

## FINMERE PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> of June 2013 in Finmere Village Hall

Present:- Councillors, Mike Kerford-Byrnes (MKB) (Chairman), Barbara Cunningham (BC), Anna Wood (ANNW), Mike Kirby (MK) and Kevin Ochel (KO)

In attendance:-County Councillor Catherine Fulljames (CF), Sharron Chalcraft (Parish Clerk, RFO) (SC) and two members of the public

1. Apologies:-Apologies were received from Councillor Dr Adrian Wood (AW)

#### 2. MINUTES

The minutes of the meetings of 7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> of May were approved with corrections. The APM minutes of 2013 can be placed on the web but only as draft minutes as they are not formally approved until the 2014 APM.

#### 3. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

The new system is now settling in with the Conservatives and Independents cooperating due to the Conservatives drop from 74 seats to 63. CF has been made Chairman of Planning, as she was some time ago. HS2 needs to be fought all the way and the HS2 Action Alliance is going back to court. The request for funding for the placing of a bench has been received. CF normally decides on the various applications in December. A lot of applications have been received.

#### 4. MATTERS ARISING

4.01 **APM May Minutes** MKB has now delivered his notes to SC and the 2012 APM minutes have been forwarded to AW who will pass them on to Paul Nash, web coordinator for inclusion on the website.

4.02 **Village Notice Boards** The work should be carried out by a working party of MKB, KO and possibly MK next Saturday morning. c/f

4.03 **Drain Cover Land** c/f

4.04 **Greensleaves Development Waste** MKB will firm up his approach and tell the owner to get things moving, not ask him. c/f

4.05 **Moss on pavements** SC is to email Maurice Sheehan, OCC Highways Area Steward again to keep Finmere uppermost in his mind. Orange paint has appeared but no action has been taken so far. c/f

4.06 **Spring Clean (Dog fouling issues)** No volunteers willing to stock dog waste bags for dispersal around the village have been found.

- 4.07 **Car valuables signs** c/f
- 4.08 **VAS Signs** MKB is still to meet with Philip Ogawary of OCC. c/f
- 4.09 **Bench request** CF has confirmed receipt of the request form and will decide in December which requests are paid out.
- 4.10 **Banbury Road Signage** SC has written to the owner of No 2 but only as 'The Householder' so the letter may not have been reacted to. BC is happy to visit.
- 4.11 **List of assets (the pond)** SC is still to contact Graham Warrington. c/f
- 4.12 **Salt bins** c/f
- 4.13 **Developments at Chippings** SC has received a reply from the owner of Chippings who also spoke to her at the APM. The culvert of the whole stream had been carried out in error by Mr Smith's builders and it has now been removed. The bridge built across the stream is to allow vehicular access to the new permitted entrance onto Fulwell Rd and no sluice gate is planned.
- 4.14 **Stiles** SC has had a reply from Sarah Aldous, OCC Rights of Way Field Officer, who thanked the PC for their information. She is to walk the path again in order to be clear on what progress has been made. c/f
- 4.15 **Cold Calling Signs** These have not yet arrived. MKB to chase up. c/f
- 4.16 **Community Services Parish Update** SC has emailed the dates for next year's meetings to Revd Chris Hargraves.
- 4.17 **Playing Field Report** SC has cancelled the cheque and written another, to be countersigned by MKB at this meeting.
- 4.18 **Communications issues** SC cannot locate a 'send receipt' box on her system. She is to check in 'Options.' c/f
- 4.19 **Parking on verge** SC has heard back from Tingewick PC who are unsure as to which piece of the verge is referred to. SC is to ask if the villager could take a photo of the area so that this can be used for clarification. c/f
- 4.20 **Meeting dates for 2013/14** MKB confirms that the District and Parish elections for 2014 are currently scheduled for May 1<sup>st</sup> with EU elections on May 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- 4.21 **Emergency use of Village Hall** Phillip Rushforth, Village Hall and Playing Field Committee, who is present at the meeting confirms that the Committee are happy for the School to use the Hall but will wait for a request in writing to their Chairman Illa Moss.
- 4.22 **Water pump in Mere Lane** This has now been mended, confirmed by Tingewick PC and BC.
- 4.23 **Local crime** Since the last meeting there has been a break in on Fulwell Road and the stones on the verge belonging to Chippings have been stolen.

## 5. FINANCIAL REPORT

It was reported that there was £2,287.55 in the Treasurer Account and £5,289.18 in the Business Money Manager Account.

The following had been paid out:

£73.24 to Sharron Chalcraft (admin and running costs)  
£185.00 to John Donaldson (running costs)  
£243.80 to Zurich Insurance (general administration)  
£1,500.00 to Finmere Village Hall Management (running costs)

MKB has contacted the PC's solicitor who confirms that the PC does own the Village Hall and the Pavilion. Written confirmation has been requested and is to follow.

MKB has spoken with Phil Hood of Arrow Accounting. Mr Hood is a Parish Councillor himself and deals with many Councils. The fee for an audit on turnover up to £10,000 is £229.50. This gives some idea of costs involved.

