

FINMERE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held on 12th May 2015

in Fimmere Village Hall

Present:- Councillors, Mike Kerford-Byrnes (Chairman) (MKB), Katherine Grimston (Vice Chair) (KG), Kevin Ochel (KO), Mike Kirby (MK), Stephen Trice (ST), District Councillor Barry Wood (BW) and County Councillor Catherine Fulljames (CF)

In attendance:- Sharron Chalcraft (Parish Clerk and RFO) (SC), and 10 members of the public

1. Apologies Apologies were received from County Councillor Catherine Fulljames, for possible lateness, Parish Councillor Amanda Hodgkins, PC Caroline Brown, John Cunningham, Mike Geelan, Rachel Pears, Marc Forster and Peter and Joan Grimwade.

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of 10th of June 2014 were circulated and approved.

3. ANNOUNCEMENT OF APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS

The PC officers for 2015/2016 having been appointed at the PC meeting on May 5th 2015 these appointments were announced as follows:

Chairman Mike Kerford-Byrnes (having indicated his willingness to continue)
Proposed: Katherine Grimston
Seconded: Kevin Ochel
Carried unanimously

Vice Chair Katherine Grimston (having indicated her willingness to continue)
Proposed: Mike Kerford-Byrnes
Seconded: Steve Trice
Carried unanimously

RFO Sharron Chalcraft (having indicated her willingness to continue)
Proposed: Mike Kerford-Byrnes
Seconded: Mike Kirby
Carried unanimously

Parish Clerk Sharron Chalcraft (having indicated her willingness to continue)
Proposed: Steve Trice
Seconded: Kevin Ochel
Carried unanimously

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The report is attached

5. FINANCIAL REPORT

The report is attached

Copies of the receipts and payments account for 2014/15 were made available.

SC has checked with OALC whether the annual presentation of accounts by the PC needs to be on an accruals basis as the District Council's is and they have confirmed that it does not.

6. REPORT OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR MRS CATHERINE FULLJAMES

The budget was set in February. The council tax was increased by 1.99% which is the equivalent of 46p for a band D property. The increase was regrettable but necessary to maintain care for the elderly, those with special needs and also to maintain roads. Efforts are continuing to try and improve broadband provision throughout the county. The cable has been laid in Finmere and the service should be in place by September.

Potholes are a problem and OCC has set up an online reporting service called - fixmystreet@oxfordshire.gov.uk and issues can now be reported directly and are regularly dealt with.

The master plan for development involves new houses in Bicester. There are four county councillors in Bicester and they work together. There are concerns about the infrastructure and road network in Bicester and these are being addressed.

HS2 issues seem to concern OCC less as the county is largely untouched. CF is trying to get them to take up the problems for local roads that will come with construction. The Bicester to Oxford railway will have Ambrosden, Merton and Wendlebury badly affected by aggregate trucks also the M40 Junctions 8, 9 and 11 will be badly hit. A routing agreement is necessary near aggregate sources as well as at the site of the build.

The big landfill issue at the moment is the application to open the MRF without complying with conditions of the current planning applications. There is to be a meeting on Monday May 18th at 2p.m. at County Hall to discuss this. Anyone wishing to speak should email graham.warrington@oxfordshire.gov.uk by Thursday 14th. A report on the issues involved is on the OCC website. CF will recommend to the committee a Section 106 – development carried out in accordance with existing agreements.

Ques – Phillip Rushforth, villager, - Having used the site before Easter I found it quite efficient. On Tuesday I reported a defect on a path, on Friday I checked to see if it was in order to be sorted out and found it was showing at a different site and with a different number. Why would this be?

Ans – It is possible the original posting had already been dealt with and removed from the system and this was a new posting.

7. REPORT OF DISTRICT COUNCILLOR MR BARRY WOOD

The council's finances are sound, there are no money troubles and there has now been no rise in council tax for CDC for 6 years. The joining with South Northants council and subsequent sharing of staff and buildings has saved some £3million per annum. Stratford upon Avon may be included next in order to save even more. These savings are brought about by things such as sharing one set of licences for computer software, one mega computer, one standby computer etc. There was no imperative to work in this way before but now that such hard targets are set for budgets necessity has proved the mother of invention. BW would advocate the setting of hard targets in future.

