



Parish Council Matters

*Newsletter of Finmere Parish Council
MKB25: May 2010*

Annual Parish Meeting: 25 May

You are invited to the Annual Parish Meeting to be held in the Village Hall on Tuesday 25 May 2010, starting at 7.30 pm. It will follow the same pattern as in the past, with all village organisations invited to present a summary of their activities over the past year and, as ever, the annual State of the Nation message from Chairman Mike Kerford-Byrnes. Then we will open up the meeting to discuss any issues that you may care to raise. An agenda will be posted soon on the village notice boards.

Your New Parish Council

Mike Kerford-Byrnes (Chairman) Tel 847033
Katherine Grimston (Vice-Chairman) 848364
Barbara Cunningham Tel 847992
Michael Kirby Tel 847025
Kevin Ochel Tel 848707
Adrian Wood Tel 848896
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Village Cleanup – the Unpleasant Aftermath

Recently we carried out the annual village cleanup, collecting up the items of rubbish that had arrived in the past twelve months. In past years this has included road signs, tyres, a fire extinguisher and various cans and fast food containers. This year was different. The most abundant rubbish was dog mess.

Not only was it left in its original form, all over the village, but we also found a large amount in a ditch along the old Banbury Road, wrapped up in plastic bags. It had obviously been thrown there over a period of time and clearing it was a particularly nauseating task. It seemed ridiculous that some owner, or owners, will go to the effort of bagging it but then cannot be bothered to bin it.

Unwrapped dog mess was also found in the playing field. This is more worrying, since it is close to the children's play area (where a dog bin is provided). Dog mess can and does harbour unpleasant diseases easily picked up by the young.

Some time ago, the Parish Council provided two dog bins, one in Mere Road and one on the playing field. We arrange for Cherwell District Council to empty these on a regular basis. Following on

from the village cleanup, the Parish Council has agreed to provide a third, at the western end of the village, and to request all villagers to behave as responsibly as do the majority.

Within the Parish Council, we can do very little more. But we do take this very seriously. If the fouling persists, we will notify the relevant authorities, who are empowered to prosecute the owners of offending dogs. This can result in substantial fines. Hopefully our actions and requests for responsible behaviour will be heeded, and we will not have to escalate the problem. Finmere is a delightful village, enjoyed by its residents and those who visit. It is a shame that a lack of thoughtfulness by a few can ruin it for so many.

So please bag it and bin it.

Antisocial Behaviour

Unfortunately, the pleasant environment of Finmere is being adversely affected by the activities of a small number of young people. Their antisocial behaviour includes deliberately kicking footballs at houses and cars, damaging gardens, cycling across private property and generally making life miserable for residents. While as a Parish Council we are pleased to encourage children to play, we take this sort of behaviour very seriously. It is simply not acceptable that a small number of individuals can cause significant distress and annoyance to residents of our village. We would ask that parents consider the impact of their children's behaviour upon their neighbours. As a Parish Council we are liaising closely with the Police, and we will continue to monitor this problem.