



CHARLBURY TOWN COUNCIL

Meeting of Charlbury Town Council held on Wednesday 27th July 2011 at 7.30pm in the Corner House.

Members Present: Mr R N Potter (Chairman), Mr. R Prew, Mr J Harrison, Mrs N Lethbridge, Mrs S Finch, Mr W Hackmann, Mr R James, Mrs H Bessemer-Clark, Mrs V Pakenham-Walsh, Mr G Miller and Ms L Reason

Apologies: Mr I Cox

Mr Simon Walker addressed Members as a member of the public and expressed a number of concerns in relation to the improvements at Charlbury Station resulting from the track dualling. His concerns were as follow:-

Footbridge size, ramps and colour
uncompleted steps

Safety concerns with pedestrians/vehicles mix in the Car Park when exiting ramp. He went on to ask that the Town Council take up the matter with FGW and Network Rail.

The Chairman thanked Mr Walker for his comments

The Chairman reported that he had attended the Oxfordshire Scouts AGM on 13th July.

1. To receive the minutes of the last meeting.

Subject to the following amendments to typo errors.

Page 4 objection

Dyers Hill Two meetings

Mr Hackmann proposed that the minutes be signed as a correct record this being seconded by Mr Harrison and agreed with 1 Abstention (not present).

2. To deal with matters arising.

Next surgery August 6th

Library Consultation Meeting held on 26th July with OCC, Friends and Council representatives. Consultation period ends in September and OCC wish to receive as many representations as possible in order to decide on the outcome of the consultation.

Station Mr Walkers written submission to be sent to FGW and Network Rail for comment. Council to consider response when available. The Town Council has previously supported this development and it has obtained consent from WODC planners. Meeting with Neil Owen and Ian Clarke required to consider highways issues around Town generally.

3. Declaration of Interest

Mr Harrison declared an interest in item 4 as a relative was a cheque recipient.

Mr Miller declared an interest in plan 11/1020 and consequently left the meeting when this was considered.

4. To sign orders for payment / receive report.

The accounts due for payment were circulated and explained by the Clerk together with reference to finances, balances and transfers required. Mr Hackmann proposed that the accounts be paid this being seconded by Mrs Bessemer-Clark and agreed nem con. Accordingly cheques were signed by three Councillors.

5. To receive a report from the Planning Committee.

Prior to plans being considered at the meeting on 25th July Mr Nick Ladd addressed Members on behalf of the Wilderness Festival. He outlined traffic plans, attendance numbers and the fact that the majority of tickets sold were for the whole weekend, thus reducing traffic movements. He undertook to provide a name and telephone number for any direct complaints to be made, if necessary.

NB Mr Westerman, WODC Planner, to attend the meeting on 22nd August to discuss solar panels and planning plus any other issues Councillors raise.

The following plans were considered:-

11/0929 Alterations to sub divide Larkfields, Woodstock Rd
(part retrospective)

1. We deplore retrospective applications
2. The party wall appears to have moved thus producing two properties of different sizes as apposed to the original equal split. This was unclear on the application form.
3. Otherwise no objection

11/1020 Change of use, barn to dwelling, Hopkins Yard, Market St.

1. The Town Council is supportive of concerns expressed by near neighbours.
2. It is considered that this application, without an indication of what might be proposed for the site, should change of use be granted, makes serious comment extremely difficult. However, the following points emerged for consideration.
 - a. The proposed change of use of the barn would yield a disproportionately large garden.
 - b. The current use of the buildings and land is not made entirely clear on the application. It is believed that up to 20 vehicles use the site for parking and that some or all of this is rented space (i.e. is this in fact a business). The displacement of such a large number of vehicles in the already congested heart of Charlbury would cause serious problems in the town centre and elsewhere in the Town. Parking facilities in the town centre are much needed and the loss of this facility would be regrettable.
 - c. The site needs to be visited by the committee to appreciate the situation which is difficult to gauge from the plans and information supplied in the application. Such a visit would highlight the inevitable overlooking problems for neighbours on three sides.

- d. There are serious concerns that any consent for this site would set a precedent for further development at this location.
 - e. The existing access road is not of sufficient width for current requirements/ standards and access for larger builders vehicles. The access to market Street is sub standard with inadequate sight lines.
 - f. The garden area on the site is apparently let separately to the garages/parking spaces.
 - g. It is believed that connection to the main sewer in Market Street would be problematic or not possible
3. We object to this proposal

11/1106

1107

Alterations to window/door openings at the Old Bank House Market St.