The Cherwell Local Plan should be in place within the next couple of weeks. This is a plan for the next 25 years. Places for people to live and provisions for them are all covered in the local plan. Banbury and Bicester are the main areas for development with Kirtlington and Upper Heyford also set to grow. CDC have tried to protect the villages but 750 more rural houses need to be provided. The PC can play their part in delivering the local plan.

In Bicester the new Library and a Travelodge are being built near the new bus station. The old library site is to be turned into a disabled housing area. The council has lost car park income from the centre of town but has gained in shop rents. There will be a lot of traffic improvements and the train service will be improved by the new Bicester Town Station. There is also a new park and ride for Oxford near Chesterton with 750 places Mon-Fri which will be overspill car parking for Bicester Village at the weekends. More than 3,000 people are now employed at Bicester Village which is the largest built attraction for the Chinese. Tesco is moving to a new site nearer to Wyevale, this being 1 of only 2 sites that Tesco has continued to build following its recent restructuring. Bicester is truly becoming a 'boom town'. Tesco will pay for the necessary traffic improvements near the store. There will be a 'hamburger' roundabout. There will also be a new road through the site of the old ordnance depot out to the Aylesbury Road. The new train service to Oxford should be up and running by October.

8. REPORT OF POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICER

PC Brown is unable to attend this evening but reports that there are no serious issues regarding crime in the Finmere area. PC Brown will be attending a PC meeting in the village in the future and will make a more detailed report at that time.

9. REPORT ON THE NEW DEFIBRILLATOR

This item was dealt with earlier in the meeting as Mr Tracey was on call and might be called away.

Dick Tracey (DT) of SWAS gives a presentation about defibrillators, how and when they are used and what benefit they can bring to survival rates. The most common concern among the public is the safety of using the equipment if you are not sure of a person's condition. DT

explains that it is impossible to shock someone who has a heartbeat as the machine detects this and will not administer the shock. Anyone whose heart is not beating needs to be shocked if they are to have the best chance of life. The machine will be fitted in a locked case on an outside wall of the school and anyone calling 999 will be given the access code for the case. The PC hopes to have the machine in place shortly.

10. REPORTS OF VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS

Church – The report on Church activity was presented by Barbara Cunningham, PCC (BC). The village has lost its Rector, who has moved to Wales and the last few months have been dominated by the search for a new Rector which is still ongoing. There is currently an Inter Regnum. It seems that the speed of the C of E in these matters is slow, dead slow, stop or reverse. Although the Rector left on October 13th this was not made official until November 12th. The benefice profile of 10 Churches and 8 PCC's has to be explained and meetings held with any candidates. There was only one applicant to fill the post at the first attempt. It is also difficult to attract candidates as the Rectory has been let on a short lease, although it is still used as the Benefice office.

As the Church currently fails to meet its financial quota from weekly contributions there needs to be fundraising. Jan Shelley of Chinalls Close holds a coffee morning on the first Tuesday of the month which is doing well. There will also be another Safari Supper on July 4th. BC has organised the Christmas Draw for the last 3 years and this needs sponsors, in particular a £200 sponsor is needed. The Christmas Fayre will be held on December 5th this year.

Roof repairs are due but attendances are down. The Church needs village support in the sum of approximately £2,000 if the possibility of closure is to be avoided. The Church is the oldest building in the village and is used by the whole community for weddings, funerals etc. The WWI commemorative service was well attended as was the Harvest Festival which was Christobel Hargraves last service as Rector. Reservation of burial plots is up with new burials now to take place on the South side of the Church. After some 2 years of searching the PCC have managed to find a new Secretary, Corinne Merrick, who attended the PCC meeting last week.

The message from the PCC is simple – support the Church or lose it!

School – no formal report was received this year but those present were able to confirm that the School hockey team had won the Oxford competition this year, a great achievement.

Poors Plot Charity – a report was given by Hugh Smith, Trustee – see attached

Village Hall and Playing Fields Committee – a report was given on behalf of Illa Moss, Chairman – see attached

Beavers/Cubs/Scouts – no report was received this year

Football Club – a report was to be given by Jon How – see attached

Cricket Club – a report was submitted by Mike Geelan, Chairman – see attached

Brackley and Buckingham Districts Dog Training Club – no report was given this year

Dog Scent Training Club – Heather Donnelly gave a report on the Club's activities. The club started in January and is held on Thursday afternoons. There are currently 8 participants from Finmere, Oxford and Banbury. More meetings will hopefully be held soon, maybe one on Sunday being among them. The training is for any level of dog or owner with the dog being trained to find a scent. Each dog is given 3 minutes to find and alert to a hidden scent 'custom and excise' style. This is a very popular activity in the US and is catching on fast here. Some quite strong scents are used to start with such as 'Deep Heat', aniseed or cloves. The scents are laid both in interior and exterior situations including in vehicles or even luggage. There are refreshments available and lots of fun is had by all. The one stipulation is that dogs taking part need to be friendly with other dogs.

