

Meeting of Charlbury Town Council held on Tuesday 25th July 2017
at 7.30pm in the Corner House.

Members Present: Mr P Kenrick (Chairman), Mr P Morgan, Dr A Merry, Mr R Puttick, Mr V Hill, Mr R Prew, Ms N Ely, Mrs K Broughton, Mrs J Burroughs, Ms L Reason.

Apologies: Mr R N Potter, Mr R Fairhurst.

Prior to the meeting commencing, Mr J Clemence had asked to address Council. He pointed out that he is a director of Friends of the Evenlode Valley group. He went on to refer to two matters.

Rushy Bank. The planning consent has now been quashed and he asked that the Town Council support a request to WODC to re-consult on this application rather than take it forward again to committee probably in September. He said that changes to the original proposal had been made and that this might change the Council's view. This could be a precedent for future development.

Station Car Park. Extra parking need is important but the proposed expansion is excessive. He believed that this was driven more by budget availability rather than other reasons. The environmental impact will be fiercely opposed. He said that Cornbury is not making Rushy Bank land available for parking, evidence of need should be seen. The second storey to the existing parking was the best solution. It would be irrational to grant Rushy Bank when other needs are apparent. He went on to say that he had no confidence in the planning officers at WODC.

Following this address there was some disquiet in the public gallery in relation to factual accuracy and procedure for speaker notification. Agenda item for August to consider procedure. The Chairman then said that in view of the public present item 11 on the agenda would be brought forward to follow item 6.

1. To receive the minutes of the last meeting.

Mr Morgan proposed that the minutes be signed as a correct record, this being seconded by Dr Merry and agreed.

2. To deal with matters arising.

Little Lees land management. The Chairman and Clerk had met with Edes to discuss this further now that the Wychwood Project were no longer interested. A minute of the meeting will be sent.

20mph Limits. Meeting to be arranged.

Kate Sissons. Agenda item to discuss further, however the Chairman pointed out that despite the outcome there was a duty on Councillors to show respect to all parishioners attending meetings or otherwise. He apologised and said that he will expect better in future.

Mill Field Management. Plan in process of preparation with meetings planned. Deferred to September Meeting.

Future Elections. Topic for October working group.

3. Declaration of Interest.

There were none.

4. To sign orders for payment/receive report.

The Clerk had previously circulated a list of accounts to be paid and explained these to those present. Dr Merry proposed that the accounts be paid, this being seconded by Mrs Broughton and agreed. Accordingly cheques were signed by three Councillors.

5. To receive a report from the Planning Committee.

Mr Pierpoint of GWR had updated members at the meeting on 24th July in respect of developments to increase parking capacity at the rail station.

A number of possible options were under active consideration but as yet there had not been a firm decision taken. Issues of displaced parking around the Town, the possible assistance of GWR to resolve these and the environmental issues if the field to the left of the entrance were to be used were discussed. Mr Pierpoint is willing to engage with the Council and further reports will be made when available. A useful Q & A session followed.

The following plans were considered:

17/02003/FUL Sub division in to 2 units at Baywell House, Fawler Road.

1. Can pedestrian access to the town be improved in some way please, perhaps using adjacent land in a novel way?
2. Otherwise no objection.

17/02140/HHD Alterations and extension at the Old Coach House, The Slade.

1. We have no objection.

17/01893/FUL Erect 6 detached houses with garages and parking spaces, construct two driveways and new access at The Grange, Woodstock Road.

It was agreed that along with the following comments a copy of this Council's position statement on new housing be sent to WODC.