- 1. We have no objection

Planning Results

The following results were noted:-

11/0523

0524

Alterations, remove existing single storey extension and replace with new two storey extension at Heathfield Cottage Browns Lane.

Permitted

11/0732

Remove existing garage and conservatory. Erect single and two storey extensions and new detached garage (to allow repositioning of garage and new landing window) at 1 Falcon Villas, Hundley Way

Permitted

11/0740

Insert photovoltaic solar panels to rear elevation at Linden Cottage Dyers Hill

Permitted

11/0750

Convert part of garage to home/office utility room at 14 Wychwood Close.

Permitted

11/0760

Loft conversion, alterations etc at 9 Sheep Street

Permitted

11/0761

New shower/toilet block at Cotswold Village Homes Spelsbury Road

Permitted

6. To deal with Correspondence.

WODC

2012 Parish and Town elections. Briefing sessions for Clerks noted.

OCC Community Covenant. Charlbury Town Council to support this OCC initiative on a proposal from Mr Prew seconded Mrs Lethbridge and agreed.

OCC Visit from Area Manager, Fire Service. Agreed for September Planning meeting at 7.30pm

OCC Proposed Parking restrictions, Dyers Hill. The Clerk explained the proposal which had been discussed on site and agreed with residents. Some concerns were expressed at the possible displacement of parked cars to other problematic areas of the Town. The Clerk explained that this scheme was in OCC's programme and others were not. Once this scheme was in place OCC could be approached to review parking restriction across the remainder of the Town.

Mr Prew proposed the scheme be supported this being seconded by Mrs Finch and agreed.

OCC Closure of Dean Pit.

The reply to this Councils objection to the closure was read but considered to be unsatisfactory. Why close a site when an alternative is not available within reasonable travelling distance.

Day Centre Finances Clerk to seek clarification on when OCC will decide this matter to enable grant discussions to be taken in Nov/Dec if needed.

OCC Boundary for constituencies

The proposal for the Charlbury Ward Councillor to be supported on a proposal from Mr Prew seconded Mrs Bessemer-Clark Agreed with 2 Abstentions

Mr Woolley Quote of £400 for tree works at Mill Field agreed on a proposal from Mr Prew seconded Mr Hackmann

Royal British Legion Laying of wreath at Remembrance Service. Mrs Lethbridge will lay Councils wreath.

7. To receive reports with reference to Charlbury

a The County Councillor Neil Owen reported as follows

Library Consultation. Local meeting went well. Need to clearly identify volunteer base.

Dean Pit OCC not yielding but WODC are considering a possible facility at Greystones, Chipping Norton.

Winter Maintenance Proceeding with plans. Clerk to be informed of those by OCC in due course

Boundary Review. Supported

b. District Councillors Glenna Chadwick reported as follows :-

Dean Pit Part of a group which presented a petition to retain Dean Pit to OCC with 2000 signatures. Misinformed at cost of £1m to close the facility. Alternative at Greystones being explored by WODC.

Recycling collections. May Gurney, the WODC contractor currently co-mingling recycling until three new vehicles arrive to meet demand. Recycling rates have doubled.

Hywell Davis reported as follows:

Recycling All plastic will now be collected. WODC seeking to charge Street Fair for street cleaning he is trying to get Charity events a free pass.

Radon Tests kits being provided free in West Oxon.

8. To consider affordable housing

Nothing further to report at present

9. To consider the appointment of a trustee of the Gifford Charity

The Town Council appoints three trustees to the Charity and one, Mr W Hackmann wishes to stand down.

Mr J Clemence, who is well qualified to assume the role has volunteered his services.

Mr Prew proposed that Mr Clemence serve the remainder of Mr Hackmanns term of office as a trustee this being seconded by Mrs Finch and agreed nem con

10. To receive dates of meetings 2011/12

The dates were agreed on a proposal from Mr Hackmann seconded Mr James

11. To consider a proposed grant application pack

A proposed scheme outlining the requirements of section 137 had been circulated for consideration.

The following points were made:-

Ad-hoc grants would not be subject to this process due to the small sum in the budget for this, £500 in total.

Need to widely publicise the procedure change

Use of electronic submission. Are these acceptable

Need to re-title front sheet.

Subject to minor typo-graphical amendments the proposed application pack was approved on a proposal from M/s Reason seconded Mrs Finch.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.52pm.