

CHANDLER'S FORD PARISH COUNCIL

7.00 PM 28 SEPTEMBER 2015 KENT ROOM, VELMORE CENTRE, FALKLAND ROAD,

CHANDLER'S FORD

COUNCILLORS PRESENT: Councillor Atkinson (Chairman), Councillors, Aubry, Boyes, Bull, Cox, Duguid, Foulds, Grajewski, Hughes, Jolly, Johnson, Leslie and Simmonds.

In Attendance: Duncan Murray (Parish Clerk), Sukey Spurlock (Assistant Clerk), PCSOs Ian Nicholson and Sam..., Loraine Radford and Declan Kelly from EBC.

Public Participation

There was one member of the public present, Borough Councillor Olson.

588 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman welcomed all present back from the summer break.

Since the last meeting she had attended a PACT meeting held at the Fryern Pavilion where residents are able to share any local concerns they may have with the police. It was a useful meeting and as ever inconsiderate parking is a key issue. She has confirmed that CFPC will continue to work with the police on this and will ensure that 'Please Park Politely' cards will be provided for the PCSOs to use in our area.

She was also pleased to report that the refurbishment of the children's play areas in the Parish was largely completed, and the feedback we received from residents was that they are delighted with the improvements made.

She also reported that the new piece of equipment planned for the Fryern children's play area 'The Core' was due to be fitted that week, and the refurbishment of the tennis courts Hiltingbury recreation grounds is also due to start shortly both subject to the contractor's 'variables'.

She was also pleased to report that the Parish Office was receiving significant enquiries into the hiring of new facilities of the Fryern Pavilion and that bookings were well ahead of expectations.

A reminder was given to Members that if they wish to publish reports on matters relating to Parish Council business they must clear their article with the Parish Clerk first.

589 APOLOGIES

These were received from Councillor Bicknell, Broadhurst and Luffman. Councillors Pragnell and Scott were not present.

590 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None were declared.

591 COMMUNITY SAFETY UPDATE

PCSO Ian Nicholson reported to Members that the summer had been relatively quiet with the main issue being the theft of garden equipment from sheds. He also reported that the Junior PCSO project had been going well and that the Community Speedwatch programme had been active with 1 or 2 sessions a week on average. He also reported that the parking issues were at the forefront of their mind with schools being targeted and a few warning letters being sent out. Members were invited to ask questions which encompassed Kings Road near the school, to which a response about the park and stride incentive from the King Rufus starting after half-term was made. Traders' vehicles carelessly parking was mentioned and also no-cold-calling zones. The considerate parking cards and Members putting them under windscreens was discussed along with the risk assessment of such action. Also caravans parked on the highway was mentioned, it was agreed that clarification would be forwarded to Members on this matter.

592 TO RECEIVE A PRESENTATION FROM LORAIN RADFORD AND DECLAN KELLY ON THE COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME CONSULTATION BY EASTLEIGH BOROUGH COUNCIL AND TO DISCUSS AND AGREE A RESPONSE TO THE CONSULTATION.

The Chairman welcomed the EBC officers and gave them the floor.

Lorraine Radford explained about the difficult times that were coming and that the consultation was being undertaken before any decisions were taken. Members were then briefed on the Council Tax Support Scheme and how local schemes need consultation, the tight timescale with the requirement for schemes to be set by 31 January, and that only 2 responses had been received so far.

It was reported that Council Tax Benefit can be up to 100% giving full funding. The proposed Council Tax Reduction Schemes being put forward would only affect those of working age.

The technical aspects of the Council Tax Reduction Scheme options were gone through including top and bottom 'slicing', increasing non-dependent deductions, band restrictions, lowered capital limits or tapering of such limits.

It was pointed out that the Precept charged by EBC and CFPC accounted for about 13% of the overall Council Tax charge, and that if the Council Tax Reduction Scheme produced savings of £300,000 the net benefit to EBC would be approximately £39,000. If there were no changes external impacts would increase the costs by £50-70,000.

