

MEETING OF  
FINMERE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2018 in Finmere Village Hall

Present:- Councillors, Mike Kerford-Byrnes (MKB) (Chairman), Katherine Grimston (KG) (Vice Chairman), Mike Kirby (MK) and Steve Trice (ST)

In attendance:- Sharron Chalcraft (SC) (Parish Clerk and RFO) and one member of the public

1. Apologies:- Apologies were received from County Councillor Ian Corkin (IC)

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND INVOLVEMENT (19.31)

MKB declared an interest in Section 4 17/01328/OUT and an involvement in the last item of Section 20, AOB, KG declared an involvement in Section 18 18/00821/F and 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 5<sup>th</sup> of June 2018 were approved with corrections.

4. MATTERS ARISING (19.35)

4.01 **Quarry Liaison Meeting** No issues have arisen since the meeting.

4.02 **Cross Tree Turf and Drainage Problems** SC has again emailed Mike Wasley (MW), OCC Highways, he has reported that he is passing this matter on to the Highways and drainage team. c/f

4.03 **Cross Tree Signpost** Both MW and MKB are looking for a contractor to carry out this repair. c/f

4.04 **Grass Cutting** This is an agenda item.

4.05 **Traffic problems in Valley Rd/Mere Rd** MW has only got copies of the ambulance sign, he is to drop these off with MKB and they will need to be put up. ST points out that the HGV caution signs have still not arrived. SC is to request some. c/f

4.06 **Fencing & Stile for Stable Close bund boundary** SC has again spoken with Joanne Brooks (JB), former councillor, and she has confirmed that the contractor will carry out the work in the autumn. It is confirmed that the fence around the old play area is still available for use as materials for this work. c/f

- 4.07 **Grit bins** OCC confirm that the bin will be replaced in the autumn when refilling takes place. This item can now be removed from the agenda.
- 4.08 **Road Repairs** This is an agenda item.
- 4.09 **Sports Pavilion Issues** MKB is to meet with Mike Geelan (MG), Sports Association Chairman, and representatives of the football club at the end of July. The gutter is still sprung and this matter will be raised at the meeting. c/f
- 4.10 **Fulwell Rd Manhole Cover** ST confirms that there is a misunderstanding about his report. It is the manhole cover and frame in the verge of Mere Rd outside Coniston that is loose. This is the cover which was renewed and badly fitted a couple of years ago as reported in previous minutes. SC is to report this. c/f
- 4.11 **OCC Meeting Invite** Still no date has been received, SC will circulate as soon as she receives it.
- 4.12 **Internal Audit Invoice** This has been paid.
- 4.13 **External Audit** This has been submitted.
- 4.14 **Pothole at Old Banbury Rd corner** This has been reported but the Fix-my-Street site pointed out that this would not be reported to OCC. SC is to mention this matter to MW as it may be that the corner is not being recognised as being in Bucks. c/f
- 4.15 **Joint efforts of Parish Organisations** SC has emailed all the local organisations with GDPR privacy notices and at the same time explained that the PC is happy to help by publicising ideas on the website or by acting as liaison with other authorities.
- 4.16 **17/01328/OUT – Land East of Heatherstone Lodge, Fulwell Rd - outline application for residential development** This application was dealt with under urgent business and as no comments were submitted it was not necessary for MKB to leave the room at this point.
- 4.17 **Parish Liaison meeting** MKB explains that it was confirmed at the meeting that Northants County Council was to be disbanded and two unitary authorities formed. South Northants District Council will be part of one of these and as such will be responsible for a share of the former County Council's debts. CDC cannot therefore continue working in partnership with them. News on the route of the Ox-Cam Expressway is still pending.
- 4.18 **Printer Ink** This has been bought, has arrived and is of good quality. It did cost more than expected at £101.94 including delivery. SC went ahead at this price as printing was needed for the meeting and it is felt that this price was acceptable. Proposed MKB, seconded ST, carried unanimously.

## 5. FINANCIAL REPORT (20.05)

The quarterly financial report and quarterly bank reconciliation were presented, and the reconciliation signed, proposed MKB, seconded MK, carried unanimously.

It was reported that there was £5,523.16 in the Treasurer Account and £4,806.40 in the Business Money Manager Account.

The figures for April and May were as previously reported.

The following had been paid in during June:

£1,601.41 from HMRC (VAT repayment)

The following had been paid out during June:

£195.52 to Arrow Accounting (general admin – internal audit)

£585.00 to John Donaldson (running costs – grass cutting)

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

£101.94 to IJT Direct c/o SC (running costs – printer ink)

£39.00 to CDC (general admin – election costs)

## 6. S19/S137/URGENT BUSINESS (20.15)

No requests for funding were received. Planning app 17/01328/OUT – Land East of Heatherstone Lodge, Fulwell Rd – outline application for residential development was dealt with under urgent business, no additional comments were received. Planning app 18/00821/F – 16 Valley Rd – replacement of garage and new parking layout was dealt with under urgent business. The PC approved of the development subject to conditions. It has been reported that the PC comments have not appeared on the CDC planning website. SC is to check that they have been accepted. The election invoice was approved for payment under urgent business as it needed to be settled prior to the July meeting.

