

FINMERE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held on 8th January 2013 in Finmere Village Hall

Present:- Councillors, Katherine Grimston (KG) (Acting Chair), Barbara Cunningham (BC), Dr Adrian Wood (AW), Kevin Ochel (KO) and Mike Kirby (MK)

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

1. Apologies:- Apologies were received from Councillors Mike Kerford-Byrnes (MKB) (Chairman), Anna Wood (ANNW) and Kevin Ochel (KO) (for possible lateness).

2. DISPENSATIONS – SETTING OF THE DISPENSATION PROCESS

Following changes to legislation there has been some concern about the need to grant dispensations to councillors in order that they can discuss and set the precept. Various organisations such as OALC and SLCC have given guidelines about setting up this process. OCC and CDC however do not feel that this is necessary. It is decided to go with their advice and not set up a dispensation process at this meeting. Proposed - BC, seconded – AW, carried unanimously. It is felt however that it would be best to have a process in place for future use if necessary. This is to be an agenda item next month.

3. DISPENSATIONS – APPLICATIONS

Given the decision above the applications by councillors are unnecessary.

4. MINUTES

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

5. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

This was postponed as the County Councillor was unable to attend.

6. MATTERS ARISING

6.01 **APM May Minutes** c/f

6.02 **Village Notice Boards** c/f

6.03 **Drain Cover Land** Nothing heard. c/f

6.04 **Greensleeves Development Waste** c/f

- 6.05 **Moss on pavements** An email has been received from Phillip Rushforth, resident, explaining that a contractor visited in the first week of December and spread what appeared to be rock salt on the moss but this has had no effect. An email has also been received from Cliff Monger, OCC Highways, explaining that their partners Atkins have salted the path and will return to the site and clear it if the salt has been successful. SC is to mention the possibility of jet washing to OCC. Failing that it is likely that the path will be closed.
- 6.06 **Spring Clean (Dog fouling issues)** SC has provided Natalie Holmes with Phillip Rushforth's details. AW has talked with her, asking if it would be possible for her to furnish the village with more signs. They are to meet and place some temporary surveillance signs in the village hall car park. MK spoke with the offending motorist on January 2nd. His reason for not getting out of his car is the fact that he is disabled. So far the dog has not been caught in the act of fouling though it is understood that a villager has reported the man.
- 6.07 **Car valuables signs** c/f
- 6.08 **Fly Tipping** SC has taken photos of the remaining rubbish at the spot and sent them to AVDC. c/f
- 6.09 **VAS Signs** c/f
- 6.10 **Bench request** Nothing heard. c/f
- 6.11 **Ragwort** Nothing heard. c/f
- 6.12 **Dog Bin invoice** This has still not been received. c/f
- 6.13 **Memorial Wreath** This has now been paid for.
- 6.14 **Banbury Road Signage** SC has asked for advice from OCC. Nothing heard. c/f
- 6.15 **List of assets** No other assets have been identified, saving the ownership by the PC of one third of the pond. SC is to check how this could be recorded and add all assets to the list for next month.
- 6.16 **Christmas lights** The ceremony went well. AW turned off the lights last weekend. Unfortunately there was some vandalism to the connection but the lights were unharmed. There is to be a working party to take the lights down. MK/KO are to carry this out on the weekend of 26th/27th of January.
- 6.17 **Parish Liaison Meeting (Precept)** MKB and SC were given as contacts available for consultation but as far as SC is aware were not consulted.
- 6.18 **Pothole on Fulwell Road** SC has reported the further damage to the tarmac. Nothing heard. c/f
- 6.19 **Salt bins** The salt has arrived.
- 6.20 **Developments at Chippings** SC has spoken to CDC who have confirmed that a planning application has been received and is currently being registered. When the application arrives it is felt that SC should call CDC out to look at the development as it is of such concern to villagers. One question from planning was whether the culvert

was on the edge of or in the centre of the owners land. AW confirms that now the owner of Chippings has bought the neighbouring property the stream flows across the middle of his land. MK observed the culvert during the recent heavy rains and was pleased to observe that the water level was only some halfway up the pipe. c/f