Insane Dance – no report was received this year

CEROC Bucks – a report was submitted by Rachel Pears as she and co-host Marc Forster are currently demonstrating dance in Croatia – please see attached

Drama Group – no report was received this year

OPES – no report was received this year

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Contact details BC points out that the sheets on the notice boards giving details of both Parish Councillors and the Clerk/RFO are either missing or in a poor condition and need to be replaced. SC is to replace them once the notice boards have been refurbished.

Welcome Pack Phillip Rushforth, former Parish Councillor, asks whether the PC still possesses any welcome packs, these contained useful information about the village and its services and were handed to new residents by the PC. SC and MKB are to check and see if any are still held, if not then the PC can consider formulating a pack for the future.

MKB thanked those attending on behalf of the PC.

The public meeting closed at 9.30p.m.

Members of the PC present then discussed an email from CDC about the proposed development off the Old Banbury Road. CDC need to find out what any community benefit money would be spent on if the development goes ahead. This information needs to be submitted whether the PC objects to the development or not. It is felt that the best use of the money would be new equipment for the play area at the playing field. Proposed MKB, seconded KO, carried unanimously.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Good evening and welcome to you all. It is my privilege to report to you on the activities of the Parish Council over the past year.

Throughout the year, we have met regularly with high attendances. We have been ably supported by our District Councillor, Mr Barry Wood, and our County Councillor, Mrs Catherine Fulljames. Again we are indebted to them both. In addition, on behalf of us all, I would like to thank our Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer, Mrs Sharron Chalcraft, for all her hard work and assistance throughout the year.

Composition

We started, and finished, the year with the same personnel. We still have a vacancy, which may be taken up in the coming months. .

Governance

As mentioned last year, we are subject to ever-increasing regulation from the "authorities". This has become more apparent this year, as we accumulated data on the amount of officer time spent in this area. It has had an impact on the precept.

Chinalls Close

Thanks to much persistence by the Clerk, we managed to acquire the ownership of the otherwise unassigned land which formed part of the Chinalls Close development. It was 'left out' of the original paperwork. Not only was it unassigned, it was also untended, and whilst we paid £1 for the ownership, we have had to spend some money in its renovation. There is more to do. At the same time, we also made a large clearance on the play area in Stables Close. The November bonfire benefited as the expense of our current account.

Finances

As you will have noticed from your council tax bill, we increased the precept significantly this year. As already mentioned, we have to spend more time on the governance aspects of the parish council. Other factors also came into play. Firstly, the grant from OCC for grass cutting was halved. We had the choice of reducing the frequency of the cut, or leaving it as it was. We chose the latter. Secondly, we increased our use of the "community benefit" part of the precept. This is a sum of money, approximating to £6 per elector, which is part of our precept, that we can use for items and actions that benefit the community. In past years, we made grants to the Village hall. But with our acquisition of the playing field, it was not so employed. In recent years, it has been under-used, and applied to the general 'pot', supporting, amongst others, the gradually increasing grass-cutting costs. Last year, we purchased a defibrillator and its accompanying case, and we also incurred some costs with the acquisition of the land at Chinall Close. So there was significantly less available to support other activities. We have the option to reduce the "community benefit" but, given the work that we have to do, we felt it was appropriate to retain it. Finally, the authorities have indicated that they may, in the future, compel Town and Parish Councils to hold a referendum if they propose a precept rise of 2% or more. 2% of our precept is less than

£160. If we were to seek an increase, it is inevitable that it would be more than that. And we would also have to pay for the referendum!

Shortly after the turn of the century, we managed to keep the precept frozen for around seven years. Had we increased it at the same rate as the district and county councils, it would have been in excess of £7000 by now – not far short of our current levy..