## 7. FINMERE LANDFILL SITE UPDATE (20.25)

MKB has nothing further to report on landfill activities. Enforcement on multiple occupancy of the land has been issued. KG reports that there has again been mud on the road, which can become slippery after rain. This issue was recently raised by John Cunningham (JC), villager, but it appears that standards are slipping again. MKB will call the site about this matter. MK points out that he recently passed the site (June 26<sup>th</sup>) in the early hours and there were 10 – 12 lorries queuing along the A421 waiting to access the site. This is despite the extended hours that have been operating. This is a safety issue and will also need to be raised.

## 8. PLAYING FIELD PROGRESS AND CONDITION (20.30)

The lease is still ongoing with liaison with the Sports Association still to be carried out regarding their contribution for using the field and precise responsibilities for the pavilion.

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

## 9. NEW RESIDENTS NOTIFICATIONS (20.33)

There are new residents in Stable Close this month, MK is to give them a welcome pack. ST is unable to bring the Tingewick pack for comparison as his friends have misplaced it.

## 10. VOLUNTEER POLICY (20.35)

SC had prepared and circulated a draft volunteer policy, based on the three examples discussed at the June meeting, with some optional sections to decide on. The policy was reviewed, finalised and adopted. Proposed MKB, seconded ST, carried unanimously. SC is to send the policy to Paul Nash, website administrator, for placement on the web.

## 11. ROAD REPAIRS/GRASS CUTTING (20.50)

The issue of white line painting, especially around the school, had been raised with MW who confirmed that the lines would be painted by the OCC contractor by the end of October at the latest.

SC is to report several issues to fix-my-street – a pothole outside the gate at Finch Hattons, a pothole in the middle of the road at the bend by the pond, two or three potholes about 350yds along the Fulwell Rd from there, near a double gate, and a large gouge in the road on the east side about 400 yds from the pond along the Fulwell Road, near a gate and spinney.

On the matter of grass cutting Phillip Rushforth (PR), former councillor, had provided a copy of the map and text concerning the grass cutting area which was set up some years ago when the PC took over some areas from OCC. This shows that the verge on the west side of the road leading to the A421 bypass roundabout is the responsibility of the PC for some 50m. MKB has cut this verge and it only remains now to cut back the hedges which are growing out too far into the road. These hedges make it difficult to cut the grass and are also affecting visibility. Councillors are to speak with the landowner and confirm when these will be cut.

ST has taken up this issue with John Donaldson (JD), grass cutting contractor, who confirmed that the area beyond the currently cut area around the bench had never been cut by his team. As the map and documents submitted by PR were dated so long ago, and during his involvement with overseeing the grass cutting had never been cut by JD, ST does not feel it is reasonable to insist that this is now added to the schedule without adding to the grass cutting costs. ST has asked JD to extend the cut along the verge if possible to improve the vision splay, and he has agreed to do this.

PR also raised the issue of the verge at the bottom of Chinalls Close affecting the visibility splay. Shrubs and hedges have overgrown the verge in this area, making it difficult to cut, and nearby residents are no longer able to cut this area of verge. ST is to ask JD if he will cut this area if the hedges are trimmed back. The PC will need to ask the resident to cut back the hedges if necessary. ST also reports that JD has been asked to cut the grass on the Stable Close bund as this has been requested by residents.

#### 12. PARISH CLERK HOUR'S DIARY (21.00)

The total for the quarter was 102 hours. This is just two hours more than the same quarter last year so overall the quarterly figures are in line with last year.

#### 13. STABLE CLOSE BUND ISSUES (21.05)

Two quotes have been received for tree cutting/clearing of foliage but following the receipt of emails from residents, regarding more extensive tree removal, it is thought best to consult with the CDC arboricultural officer first, MKB is to contact him and ask for a site visit. ST feels that the PC should find out why this problem is occurring; the bund was supposed to be planted as a protective barrier in perpetuity and should not require such drastic action so soon. It is possible an independent consultant will be needed. ST points out that as a responsible PC we should not be cutting down healthy trees unless absolutely necessary, and where we do we should be replacing them.

Regarding the sale of land on the bund; following contact from a resident it is felt that a meeting between councillors and all four residents affected would be the best way to proceed.

#### 14. STABLE CLOSE FENCING (21.10)

Again, emails have been received from residents concerning this issue. MKB is to liaise with Peter Ing, resident, who has agreed to carry out the work over the summer.

#### 15. DATA PROTECTION CONTRACT PROGRESS (21.12)

In order to be fully GDPR compliant the PC needs to have a contract with any data processors it utilises. PN has emailed concerning this issue and it appears that he would be happier to continue running the site for the village hall and local organisations such as the Poors Plot and History Society, whose records are still held on the site. This would mean that the PC would need to run a website of its own. It is decided that this is the best way to proceed, proposed MKB, seconded KG, carried unanimously. SC has little experience with the web but is happy to learn and is to liaise with PN regarding the domain name of the site, which service provider to use, security etc. Rather than sending things to PN for posting it will hopefully not take too much longer for SC to post things directly herself. The costs of running a site vary greatly but the site used currently by PN seems the cheapest at approx. £120 p.a.

