

FINMERE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held on 6th October 2009 in Finmere 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) and one member of the public

1. Apologies:- Apologies were received from Cllr's Roger Fiander and Craig Robertson and Ian Macpherson (Treasurer)

2. MINUTES

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

3. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

This item was carried forward as Cllr Fulljames was unable to be present.

4. MATTERS ARISING

1. **Moss on Roadway** It is decided to check if this has been cleared and chase this up.
2. **Footpath Subsidence** BC states that she has looked at the subsidence and it does not seem too bad, it is decided to leave the matter for now.
3. **Drainage Works in Fulwell Road** Gordon Hunt, OCC Highways, is to provide us with an 'as built' map showing all works, we will then have more details about which pipes were replaced or re-laid.
4. **Freedom of Information** c/f
5. **Development Control Planning Meeting** AW was able to attend the meeting and obtained the available documentation. There have been a lot of changes, there is now much more scope to carry out works without needing planning consent. The meeting was quite informal and many discovered that they had actually carried out works themselves that in the past should have been covered by planning permissions.
6. **Mixbury Trust** Richard Goodladd, OCC, is still looking for a suitable solicitor for the PC. Hugh Smith, Chair of Mixbury Trust, has been very unwell and no news has come from the Trust's solicitors. Hugh Smith is now in the process of complaining about the delay. If the PC finds a solicitor we can get both solicitors to deal direct with each other.
7. **Website** c/f as RF not present.
8. **Local Transport** BC followed a dial-a-ride bus past Buckingham and toward Milton Keynes last week. It was full and definitely one of the scheme buses. She has rung to

ask which route it was on but has heard nothing back yet. Certainly there are people in Finmere who would have been glad to take advantage of this service.

9. **Calvert Incinerator** MKB attended the meeting on the 10th of September at Buckingham. Bucks CC decided to go with using the proposed incinerator in Bedfordshire. One of the reasons Bedfordshire are happy to take this site is that it will produce power for a 3,000 home development nearby, both gas and hot water. The amounts of waste used to justify this incinerator are based on out of date and therefore too large assessments. KO points out that new technology will soon be coming on line.
10. **Village Noticeboards** The hedge around the Valley Rd notice board is becoming very overgrown and people are cutting their hands on it. MKB is to cut it back.
11. **OCC Incinerator Meeting** MKB attended this meeting. Viridor were chosen as the preferred supplier, this choice being based on a value for money assessment which compared the cost of the supplier with the cost of the council doing nothing and therefore paying the resultant fines. Viridor presented a saving of 5%, BWG presented an increased cost of 19%. This matter is now to go before the Scrutiny Committee.
12. **Foxley Fields Bungalow** BC presented the PC's concerns about this application to CDC. Amazingly the smell arising from PA's mismanagement was quoted as a reason for moving the bungalow!
13. **Playing Field Works** BC has pruned the necessary tree branches.

5. FINANCIAL REPORT

It was reported that there was £970.64 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 in:
£2,500 from CDC, parish precept

The following had been paid out:
£138.00 to Stoy Hayward for external audit
£325.00 to John Donaldson for grass cutting
£70.45 to Sharron Chalcraft (administration and running costs)

The following had been transferred:
£2,000.00 to the Money Manager Account
£25,000.00 to the Deposit Bond
£25,025.21 from the Deposit Bond

6. S19/137

KG raised the matter of replacement daffodil bulbs for the Cross Tree area. SC is to check whether CDC still gives out bulbs to PC's. If not SC is to liaise with KG with regard to the Parker Bulbs website which provides bulbs at discount to councils.

KG also raised the matter of the village clock. The possible cost of this is not yet known, though it may well be in the region of £1,500. Some £640 has been raised already by various

activities. AW is to talk with the PCC about the amount and this is to be an agenda item for November.

SC has received a letter from Sue Ryder Hospice in Nettlebed asking for a donation but it is not felt that the service provided by this particular institution actually benefits the villagers of Finmere.

7. FINMERE LANDFILL SITE AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE UPDATES

MKB met with OCC and it was decided that there was no point in the PC trying to make an individual planning application till the four present applications had been decided so this idea is on hold at the moment.

