

FINMERE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held on 3rd November 2009 in Finmere Village Hall

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

In attendance:- Sharron Chalcraft (Parish Clerk) (SC) and Ian Macpherson (Treasurer) (IM)

1. Apologies:- Apologies were received from Cllr Craig Robertson

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of 6th October were circulated and approved.

3. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Planning permission for an incinerator at Ardley has been refused by committee, against recommendation. The planning and bidding systems run parallel, resulting in a preferred supplier without permission to build. Viridor, with the Ardley site, will almost certainly appeal. OCC are having to look at serious cuts in their budget for next February. The four applications for the quarry were up for decision, through delegation, and have been refused. The chairman of planning OCC and CF reviewed the delegated decision and upheld and confirmed it. PA has six months to appeal the rejected applications. OCC have advised that they apply for a change of conditions but this will not allow recycling any earlier. Cllr Michael Gibbard is currently away, MKB points out that he has been invited to our next meeting, December 1st; he will also hopefully give us an update on the Finmere House situation at that meeting. CF asked if the new drains were proving satisfactory. It was confirmed that there had been no problems so far and that a map of what was actually put in underground is to be provided shortly.

4. MATTERS ARISING

1. **Moss on Roadway** SC has been in touch with Bob Adams, OCC Highways, and confirmed that this is on the current to do list.
2. **Freedom of Information** c/f
3. **Mixbury Trust** The trust now have a solicitor, following Chairman Hugh Smith's enacting the complaints procedure. The trust meets in early November. At this point Christobel Hargraves, the new incumbent, will become Chairman. Hugh Smith is to continue to orchestrate the sale of the field. MKB has approached Michael Clifton of John Welch and Stammers, Witney. He was recommended by Richard Goodladd, OCC, as an expert on ecclesiastical law. We are awaiting a reply, MKB is to talk to him tomorrow and find out costs.

4. **Local Transport** Barry Wood, district councillor, has emailed back to BC about the bus she followed. It is possible this was a one off trip for a local organisation such as a Derby and Joan Club. This should be an additional rather than a replacement service. We need to test the service out and see whether it is working for Finmere. Newton Purcell did this, a man booked the service to try it and it took him to Bicester and brought him back successfully. It is agreed we do need to test the service but the fact is that users need to pay for it; the bus is free if you qualify. We will leave this for now and concentrate our efforts on the X5.
5. **Village Noticeboards** MKB has cut around the boards. BC asks KG if the bushes could be cut back further. KG points out that there are some problems with children entering the field through gaps if they are cut back too drastically.
6. **Playing Field Works** BC points out that the prunings from the field are piled by the dog bin, as she is not here on Friday or Saturday someone needs to put them onto the bonfire. MKB confirms that he will do this.
7. **Flares Information** KO has not been able to visit PA and get a proper look at the flares they are using. The quarry liaison meeting is on December 16th. KO will try and check and provide information before then.
8. **Scrutiny Committee and Finmere House** MKB has invited Cllr Gibbard. This is to be an agenda item for December.
9. **Parish Liaison Meeting** BC cannot attend, KG and KO can.
10. **Letter from Tony How** SC has written a reply. A new gate has now been fitted anyway. MKB is shocked about the state of the road surface between Valley Rd and Bacons House. It is decided to keep the roadside posts in Valley Rd. SC is to notify Tony How of the decision.
11. **Phonebook** SC has written to BT CEO but received no reply.
12. **District Councillor's Report** MKB has spoken to District Councillor Barry Wood, he would prefer to be requested occasionally to speak or to request to speak himself if the need arises.
13. **Memorial Wreath** This has been ordered by SC and has arrived. The donation request has also come. It is decided unanimously to donate £100 this year.
14. **Speed Sign** SC has contacted Barry Buckingham, CDC, about the sign base. Unfortunately it looks as though it may be damaged. There will be a delay of several months if it is unusable but a sign is to be brought over shortly to try it out. SC is to remind Barry Buckingham if nothing is heard by mid November.

5. FINANCIAL REPORT

It was reported that there was £446.50 in the Treasurer Account, £7,002.69 in the Business Money Manager Account and £25,000 in the Deposit Bond.

The following had been paid out:

£200.00 to Mixbury Charity Trustees for playing field rental

£245.00 to John Donaldson for grass cutting

£87.19 to Sharron Chalcraft (administration and running costs)

£8.69 to e.on for running costs, electricity

A letter has been received from e.on regarding unmetered connections. The PC need to fill in a certificate for our street light. It is explained that some years ago a new speed sign was placed in the village and the PC agreed to fund a light on the side of the old Kings Head pub, near the new speed sign as it was felt to be in the interest of villagers to have this well lit. This was then replaced after the demolishing of the Kings Head. It currently costs £8.50 per quarter, a fixed charge for an unmetered connection. BC asks who approved the light fitting and when, SC to check the minutes. AW to fill in certificate for light.

6. S19/137

The bulbs will be a cost for next month; and the speed sign for next year.

7. FINMERE LANDFILL SITE AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE UPDATES

There has been no reply to OCC about an appeal yet. The marker posts proposal has been circulated and agreed to. The surface water scheme has not been returned yet. There is still one condition outstanding so PA cannot proceed yet. KO surprised that EA are happy for water to get into the waste during all this time. They will need to pump the leachate away eventually; any extra water penetration exacerbates the problem. They will have to treat on site or tanker away, either option is expensive. This should be raised at the next quarry liaison meeting. BC suggests that we raise this matter with Dr Brighty, EA, before the next meeting. There is no leachate treatment system on the site. MKB is to raise this with Dr Brighty. The problem is made worse by the recent heavy rainfall. KO is to help with the wording of any approach to Dr Brighty or at the liaison meeting. SC is to talk to her husband Gordon, who works in water treatment.

