

FINMERE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held on 6th April 2010 in Fimmere Village Hall

Present:- Councillors, Mike Kerford-Byrnes (Chairman) (MKB), Katherine Grimston (Vice-Chairman) (KG), Barbara Cunningham (BC), Kevin Ochel (KO) and Dr Adrian Wood (AW)

In attendance:- Sharron Chalcraft (Parish Clerk) (SC), Ian Macpherson (Treasurer) (IM) and 1 member of the public

1. Apologies:-No apologies were received

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of 1st March were circulated and approved.

3. COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

This was postponed as Cllr Fulljames was unable to be present.

4. MATTERS ARISING

4.01 **Moss on Roadway** c/f

4.02 **Freedom of Information** c/f

4.03 **Village Noticeboards** c/f

4.04 **PC Website** Corrected copies of the August minutes are to be sent to SC by MKB and BC. Paul Nash, website administrator, has requested that all councillors send a profile with photo and brief description of themselves.

4.05 **Verge Clearance** BC has pointed out to John Donaldson, grass cutting contractor, that the verges at the entrance to the village and along the old Banbury Rd are not cut widely enough. Many residents have cleared their verges in response to comments in the newsletter and these can now be cut. BC suggests that the village spring clean could also target that area and remove any remaining debris; MKB is to bring his trailer for removal of this material. John Donaldson is to charge £20 more per cut for this extra strip, this is felt to be reasonable.

4.06 **Christmas Lights** These have now been taken down but unfortunately MKB discovered that one strip has broken. MKB is to ask Phillip Rushforth, Village Hall Committee, about getting this strip mended; if this is not possible then it will be disposed of and a replacement will be looked into.

- 4.07 **Grit Bins** The contractors have agreed to the siting of the bins, with a slight change to the placing of the bin in Mere Rd. These will not now be delivered until August. Bob Adams, OCC Highways, is to become Area Stewards manager as opposed to OCC Highways manager. This may mean more funding becomes available.
- 4.08 **Local Transport Plan 3 Consultation** SC has resent the email.
- 4.09 **Kings Lodge Development** Nothing further has been heard on this matter. A track has been cut to the front, presumably for the water supply. Nothing more can be done at present.
- 4.10 **Diamond Jubilee** The school has not replied yet, c/f.
- 4.11 **Tony How** MKB wrote and checked with Ruth How about this tribute, she was very touched.
- 4.12 **Oxford Brookes University request** This has been placed.
- 4.13 **Mayor of Bicester's Charity Golf Day** The poster has been put up.
- 4.14 **PA bungalow appeal** SC was unable to scan the letter. It transpires that PA have appealed before against the tied tenancy arrangement and lost.
- 4.15 **Draft Core Strategy Consultation** MKB attended this meeting, it was well run. It was established that the number of houses cannot alter, if they do not go in one place they must be reallocated to another. SC obtained further copies of supporting literature.
- 4.16 **ORCC Centenary book** MKB did not submit an entry for Finmere as nothing applied.
- 4.17 **Spring Clean** The form has been submitted, the hall booked and the article placed in the newsletter.
- 4.18 **Quorate planning application decision** SC has notified CDC of the confirmation of PC views by a quorate meeting.
- 4.19 **Playing Field** BC suggests that the PC should place TPO's on the trees if they are not to be included in the land bought by the PC. Legal advice is to be taken on how to administer leased land. TPO's will be applied to all trees planted as memorials if this is felt necessary.
- 4.20 **Letter of apology** This having been sent it is felt best to make a formal minute that in future when replying to planning applications councillors must ensure that all comments they repeat are anonymous.
- 4.21 **Greensleeves** AW has kept an eye on this development. The removal of the trees and hedge has been of benefit.
- 4.22 **Newsletter** This has been distributed.

5. FINANCIAL REPORT

It was reported that there was £215.02 in the Treasurer Account, £3,404.62 in the Business Money Manager Account and £25,000 in the Deposit Bond.

The following had been paid out:

£73.24 to Sharron Chalcraft (administration and running costs)

£471.32 to NFU Mutual for insurance (running costs)

£1,645.00 to Village Hall Management Committee for equipment (S137)

The following had been transferred:

£25,024.66 from Deposit Bond

£25,000.00 to Deposit Bond

£2,100.00 from Money Manager

The statement for the year was presented. Reductions in interest have resulted in a loss of approx £1,000 in income. The figures do not include some £300 in VAT repayments that is due to the PC. These figures are to be perused by everyone and reviewed at next months meeting. The insurance on the playing field is now due, it is agreed unanimously that this should be renewed.

6. S19/137

The PCC have submitted a letter requesting assistance with the restoration of the church clock. £600 has been raised and spent so far but a complete overhaul is needed. Other grants have been applied for. The PC is sympathetic but suggests that the PCC wait for the determination of the other grant applications so that a specific figure can be requested.

7. FINMERE LANDFILL SITE UPDATE

MKB attended the bungalow appeal inquiry. He was surprised at the level of questioning by the Inspector. Premier Aggregates admitted to not adhering to the agricultural use restrictions on the property and to the fact that the current residents are not employees. The result of this inquiry should be released by mid May.

There has been a problem with odour recently. RPS, the generator operators, only visit on weekdays, not at weekends. The weekends are the worst times for odour. The EA has still to install monitoring equipment. This needs mains electricity. It will be placed at the edge of a field and the cable run into one of MKB's outbuildings, he is prepared to donate the required supply. There has been very little activity recently at the landfill site.

8. HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT BUILDINGS LIST COMPILATION

A copy of the current list is read out, more buildings are suggested. SC is to update and circulate the list.

