

MEETING OF
FINMERE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held on 4th September 2018 in Finmere Village Hall

Present:- Councillors, Mike Kerford-Byrnes (MKB) (Chairman), Mike Kirby (MK), Steve Trice (ST) and Peter Goss (PG)

In attendance:- Sharron Chalcraft (SC) (Parish Clerk and RFO)

1. Apologies:- Apologies were received from County Councillor Ian Corkin (IC) and Katherine Grimston (KG) (Vice Chairman)

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND INVOLVEMENT (19.31)

MKB declared an interest in Section 14 APP/C3105/W17/3189420 and an involvement in Sections 12 and 13. ST declared an involvement in all issues involving the Village Hall and Playing Field Committee.

3. MINUTES (19.33)

The minutes of the meeting of 3rd of July 2018 were approved with corrections.

4. MATTERS ARISING (19.35)

4.01 **Cross Tree Turf and Drainage Problems** SC has heard nothing from Mike Wasley (MW) Highways on this issue. It does not appear that anything has been done to clear the gully and SC is to email MW again. c/f

4.02 **Cross Tree Signpost** No news from MW on this issue. MKB has so far only managed to find a contractor that would charge several hundred pounds for the job, he will continue looking. c/f

4.03 **Traffic problems in Valley Rd/Mere Rd** MW has still not dropped off the signs and he has asked for a councillor to go and collect them from him. ST suggests that he should post them. SC is to email him with that request. The HGV signs, as ST explains, are only fitted by highways as they are permanent. MW has not given a time frame for their installation. SC is to chase this up. c/f

4.04 **Fencing & Stile for Stable Close bund boundary** This work is to be carried out over the autumn. c/f

4.05 **Sports Pavilion Issues** MKB is to meet with members of the Sports Association, including Mike Geelan (MG), Sports Association Chairman on Thursday evening. The Cricket and Football Clubs will both be represented. Ongoing administration of

the pavilion will be discussed and the ownership of the pavilion by the PC explained. The gutter is still sprung and this matter will be raised at the meeting. c/f

- 4.06 **Fulwell Rd Manhole Cover** There is still some confusion over which manhole covers are raising concern. MKB confirms that he has reported the loose BT cover beside The Stone House, on the Valley Rd end of the verge section. This has been looked at and fenced off but as this was almost two months ago SC is to chase up the repair with BT. SC confirms that she has reported the loose manhole cover frame outside Coniston to BT but ST explains that this is a water company manhole. SC is to check previous minutes to find which water company is responsible and report this issue. c/f
- 4.07 **Pothole at Old Banbury Rd corner** SC has raised the matter of the fix-my-street comment about OCC and MW is to report the matter to the OCC engineer so that he can chase it up. ST feels it may be best to approach Bucks direct. SC is to pursue this. c/f
- 4.08 **PA 18/00821/F** SC checked with CDC about the PC comments and stressed that they needed to be considered. ST confirms that the comments are on the website and certainly seem to have been taken into account. The website shows that permission has been given with conditions though this has not been confirmed to the PC by CDC in the usual way yet.
- 4.09 **Volunteer Policy** This was placed on the web and also distributed to all volunteers.
- 4.10 **Road Repairs** All the issues raised were reported to fix-my-street. The reply was that a major review of the area had been carried out and all problems requiring repair had been marked. Councillors confirm that marks have been put round all potholes and some have already been repaired.
- 4.11 **Grass Cutting** MKB has cut the road side of the hedge for 30yds from the regularly cut area toward the roundabout. The road side of hedges needs to be cut annually while the internal field side can be cut biannually. ST points out that Richard Tredwell, landowner, should be reminded to do this next year. The hedge and verge at Chinalls Close have now been cut. The bund has now been cut.
- 4.12 **Stable Close Bund Issues** MK has spoken to three of the four owners on the east section of the bund. One has concerns about an overhanging tree (now at a 45degree angle), which they would like removed (at No 7), and another has concerns about vegetation invading their garden over the fence (between No's 5 and 7), whilst another would like some half a dozen trees removed as their roots are invading the garden (at No 9). This largescale removal was not part of the previously obtained quote. ST reiterates that before cutting down so many trees the PC should consult with the CDC Arboricultural Officer. MKB will speak to him as a matter of urgency. c/f
- 4.13 **Stable Close Fencing** The areas of broken post and rail fence around the central green have not yet been replaced with 'dragon's teeth.' The work is due to be done this summer/autumn by a volunteer resident. c/f