8. VACANCY FOR PARISH COUNCILLOR

SC and MKB have checked with CDC about the rules of appointing a councillor. If no candidate is found before December, ie: within 6 months of the next general election, then the PC can choose to leave the space vacant until the election. Until then all efforts must be made to find a candidate. Councillors are to cast around for possibilities, any candidate must be willing to be present at meetings and have input to the PC. Paul Nash may possibly be interested.

9. RE-ASSIGNMENT OF COUNCILLOR RESPONSIBILITIES

Neighbourhood Watch – Roger Fiander, former councillor, is to carry on with this duty.

Website – this is to be taken on by AW

Buses – these are to be taken on by BC

Noticeboards – KO is to follow up this job, with help from MKB and his petrol driven auger

10. BUILDING WORK IN LITTLE TINGEWICK

BC feels that is not appropriate for the PC to enquire about building works not in the village. Certainly SC concurs that the planning application details that have been sent by Tingewick PC have no bearing on any Finmere villagers, being to do with the building of garages on the Tingewick side of the houses. However the enquiry had been made and the subject placed on the agenda as Roger Fiander had requested this, prior to his resignation, having himself been contacted by a concerned villager. The area of concern is the works in the fields off Mere Lane. Any problem with drainage or traffic on this unadopted road will affect villagers. BC points out that the field is now being re-turfed and it is decided that the works causing concern are probably only to do with the placing of the new driveway entrance to the gate at the bottom of Mere Lane which works were detailed on the original planning application some 3 years ago. SC is to email RF and the concerned villager and reassure them but is also to ask Tingewick PC for a heads up of any future planning which may affect Mere Lane.

11. RESTORATION OF VILLAGE CLOCK

The PCC have been given a quote of no more than £3,000 + VAT. The recent Race Night fundraiser brought in £600. Pete Lepper is currently looking at available grants. IM gives info to AW about TOE. He advises AW to approach them first.

12. CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE

This is scheduled for December 11th. People are needed to read the lessons and it is traditional that a councillor reads one. MKB is happy to do so, as last year.

13. CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

MKB is to invite Beryl and Fred Tew to turn on the lights, with the new Rector as standby. These are to go up on December 5th, a Saturday. AW/KO/MKB agree to take on the task. Details are to be confirmed at the next meeting. This is to be an agenda item, with Phillips notes being gone through.

14. CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER

This is to cover the switching on of the lights, stating that village worthies will turn them on as we have to get the newsletter out quickly and the Tews may not have confirmed by then. MKB is to write this. There is to be an article on flytipping, covering both general waste and grass clippings, written by KG. IM is to write about the Christmas carol service. BC is to write an article about the Christmas card delivery service, confirming a cut off date. AW is to write about the church clock restoration. MKB to write about the PA applications. All copy to be with IM by November 29th for production on the 30th. BC is to email Christobel's email address to IM.

15. CORRESPONDENCE

Parish Liason Meeting - attendees to confirm arrangements with MKB by Monday 9th December.

CPRE membership request – unanimously vote to pay £29 annual subscription

Oxfordshire Association for Blind donation request – refused (not covered in S137)

Dog bin invoice – given to IM

OCC notice of changes to subsidised bus service – taken by BC

Planning application for Wilburs Barn – taken by KO

Planning application for 1 Chinalls Close – taken by KG and KO. This answers some questions about a worrying scale of excavation at 1 Chinalls Close. CDC are coming to inspect shortly anyway.

Parish oil buying letter – no action

Banbury Canal development consultation – any comments can be made individually

Parish Governance Toolkit – email to be forwarded to councillors

Minutes Layout – BC has suggested numbering the items in matters arising as 4.1, 4.2 etc. There was a proposal by a former councillor some time ago to use the system in place in Tingewick whereby every item gets an individual number and the matters arising list those numbers for reference. This is to be an agenda item for next meeting.

RF's request to still be emailed the minutes – refused as inappropriate

Energy saving article for website – refused

Legal and democratic services – Ethical Framework Customer Survey – SC to fill in most as usual but to forward some questions to councillors for comment

16. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

09/01096/F – Foxley, Banbury Rd – single storey side extension – permission subject to conditions

17. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Chinalls Close Excavation MKB has been dealing with CDC about this following villager concerns about the large amount of excavation and the possible slippage of the remaining overhang. He is to hand over any correspondence to KG and KO as they are visiting on the planning application.

Squirrels Drive This has caused some concern as it constitutes another access onto Mere Lane. MKB is to walk Mere Lane and have a look.

Sewage The current level of smell is terrible. MKB is to advise SC as to who to write to and how to couch our complaint.

Grass Cutting No complaints about the cut have been received this month. BC offers to request that the Probation Service provide a work force under the ‘Community Payback’ Offender Scheme to clear the fallen branches and dumped garden waste in the old Banbury Rd. This would enable John Donaldson, grass cutting contractor, to cut further back and hopefully put people off tipping in the future. This service is normally free and the PC agree that it would be a great idea. BC is to try and facilitate.

Allotments There have been reports of men with clipboards appearing on the allotments and missing produce. KG points out that any problems should be reported to the police.

18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting is set as Tuesday December 1st 2009 in the village hall at 7.30 pm.

The meeting closed at 10.18 pm.

CORRESPONDENCE CIRCULATED

Littlethorpe Bus Shelter leaflets

The Playing Field Autumn 2009 x 2

Oxfordshire Road Casualty Report 2008

NHS Oxfordshire Health News Issue 3 2009

Clerks and Councils Direct September 2009

Countryside Voice Autumn 2009