

CHARLWOOD PARISH COUNCIL

Serving the communities of Charlwood, Hookwood and Norwood Hill

www.charlwoodparishcouncil.gov.uk

e-mail: clerk@charlwoodparishcouncil.gov.uk

Draft Minutes of Extraordinary General Meeting held on 26th June 2020 at 4pm to consider the sale of land at Brickfield Lane

Venue	Meeting held remotely via Zoom
Attending	Penny Shoubridge (PS), Carolyn Evans (CE), Nick Hague (NH), James O'Neill (JON), Richard Parker (RP), Lisa Scott (LS), Trevor Stacey (TS).
Clerk	Trevor Haylett
Also Attending	Various members of the public
Item	
1	(1/2606/20) Apologies – Howard Pearson
2	(2/2606/20) Declaration of Interest – Lisa Scott declared an Interest, based on the fact that she had made an offer for the land but after the deadline for Final and Sealed bids had passed.
3	(3/2606/20) To Update on the sale of Brickfield Lane following Monday's deadline for sealed and final offers - Penny Shoubridge explained that two offers had arrived before the deadline.
4	<p>(4/2606/20) Public Questions/Comments – Ben Duffy (BD) said he was aware that an offer had come in from overseas but he questioned how they could maintain the land living so far away. He added that he had indicated they would better any other offer by £1,000.</p> <p>John Daly (JD) asked whether the intention was to choose between the two offers and was told that it was.</p> <p>Trevor Stacey said that the Parish Council had received offers previously in excess of what was now on the table and wondered what was happening. He asked if any collusion was going on. The Clerk replied that he was straying into difficult waters and that that conversation was best dealt with in a confidential session.</p> <p>BD denied any collusion had taken place. The Clerk asked him why they had offered £30,000 after Mrs Sheppard had had an offer of £25,000 accepted by the PC but now their offer had come down to £20,000. Carla Duffy (CD) asked why that offer of £30,000 had not been accepted by the PC but the Clerk replied that they couldn't accept that offer only two days after accepting Mrs Sheppard's offer of £25,000. The advice to the PC was it then had to go to a system of Final and Sealed bids.</p> <p>CD said that they had been given information by members of the Parish Council as had other residents and PS said that Councillors should not have divulged information that had been given in a confidential session. She said Councillors should stand up and admit they had shared information that should not have been shared.</p> <p>CD said they had to have that land and asked the PC to name their price. The Clerk pointed out that their latest offer was £x but they also said they would better any other offer by £1,000 so £x was not their final offer which was the idea of a Final and Sealed bid process.</p>

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	<p>Carole Evans said that the Duffys would protect the turning circle and wondered what would happen if someone else bought the land. She did not believe Councillors appreciated what a hazard Brickfield Lane would be without the turning circle.</p> <p>JD added that he hoped it would not come down to a difference of a couple of thousand pounds and added in that case that he hoped weight would be given to local resident and local interests.</p> <p>BD added that he knew the PC had other projects that they wanted to finance and if it was disadvantaged by not accepting the best offer for the land then they would be happy to make up the difference.</p>
5	<p>(5/2606/20) To Decide Whether to take the Main Business on the Agenda in a confidential session – PS moved that item 6 <u>To Discuss The Various Offers</u> be taken in a confidential session for the following reasons: a) The matters under discussion might be of a commercially sensitive nature; b) the PC might be in danger of flouting GDPR regulations; c) the Councillors needed to discuss the matter without coming under pressure or influence from members of the public. CE seconded the motion and it was approved.</p>

The meeting closed at 4:26pm