
Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 18th May 2020 Via Zoom

Present Jim Gillett, Adrian Keward, Paul Mundy, Roanna Collis, Neil Jackson, Pat Sutlieff, Claire Andersen and Jane Hartley. Borough Councillor Emma Hobbs and the Amenities Manager also attended

Apologies for Absence Jo Akeju Clerk's note: the clerk since received notification of Jo Akeju's resignation from the Council

Absent

7424/20 Open Forum – No residents attended.

7425/20 Declarations of Interest – There were no declarations of interest

7426/20 Minutes of the Council Meeting of the 16th March 2020 – These minutes were approved by Council.

FINANCE

7427/20 Finance Reports

The Year-end figures including the balance sheet, asset register, final cashbook summary, final spend against budget and Annual Bank Reconciliation were approved by the Council unanimously. It was also resolved to approve the financial figures for April, which was done unanimously.

7428/20 Authorisation of Payments

It was resolved that the Council should approve all the following outstanding payments for both April and May, which was done unanimously:

£220.78 to Grundon Waste Management Ltd
£1925.87 to Came and Company Local Council Insurance
£72.38 to British Gas Services Ltd
£191.96 to HX Store
£159 to ADD Plumbing Solutions
£61.94 to Aquacare
£143.57 to the Clerk
£2870.63 to Sunshine Commercial Services Ltd
£739.20 to Assistant Clerk
£214.28 to Tivoli Group Ltd
£285.58 to Dual Energy
£61.24 to SSE
£1058 to Herald Graphics
£2160.33 to Berkshire Pension Fund
£35.63 to Everflow
£78 to Loddon Door Services
£1657.91 to HM Revenue and Customs
£84.25 to Village Warden
£108.46 to MKR Electrical Services Ltd
£20.34 to Contract Natural Gas
£78 to Binfield Electrical Services Ltd
£55.20 to OCS Group Ltd

£336.61 to Roger Burns
£1248.66 to Playground Facilities Ltd
£246 to Playsafety Ltd
£4529.54 in payroll

7429/20 To review and approve the Annual Governance Statements on the Annual Return

It was resolved to do this, which was passed unanimously.

7430/20 To approve the Annual Return for 2020 and to approve the process of the Responsible Finance Officer and Chairman to sign this outside of the meeting

It was resolved to approve the Annual Return, which, it was noted, was RESTATED in Income and Expenditure terms and to allow for the signing outside of the meeting, which was passed unanimously.

7431/20 To Note the final report from the internal auditor – This was noted.

7432/20 To note the Minutes of the Finance Meeting held on 30th April via Zoom

These were noted and approved – the Chair of Finance to sign later.

7433/20 To approve the recommendation to open accounts with the Unity Bank for day to day banking for the sake of Risk Management –

It was resolved to approve this change which was passed unanimously.

7434/20 To note that the new insurance policy specifically excludes any loss due to Covid-19

This was noted

7435/20 Planning, Environment and Highways Committee

The minutes of the meeting on 4th May via Zoom were noted. The Chair of the Committee ran through the major points, and it was particularly noted that drivers are now going faster on the Old Bath Road than previously with less traffic about. The following Planning Applications were considered:

202001 Application for the proposed installation of an Air Ventilation Column on land north of Norris Green – no Parish Council comment

201011 Application to changing existing panels to vertical Cedar Boarding at 43 Chiltern Drive – no Parish Council comment

The Enforcement issue on Beggars Hill Road was noted.

7436/20 Amenities Committee

There were no meetings in April or May. The issue of opening the tennis courts and car park was discussed now that Government guidance has changed to allow people to drive to exercise and to allow people to play tennis. It was resolved to open the car park and to allow the tennis club members to use one court at a time providing they book it first with the assistant clerk so that social distancing could be maintained, and to allow residents to purchase an annual pass but they too must book their slot with the assistant clerk, again to ensure social distancing could be maintained. *The Tennis Club have since informed the Parish Council that they do not wish to use the courts until restrictions are lifted further.*

A second issue for discussion was to plan how to re-open the buildings safely when the Government allows community buildings to open again. It was decided that this would be discussed further at the next Amenities meeting.

The ROSPA reports for the playgrounds and MUGA were noted. It was also noted that the repairs to the wet pour at St Patrick's Recreation Ground highlighted and approved last year had finally been done.

It was resolved to approve the repairs highlighted on this year's report at St Patrick's as some of them were reasonably high risk and it would seem like a good idea to get the work done while the playgrounds remain closed. This was approved unanimously.

It was also noted that repairs to the goalmouths at East Park Farm are due to be undertaken shortly.

7437/20 Report from the Borough Councillor

The Borough Councillor reported that all residents who had needed help had been helped. The funding for Grazeley from Central Government had been withdrawn because the restriction zone

around AWE had been extended to include a substantial part of the Grazeley site. Unless something changes, this will have serious implications for the Local Plan. No Planning Appeals can be held at the moment. Milestone Avenue is due to be resurfaced by the end of the month.

Items for Consideration

7438/20 To consider the preliminary stage for the CIL investment project and approve the development of a working party to develop this

Cllr Mundy gave a brief summary and it was agreed that Cllrs. Gillett, Hartley, Mundy, Andersen and Jackson would form the working party.

7439/20 To consider a request from the Wokingham United Charities Group for new members for its board now it covers the whole of the Borough

It was agreed Cllr. Hartley would be a representative.

7440/20 To consider how to move forward with an Annual Report to add to the website by the end of May

Cllr Mundy has completed his section, and Cllrs Keward, Hartley and Andersen will provide theirs before the Chairman writes an overview.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.41pm

Chairman's Signature