

FINMERE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held on 3rd of December 2013 in Finmere Village Hall

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

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

1. Apologies:-Apologies were received from Councillor Mike Kirby

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of 5th of November were approved with corrections.

3. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

This was carried forward as the County Councillor was unable to attend. CF has emailed MKB to keep him up to date about HS2 consultations. Nothing new has been heard.

4. MATTERS ARISING

4.01 **Village Notice Boards** The notice boards still stored in the hall need to be moved as work will shortly be starting on the floor of the main village hall. MKB suggests that as only he and KO are working on fixing the signs they would be best to use clamps to hold the board in place on a fixed rail while they fix the board itself. Phillip Rushforth, Village Hall and Playing Fields Committee, offers the use of his clamps for the purpose.

4.02 **Drain Cover Land** c/f

4.03 **Greensleeves Development Waste** MKB has had a chat with Bob Duxbury, OCC, and the chances of movement on this matter are low. The only possible target for a council action is the owner of the land who is currently in dispute with his builder on the matter. MKB confirms that the matter has reached court but there is no news of any decision yet. Meanwhile the surface water run-off at that point is definitely worse. c/f

4.04 **Moss on pavements** SC has had a reply from Cliff Monger of OCC Highways, email read out, explaining that he has inspected, the moss is better than before and he has marked 7 defects in Chinalls Close for work in 28 days, which will be Dec 6th. Phillip Rushforth confirms that these have been marked but not worked on yet. As to the moss, a team came out a few days before Cliff Monger and scrubbed the moss with rock salt and cleared it away so that the level of moss is better now than for some considerable time.

4.05 **Car valuables signs** c/f

- 4.06 **VAS Signs** The VAS sign socket has now been exposed, thanks to the efforts of KO, but more work will need to be done if it is to be moved. A special allen key is needed which MKB will try to obtain. MKB is still awaiting replies to all the emails he sent out about redistributing equipment and bases. c/f
- 4.07 **Banbury Road Signage** MKB has met with Julie Shay, CDC. There are to be two signs for the Banbury Road, one on the wall at the Little Tingewick end of the road, the other opposite Finmere House. The signs around the village that need work can hopefully be repainted during the village 'spring clean.' Julie Shay is also happy to help KG with her postcode problems. c/f
- 4.08 **List of assets (the pond)** SC has again spoken with OCC. Graham Warrington only works part-time now and has been very busy with planning issues as has the whole of OCC planning. He will hopefully be in touch before Christmas and though he may not know all the details himself he will know who does.
- The alder tree still needs to come down. BC confirms that John Donaldson, grass cutting contractor, has declined to quote as the job is too large for him and not covered by his insurance. A quote of £310 has been obtained from Douglas Webb and another quote of £300 has been given by Alan Forbes. It is decided to go with Alan Forbes. Proposed KO, seconded KG, carried unanimously. MKB is to speak with him.
- 4.09 **Salt bins** KG is to confirm with Johnnie Brooks that the salt has arrived.
- 4.10 **Stiles** SC has received a reply from Sarah Aldous, OCC Footpaths, email read out, confirming that a colleague had recently walked the path from Finmere to Warren Farm and confirmed many of the issues KO had raised. These are now being followed up on. Sarah Aldous will also try to get out and walk the path in the other direction, to Mixbury, as soon as possible. The issues of the stiles in the paddocks in the centre of the village are also to be looked at as soon as possible. c/f
- 4.11 **Ragwort** Phillip Rushforth confirms that this has now been removed.
- 4.12 **Public Space in Chinalls Close** SC has tried to obtain a phone number for Somerlee Homes but the companies listing shows that although they are still trading their contact address is now a mail drop address given by some 600 companies. SC is to contact CDC legal department. She has also asked Graham Warrington, OCC, for any information OCC may hold. c/f
- 4.13 **Bank payments** SC has contacted the bank and they have apologised for the delay in payments. The fact that two payments were made on the same day, breaking the usual pattern, and that the two added up to more than £500 triggered an automatic fraud investigation but this should still not have taken so long to resolve.
- 4.14 **Dog bin invoice** SC has spoken with CDC, the invoice was mistakenly issued for two bins and as there has been such confusion it was decided to let the amount stand. In future the summer bill for three bins will be issued, which is higher than the winter amount for three bins. This disparity in seasonal bills had led SC to think that the latest bill had been for three bins.

- 4.15 **Play Areas Inspection Report** SC has not heard anything further on this issue but BC points out that the Grimwades have been away and this may have delayed things. c/f
- 4.16 **Bench** This has now been added to the assets list.
- 4.17 **Christmas Lights** These have now been put up. MKB suggests that as they appear unobtrusive it may be possible to leave them in situ from now on. Removal from the tree and storage is causing damage to some of the cables and connections and they would have a longer life if left in place. This is to be considered. c/f
- 4.18 **Memorial Wreath** This has been paid for.
- 4.19 **July Minutes** MKB has now emailed these to SC.
- 4.20 **Newsletter** Another newsletter has been produced and distributed.
- 4.21 **Church Clock Repairs** Mr Meecham has confirmed that he did carry out the annual service on one of his visits this year. He is to provide the PC with an invoice for £160 plus VAT for July of this year. The PCC is to confirm that the 10 yr guarantee has not been compromised by this delay of the annual service, the 2012 service having been paid for in April 2012. July 2014 has been set as the date for the next annual service.
- 4.22 **Parish Council laptop** This has been repaired and an invoice received for both maintenance and repair costs. The old hard drive has been returned and SC will keep it for Phillip Rushforth to work on regarding Money Manager 2006.
- 4.23 **Rabbit Cull** This is still being planned. The police will have to be notified before any shooting takes place.
- 4.24 **Defibrillator** SC has checked online, including emailing the Defibfinder net service who have not yet replied. The cost of a typical defibrillator with a good battery life and spoken instructions for use is £980. A wall bracket costs £40 and pads to be used on children £74. SC is to contact St John's Ambulance as they may know of grants that can be obtained towards this cost. KG will also check for any possible grant monies.

