

MEETING OF
FINMERE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held on 1st November 2016 in Finmere Village Hall

Present:- Councillors, Mike Kerford-Byrnes (MKB) (Chairman), Katherine Grimston (KG) (Vice Chairman), Steve Trice (ST), Mike Kirby (MK), Kevin Ochel (KO), Amanda Hodgkins (AH) and Joanne Brooks (JB)

In attendance:- County Councillor Catherine Fulljames (CF), Sharron Chalcraft (SC) (Parish Clerk and RFO)

1. Apologies:- No apologies were received

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

3. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of 4th of October 2016 were approved with corrections.

4. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

CF confirms that the large pothole in the field entrance near Bacons Bridge on the Water Stratford Rd was checked on a site visit and is now on the list for the programme of works. It will probably not be worked on until after Christmas. The PC is to inform CF when it is done. The road lining problems are now resolved and the work has been carried out. CF, like SC, is unsure as to which county council carried the work out as both Bucks CC and OCC had told her that it was on their list. MKB suggests that Colin Carrot, OCC Highways, should know for sure.

The HS2 Hybrid Bill is before the Lords at the moment and Royal Assent is expected by the end of the year. This will cause serious traffic problems for the area. OCC are more worried about the effect on Banbury than the more southern areas but traffic congestion and mess on the roads could be a problem everywhere. MKB points out that he raised the matter of damage to local roads in front of the Parliamentary Committee but no notice was taken. Some of the roads which will be used by local traffic are single track roads and damage will be inevitable. CF suggests that the PC should obtain photographic evidence of the state of the roads now so that there is something to compare to when the construction is finished. The site traffic HGV's will use the A421 and local traffic will be pushed onto the side roads, this will include the normal flow of delivery vehicles as well as cars. 1400 HGV trips each way are expected during every ten hour day. CF points out that when the Oxford – Bicester line was worked on the aggregate needed was brought by train to the site and the local roads were still damaged. There will be a huge amount of trips between local quarries and the track site.

There is nothing to report regarding the landfill. OCC are to sit down with all parties and discuss the impact and requirements of HS2.

5. MATTERS ARISING

- 5.01 **List of assets (the pond)** SC has requested a better map from OCC but has had no reply yet. The current map is from the Land Registry so it may be that it is the best available. c/f
- 5.02 **Christmas Lights** MKB has checked the lights again and found that the outer strip is not working. A working party will be required but ST suggests that if the repair looks difficult it may be time to buy another strip. c/f
- 5.03 **Letter from Little Tingewick resident about Mere Lane** SC has continued researching the minutes and found reference to a broken pump in Mere Lane that was possibly broken by a water company lorry but was repaired by the Buckinghamshire council. SC will continue checking. c/f
- 5.04 **Risk Assessment Forms** The remaining sheets are returned.
- 5.05 **Parish Path Map** JB has not yet found a suitable frame. MK knows someone who makes frames at a reasonable price. He is to speak to this person and if the frame can be made for £40 or so he is to order it. Proposed KO, seconded KG, carried unanimously. c/f
- 5.06 **Cross Tree Turf and Drainage Problems** The drain beside the post box has still not been attended to. ST and MK will keep an eye to see if the work gets done. c/f
- 5.07 **Road Surface and Marking Problems** These have now been sorted out (see County Councillor's Report above).
- 5.08 **Internal and External Audit – Signatory Forms** SC has handed the forms in to the Banbury branch of HSBC. Three councillors are not on file with the bank and need to take id into their nearest branch in order for the forms to be processed. c/f
- 5.09 **Church Mower** SC is still to chase up the matter of a more detailed invoice for the PC records. c/f
- 5.10 **Bottle Bank** Phillip Rushforth, Village Hall and Playing Field Committee, had emailed SC when she got home from the October meeting. The VHPFC have taken on the responsibility for keeping the bottle bank area clean from now on. CDC has still not replied to the committee regarding when and how the bottle bank filling up should be reported.
- 5.11 **Stable Close Bund** This matter is still ongoing. c/f
- 5.12 **Operation Playground** ST reports that the group are still fund raising in order to have sufficient funds to apply for the available grant. c/f
- 5.13 **Christmas Carol Service** JB asked Buzzy Lepper about turning on the lights but Buzzy would prefer the PC to ask Pete Lepper. JB is to do so. c/f

