



Chairman: Rob Jones

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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 13th May 2024 in Charvil Village Hall at 8.40pm, after the Annual Meeting of the Council

Present Pat Sutlieff, Jane Hartley, Rob Jones, Matt Walker, Stephen Lucas, Lee Cripps, Katrin Harding, and Richard Bennett. Borough Councillor Wayne Smith was also in attendance as were the assistant clerk and media assistant

Apologies for Absence Narinder Ryatt and Isabelle Bray

Absent

24/8321 Open Forum

Three residents attend – one to listen and the other two, to talk about the need for activities for older children in the village. They asked whether there were any plans for more facilities for older children, and whether plans for a BMX track were progressing, and whether there was anything they could do to help move things forward. The Chair explained that the plan was expensive, and the Parish Council were struggling to find a suitable location. The one thing that the residents could do, was to help the Parish Council gauge the level of support for such a plan, or whether something else was the favoured option for this age group, and any suggestions for suitable locations would be helpful too. It was suggested that a good forum to raise this at would be the Community Connect event the following week. The Chair thanked them for raising this question.

24/8322 Declarations of Interest

There were no interests declared.

24/8323 To approve the Minutes of the Council Meeting of the 22nd April 2024

These were approved and signed.

24/8324 To note the Clerk's report

This was noted.

Finance

24/8325 To receive and approve the financial reports

It was noted that at this time of the year, it is difficult to see any emerging trends, but they were all in order and it was resolved to approve them, which was passed unanimously.

24/8326 Authorisation of Payments

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

£41.10 to the Assistant Clerk

£377.71 to Aquacare

2014

Chairman's Initials.....

Date.....

£1746.67 to Berkshire Pension Fund
£159.11 to British Gas
£5124.26 to Concept 17
£116.97 to Cathedral Leasing Ltd
£400 to Claire Connell
£3116.94 to Clear Councils Insurance
£7.54 to CU Lighting Ltd
£277.31 to Everflow
£115.84 to Grundon
£27.30 to Hoseforma Staging Ltd
£1190.40 to Infinity Playgrounds Ltd
£88.59 to the clerk
£44.95 to the Media Assistant
£337.69 to Networld Sports Ltd
£280.80 to Playsafety Limited
£600.58 to RES Systems Ltd
£243.89 to Smartest Energy
£15.66 to SSE Contracting Ltd
£1203.86 to Sunshine Commercial Services Ltd
£1263.72 to Tactical Facilities Management Ltd
£36 to Taurus Elite Security
£52.32 to Yu Energy
£4,823.64 in Payroll

24/8327 To note the Minutes of the Finance Committee on 29th April 2024

These were noted

24/8328 To note the end of year Bank reconciliation and final Asset Register

These were noted

24/8329 To note the final report from the internal auditor

This was noted

24/8330 To approve the insurance quote

It was resolved to approve the insurance quotation as recommended by the Finance Committee, which was approved unanimously.

24/8331 To review and approve the annual governance statements for 2023-24, and for the Chair to sign

The statements were reviewed, and it was resolved to approve them, which was passed unanimously, and the Chair then signed.

24/8332 To review and approve the Annual Financial Return for 2023-24, and supporting documents, and the Chair and Responsible Finance Officer to sign

The Annual Financial Return and supporting documents were reviewed by the Council, and it was resolved to approve them, which was done unanimously. The Chair and Responsible Finance Officer then signed them.

24/8333 To set a budget for the Community Connect Event

After some discussion, it was agreed to set a budget of £500 for the Community Connect event.

24/8334 To consider and approve the quotation from Concept 17 for the moisture resistant ceiling tiles

After some discussion, this was approved, but there was some disquiet that the Council should have to pay for the whole amount.

24/8335 To approve the Finance Committee's recommendation to move £20k to a one-year bond

It was resolved to approve this, which was passed unanimously

24/8336 Planning, Environment and Highways Committee (PEH)

The following Planning Applications were considered:

241076 Application for proposed erection of a single storey rear extension to include 2no roof lanterns (one in the new part of extension and one in the existing) following demolition of the existing rear canopy at 25, Gingells Farm Road - no Parish Council comment

241039 Application for a certificate of lawfulness for the proposed part garage conversion to create habitable accommodation with 1 no. rear facing dormer and 1 no. front facing rooflight into the existing roof, loft conversion to create habitable accommodation with 3 no. rear facing dormers, insertion of 3 no. rooflights to the front elevation at 9, Balme Close - no Parish Council comment

To consider the idea of pothole identification volunteers

Councillor Hartley had seen this idea in Oxfordshire, and wondered whether this had any potential here. It was accepted that it would probably not be possible as it does not fit the way the Borough Council operates.

24/8337 Amenities Committee

To consider and approve the purchase of new tennis court nets

This was approved.

24/8338 Borough Councillor's Report

Because of the election, there was no Borough Council report, but there was a discussion around the new dynamic of how things would work with three Borough Councillors. The clerk would arrange a meeting with all to discuss.

Items for Consideration

24/8339 To hear an update on the Neighbourhood Plan

Councillor Jones reported that progress over the last month has been slow because of the consultant's workload. We are waiting for the policies. The planned extra-ordinary meeting would probably not go ahead on 20th May, but the clerk will confirm.

24/8340 To hear how the planning for the Annual Parish Meeting is progressing and any final arrangements

The outgoing Chair has received some raffle prizes, and there are fourteen tables booked. It was agreed that, although it was very late in the day, the fete committee would be allowed to have a space. Everyone agreed to turn up at 6.30pm to put out the tables and refreshments. The clerk was requested to ask the staff whether they would help. Councillor Cripps would give out the raffle tickets, and Councillor Harding would oversee the refreshments. The catering would be for 50-60 people. Posters should be produced with information on each area, and one to add post-it notes to. There would be linktree QR codes to social media etc. Councillor Jones would invite the Horticultural Society.

24/8341 To note the update on social media

This was noted. There was some discussion as to how to gauge the views of youth, and how the Council should engage to get views of residents. It was suggested that the Community Connect event could help to raise the profile of our social media presence.

24/8342 To note the completion of the work on the sinkhole, to approve re-opening of the car park

The Council had not received anything from the Borough regarding safety, rather that they were satisfied with the repairs. The Leader of the Borough Council had stated on Facebook that he thought the car park was now safe to open, but this was not the formal reassurance that the Parish had requested. The clerk had discussed the issue of liability insurance, and the conclusion seems that providing the Council has put in reasonable checks and has a valid risk assessment, then it should be ok to open the car park. The issue of a disclaimer was discussed, but no firm conclusion was reached. The clerk was asked to write to the Chief Executive of the Borough to express the Parish's dissatisfaction with the whole process, and that if there are more holes, then the Parish will be held liable to repair them at its cost, which it regards as unfair. The decision was taken to re-open the car park despite the misgivings, provided the car park was checked regularly for any signs of degradation.

24/8343 To consider the CIL proposal for a walkway loop in Ashenbury Park

This proposal was discussed, and it was felt it would be hard to justify expenditure on this to residents when there are so many things to spend money on in Charvil, so the clerk was asked to tell the Council that it was not supportive of this plan.

24/8344 To note the ROSPA reports and consider the findings

The holes in the MUGA were pointed out, and the clerk will try to source somethings to fill them in. The small playpark has many problems, but these were anticipated, and the Council will work on getting the area refurbished.

24/8345 To note any agenda items for the next meeting

Items requested included reviewing the re-opening of the car park, communicating with Charvil youth and reviewing the Community Connect event.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.50pm

Chairman's Signature