There were eight options that were being considered and out for consultation. These were:

1. Remove family premium for new claims (in line with Housing Benefit);
2. Limit the backdating of new claims to 4 weeks (in line with HB);

3. Use the minimum living wage for self-employed claimants after the first 12 months (in line with the Universal Credit);
4. Reduce the earnings disregard to £5 p/w single and £10 p/w couple;
5. Reduce the capital limit from £16,000 to £6,000 for all cases;
6. Introduce two levels of non-dependent deductions £4 p/w for non-workers or those earning under £189 p/w and £12 p/w/ for those earning above £189 p/w;
7. Take child maintenance payments into consideration for claimants; and
8. Restrict the maximum level of support to a Band D (average) where claimants were resident in higher banded properties.

Other options were to increase Council Tax by ½% to 1%, reduce/cut other services or use reserves, which would need to be rebuilt later.

It was reiterated that no decisions had been made as yet and that these were the scheme proposals for 2016/17.

Members asked questions of the Borough Council's Officers on the presentation and the options.

The Chairman thanked Loraine Radford and Declan Kelly for attending the meeting and doing the presentation and moved to the debate.

After a few comments by Members it was agreed that the first question should be as to whether or not the Parish Council should give a response as it was felt it was an issue of a more personal nature than one a body corporate should perhaps comment on.

It was therefore proposed by Cllr Atkinson and seconded by Cllr Grajewski that a vote be taken on whether the Council should respond or not. The votes for a Council response were nil and the vote for no Council response was unanimous. It was therefore AGREED not to respond as a Council to the consultation.

593 TO APPROVE/ACCEPT MINUTES OF MEETINGS:

The Clerk commented on a couple of errata that had appeared in the minutes' pack in that a Policy and Finance set of minutes that had already been agreed had been caught up in the photocopying appearing after page 5 of the Full Council minutes of 27 July. Also that the Agenda item 6(d) should read 14 September rather than 13 July. Other errata had been corrected on the packs and in the final version of minutes for signing.

Following appropriate proposal and seconding on each item:

- a) The minutes of meeting of the Parish Council held on 27 July 2015 were

AGREED on a show of hands.

- b) The minutes of the Planning Licensing and Highways Committee of 2 September 2015 were AGREED on a show of hands.
- c) The minutes of the Asset Management Committee of 7 September 2015, were questioned by Cllr Leslie as she was not at the previous meeting of 10 August she commented that it could not have 'AGREED by all' on minute point 3. The 'by all' was removed and on a show of hands they were AGREED. On a show of hands the minutes of the Asset Management Committee of 10 August 2015 previously agreed by that committee were ACCEPTED.

It was commented that the signs on the tennis court were causing confusion as the contractors hadn't started yet. It was agreed to clarify the new start date.

- d) The minutes of the Policy and Finance Committee of 14 September 2015, to note resolutions, the financial reports, and to ratify the payments agreed by that committee these were also AGREED on a show of hands.

594 MEMBERS QUESTIONS (NONE SUBMITTED FOR THE AGENDA)

595 TO AGREE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

There were no recommendations to agree.

596 TO DISCUSS AND AGREE INITIATING THE REQUIRED STAGES FOR THE MAKING OF A TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER TO RESTRICT THE PERIOD OF PARKING AT THE FRYERN AND HILTINGBURY RECREATION GROUND CAR PARKS – DEFERRED UNTIL 9 NOVEMBER DUE TO ON-GOING CONSULTATION.

This was deferred until 9 November due to ongoing stakeholder consultation.

597 TO NOTE THE DRAFT MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2016 AND THAT MEMBERS NEED TO RESPOND TO THE CLERK BY 16 OCTOBER 2015 IF THERE ARE ANY OVERRIDING REASONS FOR A PROPOSED MEETING DATE TO BE CHANGED.

The dates were noted.

That being all the business the meeting closed at 8.42 p.m.

Date and place of next meeting: 9 November 2015 Dovetail Centre, Winchester Road, Chandler's Ford at 7.00pm.

Chairman.....