

FINMERE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held on 4th March 2014 in Fimmere Village Hall

Present:- Councillors, Mike Kerford-Byrnes (MKB) (Chairman), Katherine Grimston (KG) (Vice Chairman), Barbara Cunningham (BC), Kevin Ochel (KO), Mike Kirby (MK) and Amanda Hodgkins (AH)

In attendance:- Sharron Chalcraft (Parish Clerk and RFO) and three members of the public

1. Apologies:- Apologies were received from County Councillor Catherine Fulljames (CF), BC was able to attend and withdrew her apologies

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of 4th of February 2014 were approved.

3. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

CF is at Chesterton PC for their meeting which clashes, having checked that there were no urgent matters requiring her attendance at Fimmere, but has sent an email covering current matters. CF requested that the Senior Enforcement Officer, Chris Hodgkinson, attend the emergency quarry liaison meeting and give a report to her, which he did. This is an EA matter and CF has lobbied Sir Tony Baldry MP as the EA is a government agency, it is understood that he is following up the matter. CF is working to get the County Council more active on the matter of HS2. There are highway matters during construction that will probably have an impact on Fimmere and CF is pressing them now as time is moving fast.

4. MATTERS ARISING

- 4.01 **Village Notice Boards** MKB and KO are to move these shortly, in time for the Village Hall floor work to start. c/f
- 4.02 **Drain Cover Land** It is possible that there is another avenue to explore for information. See item 4.08. c/f
- 4.03 **Moss on pavements** SC has emailed Cliff Monger with information on the locations of the green paint. He has replied that the Safety Inspector visited Fimmere on 6/2/2014 and should therefore have picked up on all these locations. All councillors confirm that they have found no new markings anywhere in the village. SC is to inform Cliff Monger of this and ask for a copy of the safety inspectors report. c/f
- 4.04 **Car valuables signs** These have been placed at various locations around the village, halfway along the Old Banbury Road, at the corner by the pub and by the Cross Tree. They are triangular hinged signs. KG has had several villagers approach her already about the signs; some worried as to whether there has been a crime wave to warrant their appearance and others concerned at the proliferation of signs in the village.

MKB suggests that they could be moved around the village periodically to avoid problems.

- 4.05 **VAS Signs** MKB has now located the contact details for the remaining concerned PC's and there will hopefully be news from them soon. c/f
- 4.06 **Banbury Road Signage** The work should be carried out by the end of the month. Julie Shay, CDC, apologises for the delay. The matter of the Old Rectory post code has now been sorted out. c/f
- 4.07 **List of assets (the pond)** SC has received an email from Katie Skinner, OCC Definitive Map and Commons. Katie explains that her investigations indicate that the pond may well be a part of registered common land CL95 Finmere. A copy of the map along with the common land register entry can be obtained for the cost of £1.81 to cover postage and admin. It is decided to proceed with this, proposed BC, seconded MKB, carried unanimously. SC is to obtain a copy and also ask Katie Skinner to look into the records regarding the drain cover land issue. c/f
- 4.08 **Salt bins** SC has checked with the Brooks and it transpires that they returned the second salt bag as there were already two in store. SC is to thank them for their help in looking after the village salt store and inform OCC that the second bag is no longer required. c/f
- 4.09 **Stiles** SC has given Sarah Aldous, OCC Footpaths, the information regarding the landowners availability. Nothing further has been heard so far. c/f
- 4.10 **Public Space in Chinalls Close** This is an agenda item. c/f
- 4.11 **Christmas Lights** MKB is still to tape up the lights. c/f
- 4.12 **Church Clock Repairs** SC has paid the invoice as instructed.
- 4.13 **Defibrillator** SC has been in touch with Dick Tracy, South Central Ambulance Service, and he will come to the April meeting to speak about defibrillators. SC is to download the British Heart Foundation form. Mr Tracy explained that the recommended way to place defibrillators is in a box, accessible to the public through a key code which is given out when they dial 999. This box can be on any building but needs to be connected to an electricity supply that will cost approximately £30 per annum. The box will cost approximately the same as the defibrillator itself and Mr Tracy also recommends a higher specification of machine which does not need adult or child pads to be fitted. It is thought that the box is the best way to go but a decision will be made at next month's meeting. KO points out that he will be away next month but his vote would be for purchase of a box and higher grade defibrillator. c/f
- 4.14 **HS2 Petitioning Information** The consultation submission was circulated by MKB, suggested amendments were incorporated and then the document was submitted. MKB also attended the CDC meeting and spoke, raising the matter of traffic issues. CDC is to continue to challenge HS2 with noise, visual impact and construction traffic all being issues. More information on traffic movements has been forthcoming. The Turweston cutting means that large amounts of material will need to be removed. The Warren Farm depot will have between 150 and 200 journeys per day while Westbury will experience as many as 3,000. This major adverse impact is likely to last for 17 months. Finmere PC can lobby as they are a local authority.