HS2

We have continued to press for improvements to the current proposals for HS2. We have petitioned parliament, and appeared before the Select Committee of the House of Commons in February of this year. HS2 also were represented and argued against our suggestions. The initial response from the Select Committee would indicate that we were not successful and that the HS2 view prevailed. We have not yet given up. A further Select Committee, this time of the House of Lords has yet to hear the arguments and we are eligible to press our case.

Playing Field

The matter of its governance is still outstanding, and the efforts to exploit the “pro-bono” offer have not succeeded. We have now established contact with a solicitor who has a lot of experience and we are arranging a meeting with him in the near future.

Boundaries

The Electoral Commission has been obliged to review the manner in which Cherwell District Council is divided into its Wards. Today they published their decision. This will be implemented next year in a District-wide election. Finmere will no longer be part of the Fringford one-member ward. It will become part of a 3-member “Super ward” comprising 16 parishes extending from Finmere to Kirtlington, and Goddington to Upper Heyford.

Landfill

The Landfill site is still a vexatious issue. They managed to raise the funding to cap the mounds and construct the MRF last year. The MRF construction has gone to plan and it is being commissioned. However, they failed to complete the capping by the approved and agreed date of October 2015. A great deal of the work is complete. Relatively little has been done in the last three months and it still looks very untidy. Recently OPES submitted yet another planning application to remove the condition restricting MRF operation. It currently prevents the operation of the MRF until cells 3, 4, 5 and 6 are capped. This condition was imposed largely as a result of efforts from Finmere at the MRF appeal in 2007. Given all that we had endured over the years, it was a small “win” for us. It ensured that the operators would HAVE to conform before generating any revenue.

We learnt that, as a result of the approach to subsequent planning permissions relating to the MRF, this condition was now potentially irrelevant, and that this application could result in it being lifted.

The PC objected as strongly as it could. The Officers report, along with the comments of the Deputy Director of the Department were published yesterday. The decision will be made by committee next Monday. Finmere PC have registered to speak and will continue to make the case that the MRF should not operate until the remedial work is complete.

There is also an issue with litter from vehicles. This is definitely not the responsibility of the Landfill operators, but of the drivers. If you can note the detail of any instance of vehicle related litter, contact OCC.

Stable Close

As you are aware, in March there was a consultation 'open' day relating to the development of "Stable Close 2". Last Friday, the planning application was submitted and is open for comments. The number of proposed dwellings is unchanged at "up to 50". As we promised, we will be holding a village meeting so that we can represent village views accurately to the authorities, so that they can make an informed decision.

Ongoing activities

As mentioned earlier, we have obtained a defibrillator, and this will be installed at the school this weekend, electrics permitting. At the same time we will be moving the Dog mess bin from outside the Old Village hall in Mere Road to the Banbury Road, opposite the junction with Valley Road. As part of this weekend working party, we also intend to carry out work on the notice boards.

And of course we will continue to cut the grass, empty the dog bins and fight Finmere's corner wherever it is required.

Mike Kerford-Byrnes

12 May 2015

FINMERE PARISH COUNCIL RFO'S REPORT 2013 – 2014

Income this year was lower than last by some £800, only one year's VAT came in this year and there was no grant from the Community fund. The insurance payment was returned in error and had to be repaid which affected both the income and expenditure totals. There was an anonymous donation to cover the cost of a second VAS sign base.

Running costs were lower this year with less expenditure by the PC on the village hall. Staff costs were increased by £1,733 due to a review of the Clerk/RFO's hours. A diary of hours spent showed that with all the increase in legislation the Clerk/RFO was actually working some 25 hours per month. This review of hours has needed to be carried out in other parishes as well. There was no grant to spend this year but there was some capital expenditure on Land Registration for the open space in Chinalls Close and also S142 Information and advice covered some signage. Another large increase in spending was S137. This covered both the purchase of the new defibrillator and its case, a new VAS base and a litter bin. S137 is a pot of money, some £2,250 worked out by multiplying the allowable amount per head by the population. This sum can be spent on benefitting the village; for example other uses this year have been the donation to the Royal British Legion for the commemorative wreath and maintenance of the church clock. If unspent this money is carried over into reserves. Full expenditure of S137 would have cost a further £500.

The expenditure over income balance for the year is £1,667.54, as was predicted in the report last year. The balance carried forward is now in line with the recommended amount of one year's precept in reserve.

The total fixed assets on the PC register have increased by some £35. This is due to our regularising our previously unregistered assets and the addition of new assets, the VAS sign base, the litter bin and the public open space in Chinalls Close, although the annual repayment on the sports club loan reduced this total by £200.