BC gave a report on the last Quarry Liaison Meeting. Premier Aggregates reported that the site is still closed, still for sale and still with no offers to purchase. The ragwort has been sprayed three times and is due to be sprayed again. Cells 1 and 2 have been top soiled and grassed; this was seeded on 21st September. The marker posts will all have crosses at the top and be placed at the northern boundary. PA asked if these were necessary as they are not visible from the village but the PC pointed out that they are very necessary for the EA and also that many villagers walk their dogs beside the site and would be able to see the posts. The surface water report was submitted in June, the EA had some issues with it and it has now been re-submitted. The top soil report was submitted on September 7th and the aftercare report has also been submitted. The external and wheel cleaning application was alright. The newts will be trapped and removed from site in October. Clay extraction is up to date. There is nothing to report on the MRF. Power is now being delivered but there is a problem with the flares. They keep going out in a change of wind direction and then need restarting manually. They are checked at irregular intervals and there is no warning that they have gone out. This can cause a smell to be created. KO is surprised by this. All power generating engines can fail but they usually disconnect from and then reconnect to the grid. Flares should not be affected by wind. These flares sound very crude. Most flares have a UV detector so that they stop the machine if the flare goes out. KO is to give information on flares to MKB and BC for the next quarry liaison meeting. The EA have some fairly high specs for flares now.

The bungalow planning application was refused on the 10th of September but PA may appeal. Options A and C have been delegated so there will be no meeting on the 19th. The challenge to enforcement is due to be heard on Dec 1st. PA say OCC are stonewalling over costs. The result of the first enquiry has now gone to the High Court. This is all to do with the sequence of restoration which has now been thrown out by EA anyway.

There will be a leachate management plan by next year. The CVA is to continue until at least December 2009. In order to come out of the CVA PA will need to have the money to afford it. Shelswell are dragging their heels on an agreement for tax reasons. Extraction and backfilling with inert waste is due to happen at Shelswell. There is not enough inert waste around. The landfill tax will not go up until 2011.

There have been several complaints of odour, probably due to the flares going out. The 2 monthly and quarterly checks are continuing. There is talk of a data logger being placed in the village. The height and water run-off have to be established, then PA can start work, they will give 2 weeks notice before they start.

The PC asked about the current low level of activity. By the end of October, start of November activity will start, the PC asked for a warning. They also asked if PA had anything further up their sleeve, given the events following the last liaison meeting. Richard Ashken, PA, said no. There is a possibility however that the odour control in the MRF may change its shape. The meeting closed after 1 hour, at 2pm.

MKB explained that the four applications had been delegated. This is usually done when either the permission is obvious and indisputable or, at the other extreme, refusal is the only sensible course. The applications were all rejected at 5.45pm this evening. MKB asks that councillors should not discuss this refusal outside the meeting yet, giving the news time to get out first. The reasons given were that even though the mound is ugly these proposals would make it uglier, and a large quantity of unprocessed waste would be required, twice as much as for the current application. PA have stated that they will appeal. Restoration will be delayed by this, this is unacceptable. Ideas have been put forward for the restoration of the new holes which will be produced by the new planning permissions. It is possible that they will be flooded and used as a public amenity.

8. DISCUSSION OF PARISH COUNCIL COMPOSITION

MKB explained that RF had offered to resign as he is to be working abroad until at least the New Year and is unable to fulfil any council duties. All councillors will be up for re-election in May of next year and MKB asks if the PC want to accept RF's resignation and try to replace him or struggle on with only 6 councillors. MKB could check if this is permissible. It is felt that the best course would be to accept RF's resignation and try to replace him if possible. SC is to put posters advertising the vacancy around the village. Any prospective candidates are to have it made clear to them that they will only be co-opted until May 2010. The reassignment of RF's responsibilities is to be an agenda item for November.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

MKB has had a letter from Katherine Fox, granddaughter of Ron Wakelin of Lark Rise who was educated at Finmere School. She enquires about progress on Finmere House. Cllr Michael Gibbard attended a PC meeting some months ago and said he would be happy to return. He has updated the Scrutiny Committee in September, should we invite him in November. It is decided to invite him, MKB to do this. KO has seen around the house in the company of a contractor and says that even the internal floors are now not safe.

Use of road safety teams mobile information unit offer letter – to be given to School

Annual Cherwell Parish Liaison Meeting Invite – 11 November, 5.45-9.15pm at Bodicote House – taken by MKB – BC and KG to let MKB know if they can attend, KO could possibly go.