Parliamentary advice on petition is that all local authorities may oppose a bill. A resolution to oppose must be discussed and voted on. A specially adjusted agenda will need to be posted before that meeting with ten clear days notice and the discussion as a formal item. MKB is to check the wording necessary. There will need to be 4 votes in favour to carry the item, not just a quorum. Oxford Mail and BBC Radio have both contacted MKB; he is to speak on behalf of the PC. It may be necessary to bring in a resolution enabling one councillor and one officer to represent the PC on these issues if speed becomes of the essence. SC has compiled a letter of complaint which is read out and approved. MKB is to provide SC with contact details for the appropriate HS2 department. c/f

- 4.15 **Playing Field Tree Surgery** This is to be carried out during March. BC points out that this is one of several areas which John Donaldson, grass cutting contractor, needs to be sorted out before he can commence mowing this year. BC is to forward the complete list of all areas to SC. c/f
- 4.16 **Christmas light tree** This is also to be pruned in March. c/f
- 4.17 **Water Stratford Road Condition** SC has emailed again to OCC Highways, FAO Simon Marsden as she has had no reply within the ten days. Another assurance of contact within ten days has been received. SC is to check whether the Safety Inspectors report, see 4.03 above, covers this area. There has been an accident on the Water Stratford Road and one of the telegraph poles at the side has been broken off. The wires were left lying across the road at one point and the road is to be closed on Wednesday for repair. KG has been approached by engineers trying to locate the problem; at one stage they tried to close Valley Road by mistake. c/f
- 4.18 **Sports club cheque** This has been paid in by SC.
- 4.19 **OPFA membership** This invoice has been paid by SC.
- 4.20 **Printer** SC has obtained information about several printers, both inkjet and laser. It is decided to purchase a Canon Pixma MG5550 all in one inkjet printer which uses 5 cartridges. Proposed KO, seconded AH, carried unanimously. MKB recommends using a company called Inkjets and Toners for supplies.
- 4.21 **Parish Clerk hours** SC has paid herself the back log of increased hourly rate from April to February. SC is to begin keeping a diary from April 1st. The diary is to be checked after three months. This is to be an agenda item in July.
- 4.22 **16 Valley Road planning application** This has now been amended, there will be no timber cladding on the extension but it will be made of matching brick.
- 4.23 **Family history research letter from Mrs Patricia Riley** BC has spoken with several people around the village. Alan Jones, villager, vaguely remembered the name but thought the family were from Water Stratford not Fimmere. David Smith, villager, knew the man mentioned in the letter. John Cunningham, BC's husband, turned out to have the most knowledge and BC has been able to email a name and address to Mrs Riley.
- 4.24 **Blocked gullies** SC has raised this issue with Cliff Monger and it has been referred to Gordon Kelman, OCC Highway Drainage Dept. c/f

- 4.25 **Hodgkinsons email** SC has replied to this.
- 4.26 **Finmere House wall** The fallen wall has been broken up and the obstruction is less than it was. An assessor has still not been able to visit and quotes are needed before it can be completely cleared. This is taking a long time but it is possible that the rest of the wall is unsafe and the public need to be kept clear. BC points out that this is an obstruction of the highway and we need to keep an eye on it. MKB is to call regularly to check that the matter is in hand.
- 4.27 **Traffic speed in Mere Road** Cliff Monger has passed this matter on to Peter Egawhary, OCC Traffic Technician. c/f

5. FINANCIAL REPORT

It was reported that there was £2,650.77 in the Treasurer Account and £5,292.01 in the Business Money Manager Account.