9. ISSUES OF QUORACY

MKB has been speaking with James Doble, Head of Democratic Services at CDC. He is very pleased that we have addressed this issue. A motion needs to be carried at a quorate meeting and this needs to be minuted. The motion is an Urgent Business Motion. The audit trail for decisions means that they must be minuted at the next PC meeting.

The following motion is put to the quorate meeting:

URGENT BUSINESS

Where a decision is required before the next meeting of the Council, or if there is insufficient time for an extraordinary meeting to be called, decisions shall be taken by the Chairman in consultation with the Parish Clerk. In all cases the clerk will ensure that details of the decision will be circulated to all members of the Council within seven days and reported to the next appropriate meeting and recorded in the minutes.

Wherever possible, the Chairman and/or Parish Clerk will contact all members of the Council to canvas views prior to a decision being taken.

If the Chairman is unavailable as a result of absence or ineligibility, the Vice Chairman shall deputise.

Proposed – KO, seconded – AW, carried unanimously.

10. ELECTION AND DATES OF ANNUAL MAY MEETINGS

MKB knows that Mike Kirby, a villager, is sending in a form, other blank forms are being held at MKB's house as SC lives out of the village. If the election is uncontested, ie seven applicants or less, then the annual meeting of the PC will be held on May 11th. Appointment of officers will be carried out. The annual village meeting will then be held on May 25th. If the election is contested then the annual meeting of the PC will be held on June 1st and the annual village meeting on June 8th. SC is to notify Phillip Rushforth, village hall committee.

11. GRASS AREA BY CROSS TREE PILLAR BOX

Many villagers are anxious about the damage to the grass verge around the pillar box, caused by people driving up to the box to avoid leaving their cars. Turning the box through 90 degrees would solve this problem but it is felt that permission should be sought first. SC is to contact the Post Office.

12. YEW TREE MOTOR WORKS CHANGE OF USE

Since Yew Tree Motor Works have leased out their forecourt the focus has been on car sales. This has led to cars being parked on the road, both staff cars and cars for sale with prices in the windows. This has made the section of road dangerous for pedestrians and also means that John Donaldson cannot properly cut the grass verge. Captains Lane has also been

blocked on occasion. It is not certain who it is best to approach, CDC planning, OCC highways or Trading Standards. SC is to talk to Bob Adams.

13. CORRESPONDENCE

OPFA feedback form – to be passed to Phillip Rushforth by SC

OALC subscription form – proposed KG, seconded AW, carried unanimously - given to IM

Dog bin invoice – given to IM

Unmetered supply certificate – to be filed

RBL appeal – unable to donate as not covered by S137, SC to write and explain

Standards Committee letter – SC is to notify standards of the July and September meeting dates so that a visit can be arranged

CPRE letter on High Speed Two (proposed high speed rail link) – taken by MKB

Solicitors letter on playing field progress – a letter has been received from John Welch and Stammers to say that the solicitors for Mixbury Trust confirm that the Trustee's application for registration has been made to the Land Registry and they hope to receive completed title shortly.

Tingewick PC email – the PC have given courtesy notification of an application to build more garages at Little Tingewick House, this is not a problem for Finmere residents.

CPRE update – this has been forwarded to all councillors

Local transport plan 3 – a newsletter email has been forwarded to all councillors.

“Dog Food Factory” email – Tingewick PC have been advised by a prospective resident that there are plans to build a dog food factory in Finmere. MKB has exhaustively researched this and found no evidence of any such plans.

14. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

09/01812/F – Land S of The Mere/N of Heatherstone Lodge, Banbury Rd – permission refused

Application to continue without compliance with conditions – Finmere Quarry – addition of flue stack to MRF – to be determined as a County matter

As the flue needs to be enlarged the drawing is now incorrect. The permission is for the specific drawing and so conditions need to be varied to allow the flue to be built. This flue is for ventilation and poses no problem. No objection.

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Speaking to the Press Following the events surrounding the announcement of the new HS2 high speed rail link plans, when MKB was interviewed on tv and in the press, BC raises the matter of the propriety of speaking with the press as a councillor. The question asked is why did the Chairman give interviews to the press and media before contacting other councillors for their input? MKB answers that he did not approach the press; rather they contacted him as a known point of contact in Finmere. He did not give an interview in his capacity as Chairman of the Parish Council, indeed the BBC referred to him simply as a villager. BC still feels that villagers will identify him with the PC and that therefore his views will be regarded as the PC's views. KG points out that the press often misquote and distort any information given and this could be very serious if people were misled into thinking this was an official view. MKB points out that he sent the press to interview James Ogier in Warren Farm as someone much more affected by the plans, he also gave contacts in Newton Purcell which is also a badly affected spot. AW proposes that to prevent a recurrence we do not talk to the press about anything, BC seconds this. MKB feels that this could be counterproductive, there has been a good relationship with the press in the past over such matters as the quarry enquiry. AW suggests that an agenda item for the May meeting should be how to interact with the press.

Bulbs These are now springing up and giving a great boost to the appearance of the village.

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting is set as Tuesday May 11th 2010 or Tuesday May 25th 2010, depending on the election agenda.

The meeting closed at 21.50.

CORRESPONDENCE CIRCULATED

Fieldwork April 2010

ORCC pamphlet

Upper Heyford Base Planning Forum letters

Glasdon leaflets

Rospa play safety leaflet

Rekk.co.uk leaflet

Fitzpatrick Woolmer leaflet

Park Leisure brochure

Clerks and Councils Direct January 2010

CPRE Branch meeting letter

Home 2 School Spring 2010

The Playing Field Winter 2010

Poppy Press Spring 2010