The increase in staff costs will be ongoing in the coming year and the PC must seek to balance income and expenditure so they were already looking at increasing the precept for this year. However OCC then announced that they would be cutting the grant for grass cutting by half this year, a loss of some £750, meaning the increase would need to be significant. CDC did promise a relief payment of £443 as Finmere had lost some of its council tax base but this payment was withdrawn at the last minute. This loss coupled with the fact that the PC may well have its precept raising powers capped in the future in the same way as larger councils meant that the PC decided to raise the precept considerably for this year to £7,850. This does mean that the PC is able to respond to the need for any essential expenditure easily and it ensures an adequate ongoing reserve.

This is perhaps a good time to remind everyone that the monthly financial report, given at the PC meeting and detailed in the minutes is available to view online, the minutes being posted only after their approval at the following monthly meeting. Anyone wishing to apply for S137 monies can contact the Clerk or approach any of the Councillors who can explain the criteria for eligibility.

POOR'S PLOT CHARITY
Annual Report 2014/15
to Finmere Parish Meeting, 12th May 2015

The Poor's Plot trustees are pleased to make their report to the Parish Meeting as follows. The trustees comprised Anita Bilbo (secretary), Hugh Smith (chairman), Phillip Rushforth and Paul Nash.

Activities and Financial Position

The charity holds the 12 acre Poor's Plot field which it lets out on agricultural rent. It also administers the village allotment area. We are very grateful to Mr Peter Lepper who makes the allotment land in Water Stratford Road available, and plays such an active part in providing it. There are 24 allotment plots which are let for a small fee. As normal, a number of these changed hands over the year and all are currently in use.

The police were involved briefly in the spring of 2014 when an allotment shed was the subject of criminal damage with intent to burgle. The trustees reminded holders of the need to keep the security of any stored items in mind.

We have continued to rebuild the charity's financial position from a previous operating deficit in earlier years. The accounts summary for the year to February 2015 is:

Income £930.00

Expenses £329.50

Surplus £600.50

Expenses in the year were for insurance premium, and for the payment of a grant to support the village clock renovation fund.

We are pleased to report a closing bank balance held with TSB of £5,110.51 at 28th February 2015. The interest rate on deposits is unchanged at zero percent.

Outlook

The trustees continue to discuss options for the further application of Poor's Plot funds, and welcome any viable suggestions that Finmere residents may wish to make in this regard.

Hugh Smith
Chairman
11th May 2015

Chairman's Report on Village Hall and Playing Fields 2015

Principle activities in pursuit of our objectives

The hall is in use on a regular basis by a number of user groups that cover a wide cross section of the population and community organisations. Regular users of the hall in 2015 were: Beavers, Cubs, Insane Dance and dog training.

The hall also hosts annual events such as the Finmere Festival, Bonfire Night. We have bookings for parties for children of varying ages, wedding parties and private parties. Since the refurbishing of the hall we have seen an increase in hire for such events. The hall is also used as a polling station and presentations for issues such as the proposed new houses in Finmere.

Funding strategy and reserves policy

Our strategy is to maintain the revenue budget on a self-financing basis i.e. lettings and hires. Currently we have sufficient reserves for day to day expenses and it is our aim to keep it up. Management Committee approval is needed for any expenditure from the reserve fund.

Volunteer contributions, grants and fundraising

The village hall and playing fields require maintenance like any other building and grassy area. The costs of maintenance are minimised through use of the time and commitment of the committee members, namely Alan Jones, Trevor Jones, Peter Grimwade, Paul Nash, Phillip Rushforth, Steve Trice and Pat White. Our thanks go to all the members and especially to Alan & Trevor Jones who spend many hours each summer looking after the playing field, Alan also looks after the interior of the hall.

Our major refurbishing of the hall was funded through grants from the landfill tax fund. This was facilitated by OPES, via Grantscape. In previous years, we have also received grants from OCCR, the Parish Council and Doris Field. We have so far received £113,103 from landfill tax grants via Grantscape and we have a further grant in process for £13,520. Our thanks to all contributors.

As will be seen so far we have refurbished the main building and now it is time to look at the surroundings. We have sufficient balance from previous grants and with the new grant we will be able to resurface the car park. This is due to start on Tuesday 26th May and take two weeks. During this time, access to the car park will be very limited; this includes access to the bottle banks.