- 5.14 **A421 Verge to roundabout** ST has cleared the graffiti from the sign. c/f
- 5.15 **Precept Referendum consultation** SC submitted the PC's answers to the consultation and copied in OALC. They confirmed that OALC and NALC have opposed the suggestion of capping all parish councils.
- 5.16 **Heatherstone Lodge planning application** JB wrote, circulated and then submitted the PC's reply. This application has not yet been considered.
- 5.17 **Internal auditor letter of engagement** This has been returned by SC.
- 5.18 **Mixbury to Finmere footpath** SC replied to the gentleman's email detailing the PC's response. SC forwarded the email to the Fiander's, village footpath wardens, and asked if they could report on the problems to the PC.
- 5.19 **Proposed gypsy site news** An application for one caravan and a stable block has now been made. As a neighbouring authority the PC can make representation. ST points out that the application gives no information on drainage provision, this is a planning ground to object on. MKB points out that this could be an 'inappropriate development' given the setting and character of the surrounding landscape and the impact on the area. As the site is very close to the village but in a different county so that no individuals will be informed by the council it is felt that the PC should let the village know about this application. The applicant has telephoned SC and others and explained that they are happy to address any concerns. MKB will talk to Richard Fenemore, Tingewick PC, to see if there can be a coordinated response. A newsletter will be produced and circulated. This matter can be discussed under the urgent business procedure. This is to be an agenda item in December. c/f

6. FINANCIAL REPORT

It was reported that there was £2,741.65 in the Treasurer Account and £5,302.15 in the Business Money Manager Account.

The following had been paid out:

£288.29 to CDC (running costs – dog bins)

£15.19 to e.on (running costs – electricity)

£100.00 to British Legion (S137 – village benefit – memorial wreath donation)

£1,295.00 to John Donaldson (running costs – grass cutting)

£287.50 to SC (general admin – for Clerk and RFO duties and internet costs)

MKB points out that if the government votes to cap all parish councils and the PC has already set an increase of more than 2% then a referendum will have to take place which can cost the parish at least £1,000. SC is to provide figures to councillors including grass cutting costs and S137 expenditure, usually provided for the January meeting, so that they have a chance to think about them and this will be an agenda item in December.

7. S19/S137

No requests had been received.

8. URGENT BUSINESS

No urgent business was carried out.

9. FINMERE LANDFILL SITE UPDATE

MKB confirms that nothing much is happening at the site. There has been no quarry liaison meeting as he has had no reply from the administrators. Ope is still waiting to hear from their insurers. The odd skip is being taken in; there are still 3 employees on the site. KO confirms that he has heard that gas flaring is still running smoothly. The leachate is still being tankered out regularly.

10. PLAYING FIELD PROGRESS AND CONDITION

MKB is still struggling to obtain a model agreement. The solicitor he is dealing with is actually carrying out training for OALC herself. A meeting with Hugh Smith and Rebecca Ayres, Mixbury Trust, has been postponed. A new small fence appeared recently along the southern boundary and Phillip Rushforth, VHPFC, has emailed to ask about rights of way over the field as he wants to replace the padlock on the field entry gate and restrict the number of new keys handed out. It is known that one of the neighbouring householders was given a right of way over the field but whether this was temporary is uncertain. MKB is to check the land deeds which are in his safe. SC is to let Phillip Rushforth know not to replace the padlock yet. Boundaries and rights of way are to be discussed with the Mixbury Trust when a meeting does take place.

MKB has walked the field this month and reports it to be in satisfactory condition.

11. NEW RESIDENTS NOTIFICATIONS

There are no new residents this month.

12. PAVING SLABS IN CHINALLS CLOSE

Altogether 6 volunteers have come forward. It is decided that this should be a sufficient number to keep the slabs safe. ST is to undertake the regular inspections. ST is to speak to John Donaldson, grass cutting contractor, and order the work done on re-laying the slabs as quoted in previous minutes. Proposed ST, seconded KO, carried unanimously. SC is to obtain full details of the volunteers and register them with the insurers.