The internal audit having been completed and the audit now being ready for return the PC reviewed and approved the accounts as follows:

Section 1 – Accounting Statements – Proposed KO, seconded MK, carried unanimously

Section 2 – Governance Statement – Proposed MK, seconded BC, carried unanimously

The minute references were duly recorded and the document sections signed by MKB and SC. SC is to submit the audit to BDO.

## 6. S19/S137

No requests have been received.

## 7. URGENT BUSINESS

**Insurance** After confirming that the Hall and the Pavilion have separate cover and that the School insures the Firework Night event it was decided to press ahead with Zurich Insurance and SC has renewed with them for the coming year.

**Payment to Village Hall Management** Following communication from Mr Stephen Trice, Village Hall and Playing Fields Committee, it was decided under urgent business to pay the necessary sum for funding to be obtained, £1,500.00. SC has made the payment.

## 8. FINMERE LANDFILL SITE UPDATE

The site has been idle though it is still quite messy. One of the tall objects on top of the mound is confirmed as a scrap metal skip. There is to be a Quarry Liaison meeting on Wednesday June 12<sup>th</sup>.

## 9. PLAYING FIELD PROGRESS

MKB has met with David Endicott, solicitor. He is waiting for a copy of the written proof of ownership of the Hall before proceeding. He has confirmed that there will be no fee for work carried out or requested so far. The PC solicitor confirms ownership of the hedges on the south boundary as well as the Hall and pavilion.

## 10. PLAYING FIELD CONDITION

The field has been walked and checked this month by BC and MK and all is well. Phillip Rushforth, Village Hall and Playing Fields Committee, confirms that no further action on the broken housing is proposed by the gas company. However as the supply will need to be upgraded when work is carried out to improve the Hall the housing will possibly be replaced then.

## 11. VEHICLE LICENCE PLATE MONITORING EQUIPMENT REPORT

A short time ago an incident occurred in Finmere involving a 14 year old boy, walking through the village on his way home, being approached by a man in a van and offered a lift. The boy ran to a nearby house for help and that householder, who works in the field of security, has come to the meeting tonight to suggest that the village invests in a camera which will monitor and record vehicle licence plates, especially as there have been several such incidents locally in the last 5 years, including the case of a young girl in Tingewick last week. The camera records the licence plate of any vehicle which passes and keeps the picture to be referred to if there is an incident.

These cameras are increasingly present in communities and the police apparently find them an invaluable aid in the apprehension of criminals, indeed they are already in operation on the Tingewick bypass. The householders company is prepared to sponsor the equipment by arranging a preferential price for the PC. A volunteer homeowner will be needed to allow the equipment to be fixed to their house. The equipment does cost a small amount of money in electricity each year. Feedback from villagers when asked about the idea has been positive so far.

MKB explains that he attended the Bicester Rural NAG (Neighbourhood Action Group) meeting last night and he had asked about the incident and why it had not been reported by either Neighbourhood Watch or NAG. Apparently the police had not regarding the matter as an 'incident' but more as a misunderstanding. Apparently both Beachborough and Akeley Wood schools had sent out warnings which they later retracted as the facts had been sent out to them wrongly. The police felt that the person had probably been a villager with good intentions as it had been raining.

The householder explains that the police will back the idea. The camera has an infra red capability and takes an overall picture of the vehicle as well as recording the number plate on a database. The cost of one camera, which could be strategically placed, would be £2,800, a reduction of £1,000 on the normal price.

There are some reservations among councillors, it is wondered whether one camera could adequately protect the whole village, given the number of roads in and out. Also there is

concern about the ‘big brother’ image of this sort of surveillance. The village opinion would need to be canvassed thoroughly.

It is decided to put this item on the agenda again for next month. It is possible some assistance with meeting the cost could be obtained from OCC or CDC. Councillors are to consider how best the villager’s opinion could be sought.

## 12. CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence for meeting:

Letter from Mr Smith, Chippings – see above

Emails printed:

Sarah Aldous’ reply on stiles – see above

Tingewick PC reply on pump – see above

Ray Churchard reply on APM dog training club report – It is felt that this should be added to the APM reports with the APM minutes and placed on the web.

Emails forwarded:

Raves and rural villages

HS2 Consultations

OPFA Informal Networking Event

Rural Vulnerability Service – Fuel Poverty, Transport, Broadband

Parish Liaison meeting invite – MKB to reply

Protected Trees Update

Area Review of subsidised bus services

Supporting Community Transport

Oxfordshire Festival news

Data protection course news – SC is to book this course – Prop BC, sec MKB, unanimous

Usual reports

### 13. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

13/00553/F – Chippings, Fulwell Road – Construction of driveway and associated engineering works – the PC has no objection and submits no comments.

### 14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was raised.

### 15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting is Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> of July.

MK and SC give their apologies.

The meeting closed at 9.50 p.m.

### CORRESPONDENCE CIRCULATED

Saunders surfacing leaflet

AVDC Publication of Vale of Aylesbury Plan Strategy