Application 17/01893/FUL The Grange Woodstock Road Charlbury

1. Please find attached the Charlbury Town Council position statement on new housing developments in Charlbury.

2. This points clearly to the need for genuinely affordable homes as a priority. This application represents yet a further high value development which fails to address this need.
3. We have significant concern at the introduction of a further access on to Woodstock Road. Recent approvals have already increased new accesses, despite this Council's expressed concerns and this road, as it leaves the "urbanised" area, tends to promote speeding traffic. It is narrow, bound by hedges and has multiple accesses with poor or non-existent visibility splays and has no footpath or pedestrian refuges.
4. For this reason we would request that consideration be given to the provision of a footpath from the current termination point opposite Stonesfield Lane to The Grange and beyond. This would provide safe pedestrian access to the town and its facilities and reduce the unnecessary use of cars. If land were to be acquired for this as part of the section 106 then all accesses on that side of the road could be realigned and made safer for all involved. We believe that the District Council can seek such a contribution as a planning obligation (ODPM circular 05/20050) and we ask that this be done.
5. An alternative might be to link the site to Woody Lane at least for pedestrian access.
6. Can this please go to committee and be the subject of a site visit to enable Members to understand the traffic issues and access issues described.
7. Can highway engineers be asked to give careful consideration to this application in terms of road safety and the advantage to be gained from constructing a footpath and in particular the proliferation of accesses on to this narrow and dangerous road.

6. To deal with Correspondence.

OCC. Speed monitoring, Spelsbury Road. (Resident request and financed) This has been arranged by the Clerk.

Liz Leffman. Meeting to review highway issues in Charlbury - Councillors happy to attend with issues raised to date.

Mr Clifford. Issues re housing proposals for Jeffersons Piece - noted and to be held for planning application process.

Jane and Ian Parsons. Corner House Open Event. Thanks for support noted.

Charlbury Day Centre. Thanks for grant noted.

R Courts. Notice for board agreed to place.

J Holah. Speedwatch - request for Council to purchase equipment. There was some discussion on the merits of borrowing equipment or other priorities for this expenditure from contingency. Mr Morgan proposed that the equipment be purchased from contingency funds, this being seconded by Mr Hill. **F 7, A 1, Abst. 1.** Clerk to arrange purchase (2035 + VAT).

Claire King. Station Manager will attend meeting on 21st August.

Soldiers of Oxfordshire. Grant request to November.

P Kenrick reported and exchange of emails with Dave Macalmont of Wilderness re issues - lorries, emergency contact etc. Traffic signage meeting to be held on Wednesday 26th. Mr Prew will attend.

11. To consider the Corner House Management/future use of library room.

The Clerk introduced the paper he had previously circulated relating to this matter, this included the governance document and a paper prepared in 2013 setting out the role of the management committee as trustees of the building and the Council's role as custodian trustee only. He went on to support the proposals advanced by Mrs Parsons to take the refurbishment needed further and the need for the trustees and new Chairman to 'settle in'.

Considerable discussion ensued with the following points emerging:

- a. The need to 'modernise' and correct the governing document, perhaps to a CIO.
- b. Costs to update the building could be in the region of £500k.
- c. Existing trustees are doing a good job.
- d. Improvements need to be made gradually in an affordable way.
- e. Are there ways in which the Town Council could help?
- f. Are there other ways charities can be managed.?

Following on from the discussion, Dr Merry proposed that the action plan prepared by Mrs Parsons be recommended to the trustees along with the need to consider the modernisation of the governing document when the Chairman and Clerk meet them (7th August). This being seconded by Mr Morgan. **F 9, A 0.**

7. To receive reports with reference to Charlbury.

a. County Councillor. A written report from Liz Leffman was read to those present.

b. District Councillor. Andy Graham reported on the following:

1. Bins and recycling changes.
2. Local Plan - hoped to be in place by December.
3. Publica - Limited company running WODC services.
4. Community Facilities Grants - under spent.
5. Shopmobility review.
6. Homelessness - statistics being researched.

8. To consider the Neighbourhood Forum.

The following points were made:

- a. A local housing needs survey has been commissioned.
- b. A conservation area assessment is being considered.
- c. Progress is being made on a draft plan for the end of 2017.
- d. A further locality grant has been received.
- e. The Community Action plan is progressing with lots of good ideas, some of which will require funding.
- f. Public awareness is improving via open meetings. Next one at Street Fair.

9. To receive a report on the litter bins at the Old Fire Station, Browns Lane.

The Clerk, Mr Prew and Mr Potter had met to look at the site again and to consider possibilities. The Clerk had met with the Ubico Representative to discuss these. A report had been circulated with recommendations.

Mr Morgan proposed that the recommendations be put to the trustees of the Memorial Hall for consideration (supported by the Council), this being seconded by Mr Prew. **F 8, Abst. 1.**

Clerk to pursue when agreement is reached.

10. To consider the August 5th Surgery.

Dr Merry and Mr Prew will attend.

12. Questions to the Chairman.

There were none.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.35pm.

Signed.....

Chairman