5. FINANCIAL REPORT

Full copies of reports for October and November were produced. The October report was as recorded in the November minutes.

It was reported that there was £3,674.67 in the Treasurer Account and £5,291.09 in the Business Money Manager Account.

The following had been paid out:

£370.00 to John Donaldson for grass cutting
£73.24 to Sharron Chalcraft for Clerk/RFO duties and internet costs
£100 to Royal British Legion for the memorial wreath

Two invoices have been received from Howard Computing for computer maintenance and repairs in the sums of £130 and £150. SC is to pay them: proposed MKB, seconded BC, carried unanimously.

An invoice has been received from A C Miskimmon for fitting the bench in the sum of £240.00. SC is to pay this as previously agreed.

A reminder has been received from FOI, as the cost of registration has to be forwarded before any documentation can be completed. SC is to pay this as previously agreed.

6. S19/S137

SC is to pay the invoice for the Church clock upon receipt as previously agreed.

7. URGENT BUSINESS

The felling of the large alder tree beside the pond, see 4.08 above, is considered an urgent matter and is to be dealt with as soon as possible.

8. FINMERE LANDFILL SITE UPDATE

The quarry liaison meeting on the 11th was cancelled as OPES were unable to attend. The new date set is Tuesday 17th but EA are still to confirm. They are pursuing other avenues but no finance has been agreed yet. The current level of operation is covering running costs. Leachate levels are high but extraction is sufficient at the moment. The skip on top of the mound has been removed.

9. PLAYING FIELD PROGRESS

Rev Chris Hargraves has met with MKB. It is hoped that an agreement can be drawn up shortly to lease the play area to the PC long term. MKB is still to meet with David Endicott.

10. PLAYING FIELD CONDITION

The field has been walked and checked this month by MK and BC. BC reports that there are now more rabbits at the spinney end of the field. John Donaldson has complained that in several areas access for the mower is being hampered by low growing branches. BC is to check the clearance height that is required and a working party can then be arranged. This item is to be on the January agenda. Phillip Rushforth, Village Hall and Playing Fields Committee, reports that a private party was held at the field on Monday 5th of November and fireworks were let off which left a mess to be cleared up.

11. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

The PC has still not got in place all the policies, such as standard procedures, contracts register etc that are needed to fully comply. While the PC works on getting these in place the information that we do have needs to be placed on the web and the village notice boards. SC confirms with councillors the information they are happy to put on their contact list and she is to finalise these notices.

12. PARISH COUNCIL VACANCIES

No election was requested. The newsletter was distributed. There have been no further replies so the only application is from Amanda Hodgkins. She is very interested. It is decided to co-opt Amanda Hodgkins onto the PC. Proposed MKB, seconded BC, carried unanimously.

13. HS2 PETITIONING INFORMATION

The response to the Draft Environmental Statement has been received; this will form the full Environmental Statement. The details for Finmere are not very different. Featherbed Lane will still be shut but for a shorter period of time. The full information on depths and heights will be coming in the next couple of weeks. There will be a first and second reading before committee. As this is a hybrid bill there will be public access to the committee proceedings. In order to object at the committee stage a party needs to have approached HS2 but failed to reach agreement. In order to make statements as to the possibility of getting roads refurbished, or the A421 brought down to a lower level, HS2 will therefore need to be approached first. MKB is to distil down this information and prepare an approach. The deadline for individuals is January 24th. The compensation consultation closes tomorrow. Although there is the prospect of a twenty year threat to those nearby there will only be compensation for those who are really close. A newsletter needs to be prepared if possible, and the poster must be put up. The main aim if HS2 cannot be stopped is to at least get the roads resurfaced after the build.

14. PARISH CLERK HOURS

Danny Moody is unable to attend the meeting and explain the clerk's duties as he is affiliated to the Northants branch of the NALC. He does give advice that SLCC have recently commissioned an assessment and the figure of 4 hours per week as the minimum for a clerk was decided on. SC is to contact OALC about the issue but it may be difficult as they close for quite a long time over Christmas. This is to be an agenda item in January or February as appropriate.

15. CORRESPONDENCE

The previously referred to invoices and emails were received.

Emails forwarded:

County Council budget reduction and service changes

Strategic Direction Invitation

Community Transport Newsletter

Saving Oxfordshire's Children's Centres

Usual reports

16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was raised.

17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting is Tuesday 7th January 2014.

The meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.

CORRESPONDENCE CIRCULATED

Wicksteed playscapes leaflet

Logic salt spreaders leaflet