The following had been paid in:

£200.00 from Finmere Sports Association

The following had been paid out:

£40.00 to OPFA for membership

£192.00 to PA Meecham for the Church clock maintenance

£176.75 to Sharron Chalcraft for Clerk and RFO duties, internet costs and back pay

SC purchased ink for the printer at a cost of £14.00. She is to pay herself back for this purchase, proposed MKB, seconded KG, carried unanimously.

A membership renewal has been received from SLCC in the sum of £64. Membership is to be renewed, proposed MKB, seconded MK, carried unanimously.

A membership renewal has been received from OALC in the sum of £133.07. Membership is to be renewed, proposed BC, seconded MKB, carried unanimously.

A letter has been received from OCC pointing out that the grass cutting grant for this year is to rise to £1,521.51 but is likely to be reduced by 50% in 2015/16.

Coupled with the rise in Clerk's wages this may mean that there needs to be a rise in the precept next year. There is a possibility that a rise of more than 2% will mean a referendum if restrictions are imposed at Parish Council level.

6. S19/S137

No requests have been received.

7. URGENT BUSINESS

No urgent business has been carried out.

8. FINMERE LANDFILL SITE UPDATE

There was a smell on Saturday March 1st which generated two complaints. Calvert and Newport Pagnell sites also had problems on that day due to atmospheric stillness. EA confirms that the Opes plans for capping have been submitted. These should be CQA'd shortly, hopefully things will be expedited. Helen Bever, Opes, will ring with any news. There is no news on any money being received.

There was an emergency quarry liaison meeting on the 17th of Feb. In attendance were Ben Wragg, Helen Bever and Richard Lucas of Opes, Chris Hodgkinson of OCC, Louise Greenwood and Sarah Hartley of EA and MKB and BC of the PC. The attendees drove out to the site, to the location of the leachate breach, to have a look. BC took pictures of the site which she forwarded to all. KO confirms that a modern site should not look like this; these pictures are more like a site from the 80's. An informal meeting then started back at the Opes offices. Currently only Cells 1 and 2 are capped. Ben Wragg confirmed that there is considerable concern that leachate is seeping out. There will be a full investigation by April. Rain is seeping through the cells and emerging on the flanks. Clearly something has gone wrong. The EA cannot comment, it is possible that they are considering a prosecution. The leachate management plan which is in place has not been completed. This will impact on possible investment. The current prospective investors are aware of general leachate issues but not this leak; they may disappear when they find out. Lack of capital is not helping the situation.

Infrastructure for leachate management is to be put in place. A ring main is to be installed round the site so that leachate can be pumped from wells. Currently 4 tankers a day are being removed from site, Ardley and Coton Valley have reduced the amount they will take and Viridor are only taking two a day. This means that it is costing three times as much to get rid of the leachate as last month. Some is going as far as Avonmouth. The next destination will be far north. This is costing £35 per tonne as opposed to £10 locally. Cell 7 is being monitored on the weekends. A leachate contractor (ANTS) is servicing leachate management on a weekly basis. There is currently no tipping. Gas control is functioning and the EA is monitoring weekly. A leachate well is to be sunk into the open part of Cell 7. KO points out that most big sites process their own leachate but this does cost millions. AH has been looking at the books and last year £128,000 came in while £230,000 went out of the site.

One of the problems is that leachate is still seeping out. Ground water is seeping in at the top and seeping out of the sides of the mound. There are now two ponds; the nasty stuff is in one of them. The waste from Cell 7 is being diverted to avoid both ponds being polluted. KO points out that lack of capping is now coming back to bite Opes.

Dialogue is to be kept going between all departments.

9. PLAYING FIELD PROGRESS

MKB has obtained some contact details. He is to chase them up next week.

10. PLAYING FIELD CONDITION

The field has been walked and checked this month by MK who reports no issues of concern.

11. NEWSLETTER

This is to contain news of the spring clean which will take place on Saturday April 5th, see correspondence below. KO has a chain saw on a stick which he is happy to lend as he will not be able to be present on that date. There will also be a need to clean the road signs and trim any remaining trees on the day. There needs to be a notice on the village notice boards as well as a newsletter.

There will also be an article with the latest news on the landfill situation. The elections and HS2 will need to be covered. In addition there will be a need for an article on trespass, see Any Other Business below. The newsletter should hopefully be distributed on the weekend of 22/23 of March.