- 4.14 **Data Protection Contract Progress** SC has been in contact with Paul Nash (PN), Website Administrator, and he is happy to hand over the domain name to the PC. He is hopeful that an even cheaper package could be obtained. SC is to liaise with him over the coming months to confirm a suitable package and get material transferred onto or off the site. It is hoped that he will be willing to give SC a few pointers on how to proceed with the site. c/f
- 4.15 **Co-option of Parish Councillors** SC has emailed Joanne Brooks (JB), former councillor, and she has confirmed she would be willing to return in October. SC is to invite her to the October meeting for Co-option. This will need to be an agenda item. There are no other candidates. c/f
- 4.16 **NHS England Consultation** SC submitted the PC's comments though the link did not appear to be registering properly. It is hoped that the comments were received.
- 4.17 **Dog Mess on the Field** Emails had been received from visitors to the village which, while praising the general state of the field, expressed concern about the amount of dog mess appearing daily on it. MK feels that the problem has reduced in recent months. ST confirms that the Mums on the Village Hall and Playing Fields Committee (VHPFC) are not at all happy with the amount of dog mess and his own grandson got mess all over his clothes during the summer. There is a feeling that at least some of the mess may be caused by foxes which are very prevalent this year. There are still unaccompanied dogs roaming on the field sometimes. MKB is to produce a newsletter featuring this item which can go out either in time for Christmas or when HS2 come to the meeting. It may be that a complete ban on dogs will have to be considered. SC is to notify the dog warden about unaccompanied dogs. c/f

5. FINANCIAL REPORT (20.20)

The financial report was presented for the months of July and August.

It was reported that there was £4,302.53 in the Treasurer Account and £4,806.40 in the Business Money Manager Account.

The following had been paid out during July:

£18.49 to e.on (running costs – electricity)

£296.07 to SC (general admin – for Clerk and RFO duties and internet costs)

The following had been paid out during August:

£390.00 to John Donaldson (running costs – grass cutting)

£220.00 to John Donaldson (running costs – grass cutting and tree surgery)

£296.07 to SC (general admin – for Clerk and RFO duties and internet costs)

6. S19/S137/URGENT BUSINESS (20.28)

No requests for funding were received. No urgent business was carried out.

7. FINMERE LANDFILL SITE UPDATE (20.30)

There was another fire at the landfill site on Saturday August 4th, large enough to be shown on tv. Rather than having lorries dump straight into the cells the current operators have the rubbish dumped on a concrete apron and then moved into the cells by dumpers. Not all the rubbish had been cleared on this particular day and it was left. Approximately 450 tons of rubbish was left in a mound and the surface of this pile caught fire, possibly due to a battery leakage or something similar. The rubbish was pulled apart and spread out to put out the fire by the appliances which attended. The rubbish should have been cleared and not left overnight so the firm have been reprimanded.

There have been further issues with mud on the road and the staining of the A421. Enforcement notices have been issued to end the multiple occupancy on the site. There was a suspicion of modern slavery; but no evidence was found when the site was visited by officials. A three months deadline has been given for the removal of all caravans on the site.

A liaison meeting for all usual participants except the quarry staff is to take place on Thursday 6th to address these issues. MKB will arrange a meeting for all participants once a position has been established. The MRF is now open and Cell 10 has been excavated.

8. PLAYING FIELD PROGRESS AND CONDITION (20.45)

The lease is still ongoing with liaison with the Sports Association taking place on Thursday evening.

MK confirms that he has walked the field this month and all is well.

9. NEW RESIDENTS NOTIFICATIONS (20.50)

There have been two new residents in Stable Close, MK has given them a welcome pack. SC is to send the welcome letter to PG.

10. SPINNEY ACQUISITION FUNDING (20.55)

MKB has been informed that TPO's are not likely to be placed on the spinney trees as they are not outstanding specimens. A case could be made if they are a particular asset to the village and have a history. ST suggests that Barbara Cunningham (BC), resident, is the best person to put forward a case as she helped the children of Finmere School to look after the trees and knows all about their provenance. MKB is to scan the map of the spinney and the field and send it in to show how the spinney is integral to the look and feel of the field. MKB is to ask Brown's to value the spinney for the PC, they have been used before and proved reliable. Landfill tax may well be available now as the MRF is in operation. SC has

confirmed the criteria for listing the spinney as a village asset but as the Mixbury Trust are keen to sell it to the PC anyway there is no urgent need to do this.

11. SPORTS PAVILION FUNDING (21.05)

The Football Club are still keen to proceed with the fitting of showers in the pavilion and are looking for funding from HS2. The ownership of the pavilion is proving a problem and will restrict funding but if the PC can sort out a lease for them they will be able to claim the full amount. This matter will be addressed on Thursday night.