The Village Hall Management Committee is still continuing to operate under the authority of the Parish Council and I believe we are waiting for the official documents to be drawn.

Our main fundraising plan for this year is a repeat of the Quiz night in November and we aim to organise more events.

Our future plans

Our core purpose is to continue to provide a sustainable, safe and high quality community building for the use and benefit of the local community in line with our charitable objectives. We have been in a steady, sound and well established state throughout the past year and will continue to manage and run the hall, ensuring that we can meet the following priorities:

- The hall is properly and fully maintained.
- Running costs continue to be met.
- Build up reserves to cover future repairs.
- Continue to have a strong and dedicated management committee that continuously reviews, updates and improves our management process.
- Monitor and react to the needs of users and the wider community.
- Promoting the hall for use by the local community.

Illa Moss

Chairman

12/05/2015

FINMERE FOOTBALL CLUB REPORT 2015

Brief summary of Finmere Football club 2014/15 season:

"Finmere FC has fielded two teams both playing in the Banbury District and Lord Jersey league. The 1st team finished 6th in the 1st division and the reserves finished bottom of the Div 3. (Four Divisions, Premier, 1, 2 and 3). The teams have over 40 players signed on drawn from a large area, but with a number of players with connections to Finmere. The club is based in the Royal Oak at Tingewick and holds its committee meetings there. The club is ambitious to improve our league positions and to improve the facilities at the pitch, with the installation of showers high on the priority. Club is grateful to Alan and Trevor Jones for their efforts in keeping the pitch mown to a high standard."



2014 Season in Review/Prospect 2015 Season

In 2014 the cricket club continued to focus on “friendly” Sunday fixtures, all played at Finmere. Even more so than in previous years, the club was well supported by the village - both in terms of players but also in terms of back-room help from the players’ family members and other club “friends”. The excellent weather we enjoyed throughout July and August and into September also helped.

Although it was only a moderately successful season in terms of results – 4 wins out of 7 matches played (including a big win in the now annual 20:20 fixture against one of the club’s sponsors, Lloyd Woodworking of Brackley) – the high point was the progress made by our youth section. Miles Hermon and Travis Stone from Finmere, and Morgan Blane and Jack Lloyd from Tingewick all contributed with the bat and ball. Morgan actually won the 2014 season “Champagne Moment” trophy with his catch of a skier on the long off boundary. With each of them getting faster and stronger by the day, we can look forward to developing a strong back-bone to the team in the coming years.

In addition to repeating our shirt sponsorship deal of 2013 we held a number of successful fundraising events including our Games Night in the Village Hall last September. As a consequence, as we begin the new 2015 season, the club remains financially viable.

Thanks are due to Alan and Trevor Jones for continuing to prepare such excellent pitches and for delivering us a square and outfield that any league side would envy.

For this 2015 season we have another series of Sunday friendlies scheduled to include – for the first time – a tour match in Lower Slaughter. Everyone in the village is more than welcome to come up and watch our games (matches start at 2.00pm prompt) or to join the club as a playing member. We are always on the look-out for new talent – whatever your age. Contact details below for those who might be interested.

Michael Geelan

CHAIRMAN

michael.geelan@eurospangroup.com

or

David Lloyd

SECRETARY

finmerecricketclub@hotmail.com

CEROC Buckingham Report

Buckingham Ceroc runs a weekly Monday-night dance class at the Community Centre near Buckingham's High Street. Ceroc dance can be described as a hybrid of jive, rock and roll, salsa and blues dancing. The simplicity of the dance means that all tastes are catered for, and a huge variety of music is played throughout the evening. It is as much a social occasion as a dance night, and we have over 100 people attending the classes every Monday. People of all ages attend - from those in their 20's, to some who have just joined us in their 80's - and all dance abilities.

Marc and Rachel have been running the venue for nearly 4 years, and numbers have been steadily increasing. When the time came to expand we needed a monthly Sunday venue for our specialist dance workshops for smaller groups of people. We also hold regular workshops for new dancers. Finmere village hall was recommended by our regular dancers and village locals, Beverley and Richard, and it has proved to be the perfect choice.

We have been thoroughly impressed with the hall refurbishment. Phillip has kept us up to date and given us great service over the years. To everybody involved in the running of the hall and from our community to yours, we thank you kindly.

Regards,
Rachel