



Chairman: Matt Walker

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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 16th March 2026 in Charvil Village Hall at 8pm

Present Matt Walker, Lee Cripps, Katrin Harding, Pat Sutlieff, Jane Hartley, and Mark A'Bear. Alan Simpson attended for co-option

Apologies for Absence

Absent Narinder Ryatt and Stephen Lucas

26/8812 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Harding is part of the Borough Executive with responsibility for parks, and Councillor Cripps lives next to the site on Park Lane that is subject to a current planning application

26/8813 Open Forum

Two residents attended. One attended because he lives on the Old Bath Road and is interested in the speed limit consultation, and the other attended because he is concerned about the inaction on repairs to the multi-play unit at The Hawthorns Park.

26/8814 To co-opt Alan Simpson to the Council upon signing the necessary paperwork

Alan Simpson signed the paperwork and was duly co-opted.

26/8815 To approve the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting of 23rd February 2026

These were approved and signed.

To note the Clerk's report

This was noted.

Finance

26/8816 To receive and approve the financial reports

It was resolved to approve these which was passed unanimously.

26/8817 Authorisation of Payments

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

£36 to the Assistant Clerk

£1793.37 to Berkshire Pension Fund

£69.17 to Bowak Ltd

£70.47 to Grundon

£362.72 to the clerk

£36 to the Media Assistant

£45 to the Open Spaces Society

£443.14 to Smartest Energy

£84.70 to SSE Contracting Ltd

£1,321.85 to Sunshine Commercial Services Ltd
£1302.91 to Tactical Cleaning & Hygiene Services Ltd
£162.24 to Tactical Facilities Management Ltd
£15.70 to Unity Bank
£58.96 to Yu Energy
£5125.72 in Payroll

26/8818 To hear an update on the Strategic Plan

The chairman explained that there was a virtual meeting, and at this, there was a discussion around the strategy and how this aligns with the Neighbourhood Plan, and its various visions. Each item on the draft five-year plan/strategy document was prioritised, looking at the feasibility and what a realistic timeframe may be to achieve some of these. Some of the smaller items will be taken to the next Amenities meeting, but others will need some feasibility assessment, such as the Community Café. There needs to be a plan to build up reserves for large maintenance items. There will be a further meeting before Easter with a view to start to firm up the plan in time for adoption in May. It was noted that the topic of solar panels on the pavilion roof should be re-visited at the next meeting.

Planning, Environment and Highways Committee (PEH)

26/8819 To note the Minutes of 2nd March

These were noted.

To hear an update on Speed Watch

Councillor A'Bear reported that he has been communicating with PC Lee Turnham about the equipment, and Charvil is currently on the waiting list. Councillor A'Bear now has access as the co-ordinator of the Charvil group and now knows where the agreed speed watch locations are on A4 New Bath Road, Old Bath Road and Park View Drive South.

To consider the recommendations from the Committee regarding the Speed limit consultation from the Borough and to approve answers to the questions from the Highways department on the topic

It was agreed to take forward the suggestion to change the speed limit in all the residential streets to 20 mph, to have Lands End Lane and Beggars Hill Lane re-registered as quiet lanes. Also, the suggestion is to reduce the speed limit to 30 mph along the whole of Waingels Road, and reduce the speed limit on all of Park Lane to 20 mph. It was also agreed to support the reduction of the speed limit on A4 from the Piggott roundabout to Charvil to 40 mph, and to have the whole of the Old Bath Road from Twyford through to the Wee Waif roundabout as 30 mph after a long discussion and a vote 5 to 2.

To finalise the plans for Saturday's litter pick

It was confirmed that at least four councillors would be attending and that it is starting and finishing from the pavilion, and there would be refreshments.

To consider the following planning application

260257 Application for the proposed erection of first floor front extension and installation of a front dormer, plus erection of a part single part two storey rear extension, conversion of the garage to habitable accommodation and changes to fenestration at 92, Old Bath Road – no Parish Council comment

26/8820 Amenities Committee

To note the Minutes of the Amenities Committee on 9th March

These were noted.

