

Minutes of an Extra-ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 8th April 2024 in Charvil Village Hall at 7.30pm

Present Pat Sutlieff, Jane Hartley, Isabelle Bray, Rob Jones, Lee Cripps, Stephen Lucas, and Katrin Harding

Apologies for Absence

Absent Matt Walker and Narinder Ryatt

24/8291 Open Forum

The assistant clerk attended.

24/8292 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

24/8293 To consider and approve the risk assessment for the East Park Farm car park

After some discussion that the risk assessment seemed overly cautious, the majority view was that the Parish Council must err on the side of caution, particularly while the work is ongoing, and that it would be unsafe to open before the works are completed. The next question was around the assessment of risk around re-opening once the repairs are complete, and this was more of a problem, but it was ultimately agreed to approve the risk assessment, so that the Council needs to have clear, written advice from the Borough that it is safe to open the car park again, and that there needs to be some cover going forwards to mitigate any further risk of sink holes, be it insurance or some other agreed method.

By virtue of the confidential nature of the business to be contracted the press and public were excluded from the remainder of the meeting under Section 2 of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960

24/8294 To consider the recent communications regarding the repair of the sinkhole, and to decide how best to ensure the council can be confident in a safe and long-lasting repair

The general feeling was that the Parish Council had not been treated as an equal partner with the Borough on this issue; it had not been given any idea as to the specification and requirement of the contractors; there had been no written report beyond the survey map and drainage report; it had not been invited to any meetings with the contractors and/or consultants; and there had been no

explanation as to the possible cause of the hole. The Councillors were particularly concerned that any Council representative had been told they could not speak with either the contractors or consultants, and that all communication would be verbal.

It was agreed that the clerk would write to Sarah Morgan to explain the Council's concerns, and that it was uncomfortable with the level of information it had received and would need something in writing to state explicitly that the car park is safe to open once the works have been completed.

Going forwards, the Council needs to understand the position on insurance, and if it is impossible to insure, then it would be preferable to write the car park out of the lease. It was also decided to ask whether the Parish Council could be present at future meetings.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.10pm

Chairman's Signature