13. QUEEN VICTORIA'S JUBILEE TREE

SC received an email from Barbara Cunningham, villager, when she returned from the last meeting. Barbara Cunningham has maintained the Jubilee tree at the junction of Mere Road and Valley Road for some 30 years, cutting out the suckers which would otherwise damage it. As she is unable now to continue this work Barbara asks that the PC should take on the mantle. JB is happy to carry out the work this year. This is to be an agenda item every October in future so that the work can be carried out in time for the bonfire.

14. MEMORIAL WREATH

SC has been informed that the wreath has been delivered. KG confirms that fact. It is decided to make a donation of £100 as has been the case for some years now in light of the greatly increased call on the Legion's funds in the current situation. Proposed ST, seconded KG, carried unanimously.

15. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

16/01987/F – Finch Hattons, Fulwell Rd – demolition of existing garages and single storey side extension and erection of single and two storey side extension and single storey rear extension – this is a revision of a previous application, it is smaller and retains the character of the property - the PC has no objections

Proposal to Temporarily Divert part of Finmere Bridleway No 4 at Finmere Quarry – the PC has no objections

16/01759/TPO – Town Farm, Fulwell Rd – 2 yew trees – reduce overhang by 2m away from property – subject to TPO 4/1998 – ST points out that the trees are so close to the building and growing in such a way that reducing the overhang by 2m may well damage or even kill the trees. MK feels it may be best to remove them altogether. KG points out that they are probably as old as the house. It is felt that there is insufficient information for the PC to form a view. SC is to call and talk to the arboricultural officer in charge and discuss the PC's worries with them. MKB provides the names and days of work of the two officers at CDC. Katherine Murray works Mon and Tues while Patrick Prendergast works Thurs and Fri. This can then be decided under urgent business.

16. CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence for meeting –

None

Emails printed –

From BC about Jubilee Tree – see Item 13 above

From PR about the bottle bank – see Item 5.10 above

From the Reasons and the Lenihans about volunteering – see Item 12 above

From Hugo Brown about the wreath – see Item 14 above

From ST about the village hall exterior lights – these lights have proved quite expensive and it had been hoped that the invoice might be made out to the PC so that VAT could be reclaimed but the electrician has been unable to wait for payment. The PC will consider making a donation toward the cost when they review the budget figures in December.

From CDC asking if the PC would like the number of councillors reviewed. It is not felt necessary to ask for a review at this point, proposed MKB, seconded MK, carried unanimously.

From the High Sheriff of Oxfordshire's office inviting nominations for the High Sheriff's Awards 2016-17 – no nominations were suggested

Emails forwarded –

CDC parish liaison meeting update

OALC September update

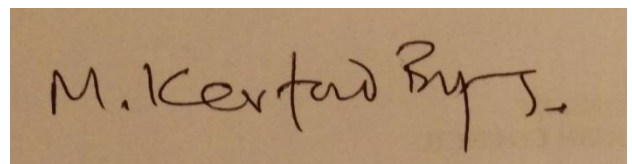
OALC October update

Usual reports

MKB had received notification from CDC that although the Cherwell Local Plan had an adequate supply of housing provided it now transpires that Oxford City does not and under the rules of cooperation this means that Cherwell now has to take another 4,400 houses out of the 10,000 reallocated. Under the subsequent consultation which asked for suggestions on possible sites 3 sites were put forward for Finmere. These are the field attached to Heatherstone Lodge and two plots of land between the Old Banbury Rd and the bypass, stretching from the roundabout to the Old Kings Head site. This will now be put out to public consultation. MKB will share the link. A lot of other sites have been proposed and the options listed A to I starting with Kidlington and working outwards. Finmere is in option I so it is unlikely that the sites will be used.

17. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was raised.

A rectangular area containing a handwritten signature in dark ink on a light-colored background. The signature appears to read "M. Kerford By J." with a flourish at the end.

18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting is Tuesday 6th of December.

AH apologises for the December meeting. Meeting closed at 10.35 p.m.

CORRESPONDENCE CIRCULATED - Clerks and Councils Direct November 2016