12. CHINALLS CLOSE HEDGE AND FOOTPATH

SC has received an email from new residents the Reasons explaining that the state of the amenity space is hampering their ability to look after their property. SC replied explaining the situation and pointing out that the matter would be discussed tonight and the Reasons are in attendance. SC has been checking on Somerlee Homes, monitoring account reports as far as possible. During this process she came across the names of directors and remembered that she had an email contact for one of these directors. SC emailed her previous letter, a portion of which is now read out, to this address and has had a reply from Somerlee. The reply states that in principle and subject to contract Somerlee are happy to transfer the land to the PC on the terms proposed, namely that the PC will take the land at the face value of £1 with no further financial consideration requested. Somerlee are consulting with their solicitors as to the best way to proceed and will be in touch shortly.

13. PARISH REMUNERATION PANEL'S REPORT

Notice of receipt of this report has been posted in line with the new guidelines. The PC now only has to decide on their response and record their decision in the minutes. It is decided that the PC will continue to pay no allowances. Proposed MKB, seconded BC, carried unanimously.

14. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

14/00100/F – 2 James Court, Banbury Road – part garage conversion – following consultations the PC makes no comments or objections

15. CORRESPONDENCE

An email has been received correcting previous information and confirming the election dates and the PC meeting dates required. The Annual Parish Council Meeting at which officers are appointed will be held on Tuesday June 3rd, with the Annual Parish Meeting announcing the appointment being held on Tuesday June 10th. Phillip Rushforth, Village Hall Management Committee, who is present, confirms the availability of these dates.

The Cherwell Local Plan is to be examined for soundness. Several other Local Plans have been thrown out due to lack of clarity of cooperation. There is to be a pre-hearing meeting to address this issue for Cherwell. MKB hopes to attend on Tuesday March 25th.

News of the annual Spring Clean has arrived. The equipment is to be dropped off with MKB on Friday April 4th and collected on Monday April 7th with the Spring Clean itself on Saturday April 5th. SC is to submit the form.

Emails forwarded:

Community Information Networks Partnership meetings news

Dog fouling in Oxfordshire – it is decided that the PC should obtain 1 pack of the third design for use in the village – proposed MKB, seconded KG, carried unanimously

Draft regulations openness of government bodies

Information on minerals and waste policy

Cherwell local plan

Cherwell boundary review - this is to take place on March 31st at 6 p.m. in Bodicote House. MKB declares an interest as he will be attending in his capacity as a District Councillor. Outline plans have been distributed which show that OCC would like to reduce to 48 councillors rather than the current 50. There are proposals to change from one member to three member wards, thus necessitating annual elections of one or other representative. MKB is happy to put the PC view forward or another councillor can attend. All present are happy for MKB to speak for the PC and are of the opinion that matters should stay as they are with one member wards.

Vale of Aylesbury plan withdrawal

Usual reports

MKB has been contacted by Joanne Brooks, villager, regarding trespassers. The Brooks are farmers with several rights of way crossing their land. However rather than keeping to the paths and keeping dogs on leads people are wandering in the fields and allowing their dogs to foul, this can jeopardise the quality control of the crops as they are intended for human consumption. Some offenders are persistent despite frequent challenges. KG confirms that she too has a problem, with some trespassers even appearing in her garden. There is to be an item in the newsletter.

16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Bins in Mere Rd BC points out that the dog bin has had the lid off with bags deposited on the ground. This was sorted out on the same day but now the rubbish bin situated on the site of the old notice board has been removed, probably by building contractors carrying out construction on the old village hall site. A rubbish bin is needed by the school so that those clearing the notice board there have a receptacle for removed items. The removed bin has disappeared and was in poor condition anyway as it was very old. SC is to request a new bin from CDC to be placed at the school.

Water in Valley Road Water is coming up out of the tarmac in an area of Valley Road near the Queen Victoria memorial tree. This may be due to a leak but is more likely due to an underground stream as it is intermittent. There is a pump located on the verge near Debdale and BC remembers former residents of the Tudor House talking of a well that refilled no matter how much water was taken from it. MKB is to check records.

17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting is Tuesday 1st April 2014.

KO gives his apologies.

The meeting closed at 10 p.m.

CORRESPONDENCE CIRCULATED

Wicksted playscapes leaflet