

## **FINMERE PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2010**

**in Fimmere Village Hall**

Present:- Councillors, Mike Kerford-Byrnes (Chairman) (MKB), Katherine Grimston (Vice Chairman) (KG), Barbara Cunningham (BC), Kevin Ochel (KO), Dr Adrian Wood (AW), Anna Wood (ANNW), Mike Kirby (MK) and District Councillor Barry Wood (BW)

In attendance:- Sharron Chalcraft (Parish Clerk) (SC) and Ian Macpherson (Treasurer) (IM) along with 16 members of the public

1. Apologies Apologies were received from County Councillor Catherine Fulljames, Claire Mansfield, Pat White, Jo Howkins, Roger Fiander, John Cunningham, Phillip and Carol Rushforth, David and Beryl Smith, Joan Grimwade, Beryl Dowland and Charley Grimston

### **2. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of 19 May 2009 were circulated and approved.

### **3. ANNOUNCEMENT OF APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS**

The PC officers for 2010/2011 having been appointed at the PC meeting on May 11<sup>th</sup> these appointments were announced as follows:

Chairman Mike Kerford-Byrnes (having indicated his willingness to continue)  
Proposed: Kevin Ochel  
Seconded: Mike Kirby  
Carried unanimously

Vice Chair Katherine Grimston (having indicated her willingness to stand in absentia)  
Proposed: Barbara Cunningham  
Seconded: Adrian Wood  
Carried unanimously

Treasurer Ian Macpherson (having indicated his willingness to continue)  
Proposed: Kevin Ochel  
Seconded: Mike Kerford-Byrnes  
Carried unanimously

Parish Clerk Sharron Chalcraft (having indicated her willingness to continue)  
Proposed: Mike Kerford-Byrnes  
Seconded: Kevin Ochel  
Carried unanimously

#### 4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The report is attached

#### 5. FINANCIAL REPORT

The report is attached

#### 6. REPORT OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR MRS CATHERINE FULLJAMES

The report was postponed as Cllr Fulljames was unable to be present

#### 7. REPORT OF DISTRICT COUNCILLOR MR BARRY WOOD

Cllr Wood reported that the local development framework was still ongoing but that there was a twist to the tale, the new government may now do away with the regional spatial strategy, the SE plan; but it is not known what would replace it. A main concern for many is the potential impact on services of the coming cuts. The council tax may well be frozen meaning a severe retrenchment of services. CDC have always tried to cut back on administration costs rather than front line services and will continue to do so.

Ques – Mr Peter Grimwade – What has CDC said on HS2.

Ans – CDC representatives have attended meetings addressing the project and are currently working to improve the scope of the emergency hardship scheme.

Cllr Wood took this opportunity to thank the PC for its hard work on behalf of villagers.

#### 8. REPORTS OF VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS

Church – The new incumbent Revd Christobel Hargraves thanked the village for a warm welcome on her taking her post, although the cricket club must have been disappointed that she will not be keeping wicket as her predecessor did. The Rector explained that having 10 churches to look after means that she can spend less time with each parish than would have previously been possible. However Finmere church does host 2 services per month as well as special services including harvest festival, remembrance service and carols around the tree. There is a flourishing relationship with the school. Revd Hargraves seeks to rediscover the role of the church in the village, drawing community together has always been at the centre of church life. Unfortunately due to low attendances the church is not meeting its running costs and it is possible that there will come a time when no regular services are held in the village.

School – report read by SC – see attached

Village Hall/Playing Fields Committee – report by Chairman Illa Moss – see attached

Brownies – report read by SC – see attached

Guides – unfortunately Finmere Guides has closed due to lack of support

Cubs – no report was made this year

Cricket Club – no report was made this year

Football Club – no report was made this year

Buckingham & District Dog Training Club – report read by SC – see attached

Premier Aggregates – no report was made this year  
Neighbourhood Watch – report read by SC – see attached  
Poors Plot Charity – report was given by Hugh Smith – see attached

## 9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

**Diamond Jubilee 2012** MKB suggests that it might be a nice idea for the village to stage a celebration of the Jubilee, as it did for the VE day 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations. The feeling of the meeting is that it would be nice for the village to come together in such a way and the PC promises to support in any way it can. MKB mentions recent communal gatherings in the village such as a race night and Peter Grimwade explains that more are planned; on June 19<sup>th</sup> in the Rectory garden, a 60's night on 17<sup>th</sup> July and another race night in September.

**Speeding in the village** This is a perennial problem with particular black spots being Valley Rd at the Fulwell Rd bend and also Water Stratford Rd at the junction with Valley Rd and Fulwell Rd. It is asked whether the PC can put pressure on OCC to improve conditions. The new speed sign is now rotating through Finmere regularly though it does not always register speeds at this bend. The rural police speed investigations unit has been out but 30mph is the only speed enforceable. Peter Grimwade points out that the lack of visibility of the play area entrance on Water Stratford Rd is very dangerous, could this not be signposted. This is to be an agenda item for the June PC meeting. MKB is a member of NAG (Neighbourhood Action Group) which liaises with the police. The police recently randomly questioned members of the public about their top concerns – 1 – no problem, 2 – speeding, 3 – parking. There are three main alternatives, traffic humps, which are not popular; chicanes, which pose a problem in a farming community with large vehicles on the roads; and a 20mph speed limit, which is not enforceable. It is felt by villagers though that some 'Slow Down' markings on the road or on a roadside sign would make a difference. Sandra Kerford-Byrnes asks whether the gateway entrance to the play area could be opened up, to be more apparent, when the field is owned by the PC.

**Anti Social Behaviour** Recent complaints to the PC had led to the inclusion of an article in the latest newsletter. It is felt by some parents of children in the village that this matter should have been investigated before inclusion in such a way. It is pointed out that the newsletter dealt with the matter in a very general way. The space where these problems are occurring is owned by the PC but they have no power to ban ball games or any activities as this is a public amenity open space. The parents explained that they had thought the matter put to rest and were surprised to see it being aired in such a way. MKB encouraged both sides to get together and settle things amicably.

The meeting closed at 21.10 pm