12. HS2 FUNDING FOR SCHOOL (21.15)

John Taylor (JT), resident, has copied SC into an email conversation with Cheryl Snudden (CS), HS2 Community Engagement Manager. The school is concerned that the extra traffic destined for Mere Rd during the construction phase of HS2 (this road is listed as an official diversionary route for displaced traffic rather than for construction vehicles) will make the school run very difficult. They would like to construct an alternative pick-up/drop-off point on the Old Banbury Rd side of their playing fields. There is a gate onto the road on this side. CS will attend either the October or November meeting to discuss this issue when she has the figures for available funding. CS has also sent links to other funding opportunities to do with HS2. SC is to forward these to the school and keep both JT and IC informed. It is felt this would be a good thing for the village as the school run can be problematic now. MKB declares an involvement as his grandson is to start at the school tomorrow.

13. ADDITIONAL DOG BIN REQUEST (21.28)

MKB is still to liaise with his neighbours about the siting of another bin on the gated road between Fulwell Rd and the A421. SC has circulated prices for bins (ranging from £86 for a plastic 25 litre bin up to £143 for a 40 litre metal bin. There would also be an additional cost for a post fixing kit. MKB confirms there is a suitable post on the edge of his field. The ongoing cost of having a bin emptied is approx. £145 per annum. This is to be an agenda item in October. MK points out that the bin opposite the old Kings Head has a damaged lid that will need looking at.

14. PLANNING APPLICATIONS (21.34)

18/00847/F – Fuzz Farm, Fulwell Rd – erection of 2 steel framed agricultural buildings for livestock housing and storage – amended ‘red-line’ site area – the PC has no objections.

APP/C3105/W17/3189420 – Land at Heatherstone Lodge, Banbury Road – appeal dismissed – MKB did not leave the room at this point as there was no discussion of the application, simply an announcement of the decision.

15. CORRESPONDENCE (21.39)

Correspondence for meeting -

None

Emails printed -

Emails corresponding to issues dealt with above

Joint Statutory Spatial Plan invite – MKB to attend

OCC Minerals and Waste Local Plan Consultation – for information

Trees of Remembrance project info – SC is to check which species of tree is being offered and ask the Church if they would have space for such a tree

Highway Maintenance Factsheet – this is to be circulated so that councillors can feedback to IC as OCC would like to produce such a sheet for each department

Highway Maintenance budget increase news – for information

Bus usage figures for end of June, start of July – the Little Tingewick stop was the most used

LED lighting scheme news – for information

HS2 update – this is a notice concerning the security vehicles which will soon be patrolling the HS2 area – this notice is to be placed on the website to inform villagers

Silent Soldier advice – this advice is on how to display a ‘Silent Soldier’ silhouette. SC is to find out details of the scheme and see if it is too expensive or if it is too late to order one

Blue Badge scheme change notification – for information

Internal audit letter of engagement – it is felt that Phil Hood and Arrow Accounting are the best value for this service. The letter of engagement is signed. The PC elects to pay the extra £30 for a home visit by Phil Hood as these have always proved beneficial

Poppy Wreath leaflet – the PC decides to go with Type B, the circular wreath, as usual. SC is to order it and this is to be an agenda item in October so that a donation can be decided on

Emails forwarded -

OCC Corporate Services improvements news – for information

Older People’s Strategy for Oxfordshire consultation – for information

HS2 Notice of ground investigation works – for information

Usual reports

16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS (21.54)

White line painting ST points out that when the white lines were repainted the slow sign by the entrance to the play area on Water Stratford Rd was missed and is almost completely worn away. This was despite him having actually spoken to the crew about this as they were painting other lines in the village. SC is to report this to OCC.

Spring Clean Notice PG asks if earlier notice could be given of the Spring Clean next year as people have often made plans by the time they receive the newsletter. SC is to put the notice on the website next year, though the dates are only given by CDC at quite short notice.

Road Signs MKB points out that all the metal signs with raised lettering in the village have been cleaned and repainted by a volunteer and a splendid job she has made of them.

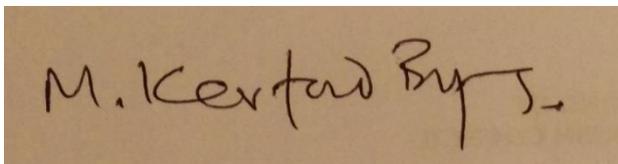
17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING (22.04)

The date of the next meeting is October 2nd.

Meeting closed at 22.05.

CORRESPONDENCE CIRCULATED

Creative Play brochure

A photograph of a handwritten signature on a piece of light brown paper. The signature reads "M. Kerford By J." in dark ink.