentation. There followed a discussion regarding the pre-school as the Media Assistant was concerned that there is no protection for Charvil children from poorer backgrounds to receive places at the pre-school. At the Annual Meeting, the pre-school provider said that places would be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis, but how would the Council know if this was really the case, and if the pre-school is full of children from outside the village, it is hard to justify disturbing our current users who do serve residents. Ideas included insisting upon a certain percentage of Charvil children, but this could affect business viability. It was agreed that this should be explored further in the next Amenities meeting.

23/8094 To note the update on Social Media, to note the success of the Coronation Party and to decide upon other possible activities later in the year

The Media Assistant reported that he intended to run a series of posts on what the Parish Council does but needs more topics to promote. One idea is to promote the cricket club that are currently using our facilities, more on the planting event in National Tree Week. Possibly, there could be a plant swap alongside a harvest festival activity. Also, something could be held around Christmas. A further idea was to engage better with teenagers, for example, by hosting a basketball or football tournament – possibly through some of the users of our pitches. This would need careful consideration.

23/8095 To choose a date for the Annual Footpath Walk

It was decided this should take place on Friday 16th June, starting from Milestone Avenue at 7PM, and that the Meet the Councillors evening would be moved from 15th June, and would take place from around 8.30pm at the Heron on the Ford.

23/8096 To agree the need for Staff and Councillors to let each other know when they are likely to be out of the area in case people need to contact them

This was agreed, but the discussion revolved around how to do this. It was agreed this would be a standing item, and Councillor Walker reported that he would be on leave the following week. *Clerk's note: the Media Assistant has investigated this and believes a Google Calendar is the best way forward.*

23/8097 To consider a request for CIL funding for supporting bus routes over the next three years

The Council are supportive of this but would like more information before committing to anything.

23/8098 To consider what needs advertising this month

It was agreed that the Footpath Walk/Meet the Councillors event should be promoted, along with Father's Day, National Bike Week, Healthy Eating week, cricket, allotments, the community orchard, and football.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.05pm

Chairman's Signature