- 6.21 **Stiles** SC has contacted Sarah Aldous, OCC Footpath Officer. She has confirmed that there is work ongoing on a stile at Warren Farm and asks that KO could confirm the exact location of the stile needing attention. The difficulty with work on the stiles in the fields bordering the gated road is contacting the absentee landowner. Sarah asks if anyone in the PC has any information which would help. SC is to write to Stephen Beale, villager, who is most likely to have these details. c/f

7. FINANCIAL REPORT

It was reported that there was £2,496.94 in the Treasurer Account and £5,288.33 in the Business Money Manager Account.

The following had been paid in:

£0.92 interest to the Business Money Manager Account

The following had been paid out:

£73.24 to Sharron Chalcraft (admin and running costs)

£90.98 to Sharron Chalcraft (admin)

8. S19/137

SC has circulated the document giving expenditure details so far. An email has been received from Phillip Rushforth, Village Hall Committee, giving warning of a request to come next month from the committee – the five gas heaters are to be serviced and some repairs to the roof are to be carried out.

9. URGENT BUSINESS

Details pursuant to Condition 36 (surface water runoff scheme) of planning permission 11/00026/CM at Finmere Quarry – all comments have been submitted previously and will be considered in discussions. BC did not take the paperwork; SC is to check with MKB.

10. FINMERE LANDFILL SITE UPDATE

A Quarry Liaison meeting was held on the 12th of December. Those present were Bill Stewart-Jones, OCC, Louise Greenwood, EA, Neil Goudie, EA, Ben Wragg, OPES, Helen Bever, OPES, Richard Lucas, OPES, Mike Kerford-Byrnes, FPC and Barbara Cunningham, FPC. Future funding for the MRF is still being sought. Mark 1 will be built with Mark 2 to follow when funding is obtained, a new design has been submitted and the site excavated. Cells 3-9 on the northern flank are being re-contoured. Cell 7, next to the bungalow, is the next in line. All planning permissions are in place. Landscaping and aftercare have been

approved; surface water is ready to be approved. Bridleway 4 will need to be diverted. The licence for newts was approved in May. Flares and engines are in operation. The northern extension is on hold but is still a long term objective. They are looking to vary another planning permission so that Cell 7 can be filled before Cell 10. There is leachate around Cell 7. This Cell will be made the same level as Cell 11. One interesting comment from OPES was that EA normally object to Cells being built so close to a bungalow and they don't know how this got approved. The permit to extract was transferred to OPES on November 7th; this was the wrong one however. The leachate plan is to be resubmitted for EA comments. Boreholes 10 and 11 are to be monitored. They have till June to get leachate levels approved. Two tankers of leachate per day are being removed from site, this is an expensive business. Cells 4, 5 and 8 are ready for capping on the northern flank but this is still not done. There has again been a problem with smell, despite all the assurances given in 1993 that there would never be an odour. KO asks if the leachate is seeping into the water. BC confirms that it is not thought to be. However the water in the ditch is often a range of awful colours. There have been four internal complaints – a breach of ground water, odour complaints on the 30th Oct and 10th Nov, another at the end of November that was unsubstantiated and a chloride breach, levels are now dropping. Tonnages have dropped at the site.

The EA have carried out inspections. In September a gas well was found to be not properly sealed. The site is Band D now. It was Band C last year. OCC want to re-phase development. They are pleasantly surprised at the leachate management. There need to be additional soil reserves but they are happy with the banking of the mound. BC relayed KO's questions on behalf of the PC. When asked if there was any corrosion problem resulting in short life on the engines they confirmed this and explained that they needed to use more oil. When asked if they had exceeded levels on the wells they replied; metals, no, CO2 twice, but not now. When asked if the leachate level had been exceeded or approached they confirmed that for two years they have been extracting and have had to vary the plan, the wells being so small. It seems that they have not capped as more rubbish means more money, but as KO points out, a leachate flood will cost more. The next meeting is on the 6th of March. KO is still to talk to his friend at Calvert about leachate and other problems.