## 16. SPINNEY ACQUISITION FUNDING (21.20)

Mixbury Trust have confirmed that the valuation carried out by Simon Harris some time ago valued the spinney at 35k or more. This was before the confirmed existence of a 'ransom strip' meaning access is unlikely to be available, thus hopefully lowering the cost of the land. The Charities Commission does not insist on giving permission for every sale providing a proper valuation is obtained and the transaction is advertised. The PC needs to obtain a valuation of their own. It is possible that the spinney could be listed as a village asset, which would mean that the PC would be given 6 months to raise the money for any advertised sale. It is also possible that TPO's on some of the trees would lower the value of the land. These options should be explored. MKB is to speak to the arboricultural officer on this matter also. It is possible the PC could use JB's valuer or source another through her as she has extensive contacts in the area. MK suggests trying Brown and Co who valued the field for the PC originally.

Emily Ackland (EA), Operation Playground, has forwarded information to ST regarding HS2 funding being possibly available for woodland projects, which could result in funds being available for the acquisition of the spinney. MKB confirms that funding is definitely available from the landfill tax distributors for the quarry as it is now active again. SC has circulated news of several funding schemes provided by IC. The Community Infrastructure Capital Grant scheme could be applicable, as could the larger HS2 Community and Environment Fund.

This is to be an agenda item in September.

## 17. CO-OPTION OF PARISH COUNCILLORS (21.30)

SC has confirmed with CDC that no notices of a vacancy are required as the vacancies are the result of an election rather than a resignation. A candidate has approached MK and, having observed the meeting so far, Peter Goss (PG) is happy to be co-opted as a councillor. Proposed MKB, seconded ST, carried unanimously. SC is to deliver the required documentation to PG. JB may also be willing to return in the autumn. SC is to contact her before the September meeting.

## 18. PLANNING APPLICATIONS (21.40)

18/00847/F – Fuzz Farm, Fulwell Rd – erection of 2 steel framed agricultural buildings for livestock housing and storage – the PC has no objections and makes no comment

18/00821/F – 16 Valley Rd – replacement of garage and new parking layout – the PC has no objections and has submitted comments under urgent business (see Section 6 above).

## 19. CORRESPONDENCE (21.45)

### **Correspondence for meeting -**

NHS England – controlled locality determination – the PC wishes to comment that the status of Finmere is rural and that they do not wish that to be changed.

IC update – various issues were updated by IC in his report on local issues. The Comet bus service is now up and running and needs to be supported. HS2 and East West Rail continue to impact locally, and amendments are expected at Junctions 9 and 10 of the M40. OCC and CDC are considering joint working. A new domestic abuse service has been launched.

### **Emails printed -**

Emails corresponding to issues dealt with above.

### **Emails forwarded -**

Parish liaison meeting invite – MKB attended – see Section 4.17 above

Parish liaison meeting notes and presentations – for information

IC funding information – for information

IC Comet bus timetable update – for information and the web

IC County Councillor briefing – for information

OALC June update – for information, no issues arising

Usual reports

## 20. ANY OTHER BUSINESS (21.52)

**Dog mess on field** The Village Hall and Playing Field Committee report that there is again a problem with dog mess on the field, particularly near the play area. The issue of unaccompanied dogs has also appeared again. MK confirms that he has cleared a number of deposits off the field recently. There is to be another newsletter highlighting this subject.

**HS2** KG congratulates MKB on the comments he made to the committee on HS2 recently, these were accessible onscreen online.

**Dog bin request** A request has been received from a resident, namely Sandra Kerford-Byrnes, for a dog bin at the pond end of the gated road between the A421 and the Fulwell Rd. This path is used as a circular walk by many villagers and dog poo bags have been found dumped all along the verge. MKB explains that this endangers livestock. A really distressing picture of the body of a calf, choked to death by bags and with its intestines totally blocked by them, has recently been sent out to warn farmers. There is a cost involved in both buying the bin and having it cleaned going forward. SC is to investigate and circulate the figures involved. MKB will talk to his neighbours the Tompkins and Bonamy-Prices and see if they would object to a bin at the northern end of the bridleway near the pond. This is to be an agenda item in September.

21. DATE OF NEXT MEETING (21.59)

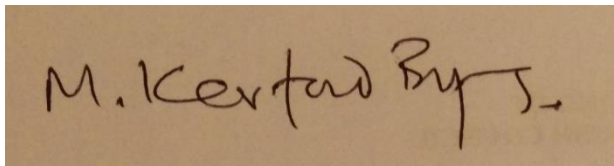
The date of the next meeting is September 4th.

Meeting closed at 22.00.

CORRESPONDENCE CIRCULATED

J Parkers Bulb Catalogue

First Aid 4 Less Leaflet



M. Kerford By J.