

FINMERE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held on 1st March 2010 in Finmere Village Hall

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

In attendance:- Sharron Chalcraft (Parish Clerk) (SC), Ian Macpherson (Treasurer) (IM) and 2 members of the public

1. Apologies:- Apologies were received from County Councillor Catherine Fulljames and Councillor Kevin Ochel. Ian Macpherson, Treasurer, apologised for unavoidable late attendance

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of 2nd February were circulated and approved.

3. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

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

4. MATTERS ARISING

4.1 **Moss on Roadway** c/f

4.2 **Freedom of Information** c/f

4.3 **Village Noticeboards** c/f

4.4 **Re-assignment of Website Responsibilities** SC has forwarded the minutes since September 2009 to AW for formatting as pdf files and forwarding to Paul Nash, website administrator. The minutes for August were corrected at the September meeting, at which SC was not present. Notes on these corrections were not kept and SC has asked councillors for their recollections on this matter. MKB and BC both hold corrected copies of these minutes, annotated at the time and will forward to SC so that the official minutes can be corrected and sent to the website also.

4.5 **Verge Clearance** BC has had no success this year in securing a work party, a somewhat thankless task. At the next meeting with the relevant bodies she will attempt to secure one for next year.

4.6 **Christmas Lights** These are still in place, due partly to bad weather and also to ill health. MKB has the appropriate equipment and will take them down at the earliest opportunity.

- 4.7 **Village Hall Replacement Doors** These have now been fitted and Phillip Rushforth, Village Hall Management Committee and present at the meeting, is making sure that the invoices are with IM in time for the year end. BC queries why these could not be replaced by an insurance claim following the burglary. Phillip Rushforth confirms that no insurance claim could be made as the condition of the doors was not sufficiently secure to meet the insurance requirements.
- 4.8 **Parish Remuneration Panel Report** SC has posted receipt of this on the village noticeboards.
- 4.9 **Local Validation Checklist Review** This has been looked at, no comments have been made.
- 4.10 **Grit Bins** There have been no further developments, c/f.
- 4.11 **Parish Speed Meeting** This went well. At least ten parishes sent representatives to the meeting. The awkwardness of obtaining and placing a speed data recorder was discussed. Speed is an issue at Cherwell strategic level. The Area Superintendent of Cherwell Police is on board and is pleased with the level of cooperation between parishes. Things are progressing slowly.
- 4.12 **OPFA Services Form** Returned by SC.
- 4.13 **Bicester Town Mayors Concert** Poster displayed by SC.
- 4.14 **Local Transport Plan 3 Consultation** BC has not received the email, SC to resend.
- 4.15 **Disturbance at Village Hall** SC has reported this to Roger Fiander, Neighbourhood Watch.
- 4.16 **Kings Lodge Development** Nothing has been heard on this matter, c/f.

5. FINANCIAL REPORT

It was reported that there was £353.16 in the Treasurer Account, £5,503.80 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)

£32.00 to OPFA (membership – running costs)

£66.69 to Paul Nash (website advice - S142)

IM reports that Stoy Hayward, external auditors, have provided more information on appropriate designation of local government legislation on expenditure. Criteria for inclusion under S142 and S145 are now clearer and IM will make use of them in future. IM asks if Vic Tofts, internal auditor, is to be used again by the PC. Proposed – KG, seconded – BC, carried unanimously. The deposit bond is also due for renewal in mid March, given the news on progress on the field (see AOB) it is felt that a 3 month period of investment, at 0.4% will be the best option. Proposed – KG, seconded – BC, carried unanimously. The public liability insurance renewal is also due. NFU Mutual are offering a discount for their centenary year,

with a premium of £477.21 for the year. Proposed – MKB, seconded – BC, carried unanimously.

6. S19/137

This fund has been fully utilised for this year.

7. FINMERE LANDFILL SITE UPDATE

There has been an odour problem, both 10 days and 4 days ago this was particularly severe. MKB has registered a complaint, this has been logged. The reason has been given that as cells 8 and 9 have been uncapped for work on them the degasification plant has to be turned off first, causing an odour problem. Detectors may be deployed in the village in a month or two. Information has been received from James Irvine, OCC, on the requested MRF planning amendment. Limited waste is being taken in at the moment.

8. HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT BUILDINGS LIST COMPILATION

BC suggests the Old School House. The Mere, Westbury Cottage, The Stone House and Falcons Hethe House are also worthy of inclusion. It is felt that SC should also include Bacons House and Finmere House on the proposed list, even though these buildings are already listed buildings.

9. DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

MKB has been asking villagers, particularly those with children, what celebrations they would like to see in the village. It is felt that the PC should encourage rather than organise these celebrations. Certainly the school should be involved and BC suggests that the newsletter should carry an article. MKB feels that the young should be involved, KG points out that the older generation will also want to take part. We really need a councillor to run with this, KG agrees to speak to the school.

10. ISSUES OF QUORACY

MKB has been speaking to Democratic Services at CDC about the problem of shortage of councillors and the consequent occurrence of non-quorate meetings. The PC can adopt procedures to cope with these situations. A full meeting of the PC can agree to delegate powers so that a non-quorate body can act. MKB is willing to run with sorting this out. This should be an agenda item in April.

11. TONY HOW

Tony How, a villager for many years, passed away last month. Several villagers have spoken to MKB about the possibility of a memorial of some sort as Tony How had worked so very

hard for the village over the years. Acting as a Trustee for the Poores Plot and serving for many years on the playing fields committee were just some of his commitments. BC points out that the play area in the playing field already has a plaque which bears his name. It is felt best not to set a precedent by placing an additional memorial; this could cause problems at a later date when other worthies of the village pass away. With the possible exception of adding dates of birth and death to the play area plate it is thought that the best course is to include a tribute article in the next newsletter. MKB is to draft this article.

12. CORRESPONDENCE

Oxford Brookes University Alumni search request – we are to place an article in the next newsletter – given to IM

Mayor of Bicester's Charity Golf Day – SC is to place the poster up in the village

News of date of appeal on PA bungalow – SC to forward copy of letter to all

Draft Core Strategy Consultation – MKB to attend the workshop, SC to find out which applies to Finmere – a number of houses to be shared between Finmere, Fringford, Milcombe and Wroxton – SC to obtain further copies of supporting literature.

ORCC centenary celebration book inclusion form – taken by MKB

Spring Clean form – it is decided to hold this popular event on Saturday 17 April from 10am till 12 noon, meeting at the village hall. SC to return form. MKB to write article for newsletter. MKB's address given for delivery and collection on Fri 9th and Monday 19th.

Thames Valley Air Ambulance recycling email – this was forwarded to the Village Hall Management Committee, Phillip Rushforth, Committee member and present at the meeting, explains that a clothing recycling facility may be sited at the village hall.

CPRE vote for the countryside email – this has been forwarded for individual comments

Democracy Day Invite, March 3rd 9.30 – 3.30 in Oxford, St Aldates – no one able to attend

13. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

09/01812/F – Land South of The Mere/North of Heatherstone Lodge, Banbury Rd – Build 3 x 4 bedroom detached dwellings with garages, amenities and access arrangements

At this point MKB declares a prejudicial interest and leaves the room. KG as Vice Chairman takes the Chair.

KG and AW appraise BC of the discussions at the last meeting and the plans are reviewed. It is agreed that the quorate meeting wishes to uphold the comments submitted. SC is to notify CDC planning.

MKB then returns to chair the meeting.

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Playing Field MKB has been contacted by Hugh Smith, Trustee of Mixbury Trust. They are to meet, along with Rev Hargraves, Chairman of Mixbury Trust, on Monday March 8th at 4pm at the playing field to discuss the division of the land and which part would be bought by the PC for the village. The land divisions are then to be registered and purchase should soon be able to proceed. Solicitors are already asking for documentation so things are definitely underway.

Letter of apology AW has again been approached about this matter of names being mentioned in a planning comment and MKB confirms that he has drafted and sent a letter of apology to the villagers concerned

Greensleeves AW has been asked by a villager to make sure that the PC keeps an eye on this development. Fencing has appeared on land which does not fall within the curtilage and possible encroachment onto the verge is a concern. AW to keep an eye when passing.

Newsletter This needs to be produced by March 26th. There must be an article on the village spring clean – MKB, an article on litter dumping in the village – KG has already delivered this to IM, an obituary for Tony How – MKB and the Oxford Brookes alumni article – IM. There is also to be a mention of the election – MKB (councillors are to consider before the next meeting whether they will wish to carry on and stand for election). There will also be a mention of the Diamond Jubilee celebrations – MKB and an article about the playing field progress if appropriate – MKB.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting is set as Tuesday April 6th 2010.

The meeting closed at 21.41.

CORRESPONDENCE CIRCULATED

NSPCC appeal brochure

Marshalls permeable paving brochure

Synthetic surfacing leaflet

OPFA membership sheet

Energy Saving Trust green communities leaflet