11. PLAYING FIELD PROGRESS

C/f

12. PLAYING FIELD CONDITION

The field has been walked and checked this month by AW and MK. They report that some moles have appeared on the field and that the football season has started, but there are no problems.

13. PARISH PRECEPT REVIEW

SC presents a table of revenue estimates showing actual figures for 2011-12, the original and revised estimates for 2012-13 and estimates for 2013-14. These show that if the grass cutting is to continue at the increased rate the precept will fall short of requirements. SC has contacted CDC about the precept as no notification has been received. CDC confirms that no

agreement was reached at their meeting as to next year's precept figure; this is due to a disagreement on the implementation of the government's compensation package over the change in precept calculation. This has not adversely affected Finmere, the tax base for last year was 213 and for 2012-13 it is 214. It is thought to be likely that the PC's will be capped as to varying their precept amount in the same way as larger councils from next year. The current cap level is 2.5%. In view of the fact that the village seems so much happier with the extra grass cuts and nobody has approached the PC with concerns after the newsletter item explaining the necessary effect on the precept, it is felt best to increase the precept by £550, 10%, which will result in a rise of approx £2.30 per household in Finmere. This amount should be sufficient to cover the grass cutting for some time, even given the likelihood of a cap in future and given rising costs. Proposed BC, seconded MK, carried unanimously.

14. PARISH REMUNERATION PANEL'S REPORT

SC reports that regrettably the report has been mislaid, it arrived some few days ago and in the post Christmas clear up it would appear that it has been lost. SC has requested another copy but this has not yet arrived. The report is only important if the PC decide to pay themselves allowances this year, in which case the permissible amounts are laid out in the report. The PC does not wish to begin paying allowances this year so the item can be carried forward to next month's agenda.

15. CORRESPONDENCE

Planning application 12/01755/F – Orchard Cottage, Mere Rd – demolish existing conservatory, erect oak framed conservatory. This has arrived after the publication of the agenda but can be dealt with under urgent business. BC takes the paperwork.

Poster about Mayor of Bicester's Charity Pancake Race – SC to place on school notice board.

Community governance review – placed in folder

Neighbourhood planning news from Sir Tony Baldry MP – an email giving details of an exchange of questions in the house regarding Neighbourhood Plans. – placed in folder

An email has been received from Phillip Rushforth, villager, regarding a horse box being parked on the Fulwell Rd, without lights and causing an obstruction. KG is to approach the owners informally.

Emails forwarded:

Briefing on precept setting

Dispensations

Parish liaison meeting follow up

Woodfuel programme news

Usual reports

16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No Cold Calling Signs These have become very messy and are falling apart. There are currently lots of callers in the village, when referred to the signs they are unaware of them as they have not noticed them. SC is to apply to trading standards for more signs, having checked with MKB or in the minutes to see how they were originally obtained. It is pointed out that the HS2 signs have been removed, whether because they became tatty is not known.

Dog fouling AW has been promised a report by Natalie Holmes. This was also mentioned to SC, it is a hard hitting and shocking report about the dangers of dog fouling, produced by the Dog Warden, which can be included in a future newsletter if required.

Communication KG points out that it is very important that we do not assume emails have been received. In cases of urgent communication a phone call is best. Confirmation such as by the use of read-receipt on emails is important.

Flooding An enormous amount of water built up by the Old Kings Head in the recent heavy rain. This should have flowed into the ditch by the cattle grid opposite the front of Finmere House. It is possible that the ditch is blocked.

Planning KG points out that sewage has again backed up at the pumping station on Mere Lane and has flooded her fields. The infrastructure of the village is running at capacity and any applications for housing development must cause concern.

17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting is Tuesday February 5th. BC apologises.

The meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.

CORRESPONDENCE CIRCULATED

Community governance review

Neighbourhood planning news from Sir Tony Baldry MP