Planning Meeting Notes from AW - filed

CPRE membership reminder – to be taken to IM

OPFA AGM invite – 21 October Wed Islip 7.30pm – no-one able to attend

ORCC Community Transport Questionnaire letter – SC has replied to this: -

Said no-one used Dial-a-ride as it was not very accessible, did not know if anyone used Banbury Volunteer Bureau Car Scheme. Said there was informal lift giving between neighbours but no formal volunteer car scheme and did not know if any organisation has a minibus available to the village. Said schemes were limited in their scope. Confirmed that members of the public had reported difficulties (hospital appts, outpatients etc) at recent meetings. Confirmed there had been no request for transport availability from any community groups. Said that we might be able to ask for volunteer drivers as part of the emergency plan questionnaire. Pointed out that Finmere and Tingewick are currently campaigning to get the X5 to stop at least at some regular times.

Letter from Tony How, villager, about matters needing attention in village – points as follows:

Valley Road pavement repairs – SC to contact Bob Adams, OCC Highways.

Valley Road roadside posts – SC to contact Bob Adams, OCC Highways.

Playing Field lower gate latch – This is to be left as the gate is binding, making it safe, and every replacement latch is broken within a very short time.

Playing Field pond – This is to be left as a ‘bog garden area’ as the full pond is a danger to children.

Play Area outer fencing – This is to be referred to the Playing Fields Committee

Play Area climbing frame – this is to be referred to the Playing Fields Committee

Play Area gate latch – this is to be referred to the Playing Fields Committee

Village Hall Car Park broken fencing – This is to be referred to the Village Hall Committee

Village Hall outside decoration – This is to be referred to the Village Hall Committee

Village Hall interior check – This is to be referred to the Village Hall Committee

SC is to write to Tony How and make him aware of the above. As Phillip Rushforth, villager, was present at the meeting and is a member of both the above committees MKB invited him to speak about these matters. Phillip Rushforth assured MKB that he would make both committees aware of the situation. However the Playing Fields Committee now consists of only two people and has only some £165 in its account. Efforts are being made to recruit new members but this is not easy.

10. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

09/01001/F – Premier Aggregates – pull down and relocate bungalow – permission refused

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

BT Phonebook BC pointed out that the directories distributed were again for the Aylesbury area, not the normal Banbury edition. Not all villagers have access to the internet and to use

directory enquiry services or request a new book is expensive. SC to write, BC gives her the name and address of the Chief Executive.

District Councillors Report BC asks why, though we have a monthly slot for the County Councillor, we never invite Barry Wood to speak. SC explains that she has followed the former format of meetings and did not realise that District Councillors would normally give a report. It is felt that as Leader of the Council Barry may be too busy but MKB is to talk to him about coming at least to some meetings.

Memorial Wreath KG reminds the PC that this needs to be ordered. SC is to order the normal wreath and have it delivered to CNC House (Titch's Cottage), MK18 4AL.

Bonfire KG has been asked by Susan Tew, villager, about placing some branches for the bonfire on the playing field. KG is to ask her to talk to FOFSA about this but it is unlikely they will want anything on the field before the end of the month.

Speed Sign Base AW points out that the base plate, which had recently appeared on the Fulwell Road corner, was moved and then replaced by the drainage workers. It appears to be loose. SC is to check with Barry Buckingham as to whether the plate is merely a cover or if it will be load bearing.

Newsletter MKB points out that we need a Christmas newsletter. This will give details of the Carol Service which is to be held on Friday 11th December. This is to be an agenda item for November. We need to decide who will switch the lights on and who will put them up/take them down. This will need to be done over the weekend of 5/6 December. Phillip Rushforth has the lights in storage at Croughton so he will need to be liaised with about their collection. SC has the written instructions for their erection. Christmas lights are to be an agenda item for November.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting is set as Tuesday November 3rd 2009 in the village hall at 7.30 pm.

The meeting closed at 9.40 pm.

CORRESPONDENCE CIRCULATED

Fly tipping information pack

Glasdon leaflets

Kompan leaflet

Phonebox adoption letter from BT

Timberline book

Notice of alteration of Electoral Roll

Wicksteed Playscapes booklet