To consider and approve the quote for a PRS/PPL Licence in the light of amended advice from the Performing Rights Society

It was resolved to approve this quote which was approved unanimously.

26/8821 Borough Councillor's Report

There was no report from either Councillors Akhtar or Smith, but Councillor Harding reported that the Borough's budget was passed, and the Council also approved the Charvil Neighbourhood Plan for Referendum which has been confirmed on 7th May. She also said that the bushes between River Court and Chiltern Drive could not be cut back due to an earlier bird nesting season than normal. She has also reported three dead deer and various potholes. She had a meeting with Bellway Homes regarding the reserved matters application, and they are working on a revised plan, which should provide some screening but not as much as in the outline plan from Hicks Developments, and that they were quite interested in the idea of a pump track or something for older children. She said that Bellway blamed Highways regulations on not being able to provide more parking, and they also discussed the possible footway between Canberra Lake Way and the new development. They were not very interested in discussing the crossing on Park Lane. The clerk mentioned that Bellway were offering a meeting with the Parish Council, and it was agreed that some councillors could attend depending on availability, apart from Councillor Cripps who is a resident of Canberra Lake Way, and Councillor Harding, who met them as a Borough Councillor. The clerk would arrange.

Items for Consideration

26/8822 To plan how best to promote the Referendum on 7th May

The clerk explained that there are quite strict rules around what can be advertised by the Parish Council. She explained that it is possible for a campaign group to be formed, and that they can claim expenses, but the Council did not feel this was necessary. It was agreed that a poster/leaflet would be agreed over the next week which promotes the referendum.

26/8823 To note the social media report for March

This was noted.

26/8824 To note any further steps in youth engagement

It was agreed that the Piggott sixth formers should be invited to be involved with the groups working on the feasibility studies for a community café and any other topics of interest in the strategic plan.

26/8825 To agree a final plan for the Community Connect/Annual Parish Meeting

It was agreed that the stands would either be those for Parish Council initiatives, or for groups such as the Fire Brigade, Police, our Charity Trustees, the Fete Committee, the flood warden, Charvil Heroes, and Public Protection Partnership. The event will run from 7.30-9.30pm, and the details of the structured part of the meeting will be approved at the April meeting. The Media assistant can help with the presentation if given enough time.

26/8826 To consider whether the Council should look to install more defibrillators in the village

Councillor Sutlieff has been in touch with the Wee Waif and the Texaco garage, and will contact the Heron, and, on Councillor Cripps' suggestion, Accord, to see whether there is any interest in having a defibrillator in these locations. The clerk mentioned the idea of putting bleed control kits in the defibrillator cabinets because stabbings are becoming increasingly common. Councillor Sutlieff will contact the relevant people in these locations and will report back in April.

26/8827 To hear an update on the broken equipment in The Hawthorns Park, and to agree that, if necessary, the Parish Council will work with the Borough to secure grant funding

The park specialist at Wokingham has put in an application with Tarmac for a grant to pay for the cost of the replacement equipment, and is waiting to hear back

– it is possible that the Parish Council may need to apply if the Borough is not eligible, and it was agreed that the clerk could assist if necessary. If no funding has been secured by the end of the financial year, the old equipment will be removed, and it was agreed that the Parish needs to keep pressure on the Borough to ensure efforts continue to find the necessary funds to replace the equipment.

26/8828 To note the outstanding action list and to hear any updates

The frequently asked questions for hirers will be written at the next Amenities Meeting, the marketing plan for the pavilion will be part of the strategic plan, street art will be removed from the list, and the committee structure will be discussed at the April meeting.

26/8829 To note any agenda items for the next meeting

Committee structure, a detailed plan for the Annual Parish Meeting, the Strategic Plan, Solar panels, defibrillators, the Hawthorns Park, and the food truck idea are requested to be on the next agenda.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.50pm

Chairman's Signature