
Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 15th June 2020 Via Zoom

Present Jim Gillett, Adrian Keward, Paul Mundy, Neil Jackson, Pat Sutlieff, Claire Andersen and Jane Hartley.

Apologies for Absence

Absent Roanna Collis

7441/20 Open Forum – No residents attended.

7442/20 Declarations of Interest – There were no declarations of interest

7443/20 Minutes of the Council Meeting of the 18th May 2020 –

These minutes were approved by Council.

FINANCE

7444/20 Finance Reports

It was resolved to approve these which was done unanimously.

7445/20 Authorisation of Payments

It was resolved that the Council should approve all the following outstanding payments for June, which was done unanimously, as well as the cost of the Book of Condolence (£345.40) and to transfer all but £85,000 from the Barclays Savings Account to the new Unity Bank Savings Account:

£6.56 to Grundon Waste Management Ltd
£400 to Claire Connell
£37.34 to British Gas Services Ltd
£550 to Garnet Hill Tree Services
£696.87 to Hampshire Association of Local Councils (for BALC)
£61.94 to Aquacare
£75.16 to the Clerk
£1010.92 to Sunshine Commercial Services Ltd
£131.72 to Bowak
£744.10 to HMRC
£69.93 to Dual Energy
£31.58 to SSE
£780.12 to Berkshire Pension Fund
£78 to Loddon Door Services
£10.40 to Village Warden
£1025.63 to Playground Facilities Ltd
£25.70 to Opus Energy Ltd
£2334.62 in payroll

7446/20 To retrospectively approve the felling of the storm damaged tree at St Patrick's Recreation Ground at a cost of £550

It was resolved to approve this which was done unanimously

7447/20 To hear an update on the preliminary work on the CIL project

Cllr. Mundy ran through where the working group are up to in terms of developing a business plan, how much it would cost to repay a Public Works Board Loan over 50 years, and what Council would like to add to a brief for potential architects. It was agreed to set up a separate meeting to discuss this in more detail.

7448/20 Planning, Environment and Highways Committee

There was no meeting this month. The following applications were considered:

200890 Application for the proposed erection of a two-storey side extension and single storey front porch extension at 58 Old Bath Road – as Councillors had neither studied the plans nor visited the site, a decision as to whether to comment would be made after the meeting *Clerk's Note: After examining the plans it was agreed to allow the clerk to respond as follows:*

Charvil Parish Council would like to object to this application for the following reasons:

- 1. Currently the property is chalet style common in Charvil. This proposal would mean losing any sense of the original building style, as the roof would be raised beyond the original roofline, and it would be out of keeping with the other extensions carried out on this stretch of the Old Bath Road. There is also no subservience to the existing building, which is again out of keeping with other nearby extensions. Moreover, it will create a massing effect in an area that has a largely spacious feel.*
- 2. The house is within a metre of the next-door dwelling (the boundary must be even closer), so to have a second floor added and extended to the rear so close to the boundary is inevitably going to have a negative impact on the neighbouring property to the west. The two-storey side extension will also impact negatively on the neighbouring property to the east. The two-storey rear extension will extend further back than either of the neighbouring properties, and this will inevitably affect the amount of light in their properties, particularly the dwelling to the west. As the rear extension is to the north, this will increase the negative impact on both dwellings. All of this is contrary to the Borough Design Guide.*
- 3. The plans show a flat roof over the single storey part of the rear extension, with balcony windows. This would mean an unacceptable loss of privacy to all the neighbouring properties.*
- 4. The materials suggested for the extension are out of keeping with the surrounding area, which is largely redbrick as was common in the post war development that makes up most of this part of Charvil. Again, this is contrary to the Borough Design Guide.*
- 5. Council is concerned at the loss of parking spaces, as all homes on this part of the Old Bath Road are blessed with large front gardens to allow for multiple vehicles, but by allowing the loss of some of this frontage to dwelling space, this will only allow for the regulation two spaces (there are three on the block plan but that seems ambitious), and increases the likelihood of on-street parking on a very busy road.*
- 6. With the loss of the garage, there is no alternative provision for such things as bike storage, and this is to be regretted in the current climate.*

Further to the Council's comments laid out in a previous submission, having seen the rear of the property, there are fresh concerns. Although the application form states that no trees or hedges will have to be pruned or removed to build the extension, there are a number of shrubby trees and a cooper beech that will either be within the area of the extension, or very close to it, and are likely to be damaged, if not removed, to allow the extension to be built. Also, there is a mature eucalyptus to the rear of the property, and given that the remaining garden is likely to be landscaped to compensate for the loss of the rest of the garden, Council has fears for this tree as well.

All are highly visible from the Old Bath Road and would be a significant loss to the street scene.

- 201269 Application for proposed garage conversion into habitable accommodation including the insertion of 3 roof lights, plus replacement of existing flat roof over garage with a flat roof at a higher level at 39, Chiltern Drive – no Parish Council comment
- 201314 Application for the proposed raising of the roof to create additional first floor accommodation, with the erection of two storey front/side extensions and a part single storey, part two storey rear extension, following demolition of existing garage at 11, Old Bath Road– as Councillors had neither studied the plans nor visited the site, a decision as to whether to comment would be made after the meeting *Clerk's Note: There were no comments made*
- 191788 Appeal against the refusal to allow the retrospective change of use from farm to light industrial use of the buildings at Newland Farm – The clerk would write a further letter of objection to this proposal as the Council was unaware of the extent of unlawful businesses operating from this site.
The issue of the proposed joint funding proposal for alleviating the effect of flooding on the Loddon has been deferred to July when the Officer in charge of this project at WBC can attend.

7449/20 Amenities Committee

The meetings of 8th June via Zoom were noted.

The discussion regarding tennis was noted and the position taken by the Amenities Committee on this matter was approved. The Chair has written to the tennis club and is now awaiting reply. It was agreed to advertise the family pass more widely, and with signs on the notice board at East Park Farm and on the gate. A plan is being formulated to bring the buildings back into operation when the Government gives the go-ahead. A football team is hiring the fields at East Park Farm for training in line with the current social distancing guidelines.

7450/20 Staffing Committee

The Minutes of a meeting on 1st June via Zoom were noted (a meeting held to replace the one postponed in March due to the beginning of the Lock down)

It was approved to buy presents for our two recently retired members of staff. Cllr. Sutlieff had found two people who could do cartoons and the Chairman was to take a picture of Roger so that a cartoon could be drawn. It was envisaged to present this once we can meet again – possibly at the re-arranged litter pick.

7451/20 Report from the Borough Councillor

There was no report in the absence of the Borough Councillor.

Items for Consideration

7452/20 To note the wildlife plans for Charvil Meadows in the autumn

These were noted and regarded as a good idea.

7453/20 To note the template for drawing up a plan for dealing with the climate emergency

At a recent clerks' meeting it was agreed that this did not really fit well with Parish Councils, and Councillors agreed. The clerk's representatives are going to report back to WBC that parishes need something simpler. Council supported this approach.

7454/20 To consider any A and B roads that Council would like to put forward for a change in the Speed Limit

It was resolved that Council would like the speed limit between Charvil and Twyford reduced to 30 MPH and the clerk was instructed to report this back to WBC.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.54pm

Chairman's Signature