



Chairman: Pat Sutlieff

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

www.charvil.com

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 18th March 2024 in Charvil Village Hall at 8pm

Present Pat Sutlieff, Jane Hartley, Rob Jones, Narinder Ryatt, Stephen Lucas, and Lee Cripps

Apologies for Absence

Absent Matt Walker and Isabelle Bray

24/8272 Open Forum

Two residents were present, one who is interested in joining the Council and the other was concerned about the sinkhole. He wanted to know what was happening with it as it has been a long time since it appeared, and it is dangerous for the schoolchildren to cross the road with the parked cars. The Chair explained why there had been a delay, but up until this point, there has been no timetable for the repair, but more investigative works had been done.

24/8273 Declarations of Interest

There were no interests declared.

24/8274 To approve the Minutes of the Council Meeting of the 26th February 2024

These were approved and signed.

24/8275 To note the Clerk's report

This was noted.

Finance

24/8276 To receive and approve the financial reports

In the absence of the Chair of Finance, Councillor Lucas presented the reports. It was noted that the full amount for the Neighbourhood Plan grant had been received but that the clerk had made an error in the amount expected, and she should have just earmarked reserves for possible further support. Apart from that, it was resolved to approve the reports, which was passed unanimously.

24/8277 Authorisation of Payments

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

£156.20 to A1 Locksmiths

£36 to the Assistant Clerk

£739.78 to Andrea Pellegram

£180.91 to Aquacare

£1832.40 to Berkshire Pension Fund

£193.06 to British Gas

£40 to Caretaker

£1410 to Edge IT Systems Ltd

2000

Chairman's Initials.....

Date.....

£185.88 to Everflow
£94.58 to Grundon
£108.39 to the clerk
£488.98 to MKR Electricals Ltd
£54.95 to the Media Assistant
£45 to Open Spaces Society
£238.53 to Smartest Energy
£2479.73 to Sunshine Commercial Services Ltd
£1245.60 to Tactical Facilities Management Ltd
£10.80 to the Village Warden
£1500 to the Twyford Youth Centre
£128.33 to Viking
£4980.89 in Payroll

24/8278 To approve the repair to the wall in the Pavilion

It was resolved to approve the cost of £460, which was passed unanimously.

24/8279 To note the completion of the rectification period on the pavilion, and to approve the release of the remaining 2.5% fee owing to Concept 17 once the process has been signed off by SWA architects

It was resolved to approve this, which was passed unanimously. If Councillors wanted to attend the visit by SWA, they need to contact the Clerk.

**24/8280 Planning, Environment and Highways Committee (PEH)
To note the Minutes of 4th March**

These were noted.

The following Planning Applications were considered:

240526 – Application for proposed single storey side extension with changes to fenestration at 5, Pennine Way – no Parish Council comment

240529 – Application for the proposed erection of a traditional wet boathouse and creation of an associated river cutting, following demolition of the existing timber boat dock at Hallsmead Ait Island, land north of Thames Drive – no Parish Council comment.

To note the Hicks' Report on the impact of their development on the sink hole, and to consider whether to commission our own report

Councillor Jones felt that the report was very poor, but that the Council needs to wait for the result of the car park survey report before deciding on this. Given that the next Full Council meeting is some weeks away, it was agreed to delegate the decision to the Planning, Environment and Highways Committee up to a cost of £2,000.

To note the concerns raised by residents around the apparent lack of transparency, failure to follow the correct process of planning notifications, failure to follow the Council's own planning policy documents by the Wokingham Borough planning department

These concerns are undermining confidence in the planning department and are having an adverse effect on residents' mental health. The clerk had passed on the Council's request to have planning investigated by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and is now waiting to hear if it is likely to happen.

To consider the purchase of a second speed indicator device

It was agreed that the clerk would look up prices, and the topic would be re-visited in July.

24/8281 Amenities Committee

To note the Minutes of the meeting on 11th March

These were noted.

To formally approve the recommendations made by the Amenities Committee to purchase a new cooker for the Pavilion and the installation of an emergency light at the Village Hall

It was resolved to approve both purchases, which was passed unanimously.

24/8282 Borough Councillor's Report

The Borough Councillor was not present, but in his report, he said that there has been no progress on sorting out the 20-mph flashing light outside the school or improving the speed humps. He has requested that the applications for 20 Old Bath Road and Chilterns are listed. Old Bath Road should be considered in April. He intends to ask a question on behalf of the school regarding the re-opening of the car park at the main Council meeting.

Items for Consideration

24/8283 To hear an update on the Neighbourhood Plan

Councillor Jones reported that AECOM had produced the final draft of the Design Code, but they do not seem keen on including anything on housing density, so this will have to be addressed in the Neighbourhood Plan. The Council is still waiting to hear whether it was successful in its application for a Housing Needs Assessment. The next stage is to ask Wokingham to undertake screening reports.

24/8284 To consider and approve the Internet Policy for the Village Hall

It was resolved to approve this which was passed unanimously. It was also agreed that Committee room users should be offered the code if they wish to use the internet. The media assistant has put in strong parental controls, which might be a problem, and this will need monitoring. There was a discussion around how often to change the password, and initially this will be done every three months, but if usage is high, it might need changing more frequently. If wi-fi proves very popular, then guest access could be set up.

24/8285 To hear how the planning for the Annual Parish Meeting is progressing and to decide whether flyers should be included in the magazine as well as the meeting poster on the back cover, and also, whether to pay for professionally printed posters for the notice boards.

The Chair will present the speech for the formal part of the meeting, and each committee chair will provide her with relevant information. The committee chairs will also organise information for their tables, and the media assistant will put together a slideshow. He asked what he should include for future activities, and this should include a new website, speed watch, and facility maintenance including the redecoration of the Village Hall.

It was decided not to include a separate flyer in the magazine, but to pay for proper posters to be put into the notice boards and other prominent places.

The assistant clerk has been tasked with sending out invitations to the clubs to attend the Community Connect part of the evening, and the clerk was asked to invite Richard Bissett from Cleaner and Greener, to answer any questions relating to the rollout of fortnightly bin collections. The clerk has been asked to purchase a book of cloakroom tickets for the raffle.

24/8286 To note the update on social media

Councillor Harding wondered whether there could be less emphasis on number of followers, and more analysis done on the level of engagement on each post. The media assistant suggested that this would be very time consuming. Councillor Hartley liked the slimmed down report.

24/8287 To consider the Strategy Document on social media

This was deferred until the next meeting as it needs input from both the media assistant and Councillor Bray.

24/8288 To decide whether the media assistant should run an updated post on each Councillor as part of the run up to the election

This would need unanimous support, and as this was not forthcoming, the idea was dropped.

24/8289 To hear an update on the sinkhole

The car park has been surveyed by a second contractor, and the Council is waiting to see the results from Wokingham Borough Council.

24/8290 To consider whether to try to pursue the idea of facilitating a pre-school in the village

Councillor Harding is particularly interested in this topic as she has a pre-school aged child. She would like to put together a working group of parents in a similar position to investigate what the options might be, in terms of a privately run nursery, a committee led pre-school or some other option. She would also like to investigate the options of either using the pavilion, versus a port-a-cabin somewhere close by, and even using the play area by the pavilion during the day as the pre-school play area. It was agreed that the Council should be a facilitator rather than being more pro-actively involved, and the Councillor Harding should go away and investigate what is possible. The clerk warned that the biggest issue was finding staff.

24/8291 To note any agenda items for the next meeting

It was suggested that there should be a discussion on training in June, after the elections, and for next month, an update on speed watch and the Community Connect event.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10pm

Chairman's Signature