

MEETING OF
FINMERE PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of meeting held on 7th February 2017 in Finmere Village Hall

Present:- Councillors, Mike Kerford-Byrnes (MKB) (Chairman), Katherine Grimston (KG) (Vice Chairman), Kevin Ochel (KO), Steve Trice (ST), Mike Kirby (MK), Joanne Brooks (JB) and Amanda Hodgkins (AH)

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

1. Apologies:- Apologies were received from Councillor Amanda Hodgkins (AH) for possible lateness

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following declarations of interest were made:

ST declared an interest in Item 5.1 (as a member of the Village Hall and Playing Field Committee and as the Councillor liaising with Operation Playground)

3. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of 10th of January 2017 were approved with corrections.

4. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

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

5. MATTERS ARISING

5.01 **Operation Playground** The installation is to go ahead in April, hopefully on the 3rd. The scale plan has now been corrected to properly show the route of the footpath. MKB suggests that a councillor should be present at the time of the installation starting to ensure that the plans are correctly interpreted. ST is to liaise on this matter. JB has written to Mrs Rosemary Crabtree and assured her that no work needs to be carried out on the memorial tree yet and that any in the future will be carried out sensitively. There will need to be some trimming of the hedge which will need to be carried out soon to avoid the nesting season.

- 5.02 **List of assets (the pond)** SC has only just written to the Tompkins, MKB has not been able to carry out the risk assessment yet. c/f
- 5.03 **Letter from Little Tingewick resident about Mere Lane** SC has informed the resident that no more information is held.
- 5.04 **Parish Path Map** The invoice has been paid.
- 5.05 **Cross Tree Turf and Drainage Problems** SC has received notification from fix-my-street that the drain has been jetted. However ST and MK feel it shows no sign of work having been carried out, SC is to check with Sarah Aldous, OCC Highways. c/f
- 5.06 **Internal and External Audit – Bank Signatory Forms** All three councillors have now completed the process and SC has requested confirmation of the new regime but has heard nothing yet. c/f
- 5.07 **Bottle Bank** PR has emailed the reply from CDC regarding bottle bank emptying, this is carried out on a monthly basis, including cleaning of the area, but anyone can report problems which arise and these will then be resolved.
- 5.08 **Stable Close Bund** This is still ongoing. c/f
- 5.09 **A421 Verge to roundabout** SC has received no reply from Bucks CC, it may be that no work will be carried out until the spring. SC is to contact them again and stress that it is the western verge which requires most work. It may be that the hedge boundary needs cutting back; it is believed that the land is owned by Alan Tredwell, SC is to contact him. c/f
- 5.10 **Mixbury to Finmere footpath** The Fianders have confirmed that they will walk this route as soon as possible. KO confirms that the metal gate on the edge of the poors plot area is very difficult to negotiate. SC is to contact Anita Bilbo or Hugh Smith. MKB is to put up the signs shortly. c/f
- 5.11 **Paving slabs in Chinalls Close** The work has now been completed and a small patch of concrete which suffered frost damage has been replaced. The invoice from JD has been paid, see urgent business below. The volunteer group is registered and able to start work. SC is to inform them. c/f
- 5.12 **ICO registration renewal** This has now been confirmed and the certificate received.
- 5.13 **Application for land opposite Red Lion, Little Tingewick** This has still not been decided on, MKB has received numerous phone calls from the applicant's agent following some fly tipping on the site.
- 5.14 **Letter and invoice from Beryl Smith** A letter of thanks for the PC's kind words has been received from Mrs Smith, the cheque has been sent.
- 5.15 **Road repairs** JB asks how people are finding the use of the top part of Valley Rd now that the new double kerb is in place. The large vehicles used by her business are finding the going difficult, with the new 'pinch point' now measuring only 3.9 metres even though OCC Highways had promised 4.2 metres minimum. A lot of rubber is already being rubbed off the tyres and left on the kerbing. There are a number of

large vehicles that need to use this stretch with the addition of delivery vehicles which are directed this way by sat nav. It is felt that maybe the PC should talk to the two residents on this stretch as they may well be concerned by this new situation. One car was parked around the corner recently but unfortunately the hedge at that point is overgrown making the parking difficult. It may be that the hedge could be cut back to make use of this spot easier. MKB is to chat to the residents concerned.

SC has reported the pothole to fix-my-street.

- 5.16 **Parish Precept review** The figure has been submitted and receipt confirmed by CDC. MKB is to try and find out figures that other PC's are claiming and include all this info in the newsletter to be produced shortly.
- 5.17 **10/01516/CM – Finmere landfill** MKB pursued the reinstatement of the QL meetings following this application; see Section 9 below.
- 5.18 **Consultation links** These were forwarded by SC.
- 5.19 **Newsletter** This is to be produced shortly.
- 5.20 **Spinney Acquisition** MKB has completed a draft letter to the Mixbury Trust and will circulate this before sending it off.

6. FINANCIAL REPORT

It was reported that there was £609.51 in the Treasurer Account and £5,302.78 in the Business Money Manager Account.

The following had been paid out:

- £351.60 to VHPFC (running costs – exterior lighting)
- £15.19 to e.on (running costs – electricity and consumables)
- £4,168.00 to Opes – in administration – (grant contribution)
- £35.00 to ICO (general admin – subscriptions)
- £14.85 to Beryl Smith (S144 – encourage visitors – war memorial flowers)
- £640 to John Donaldson (running costs – re-laying of paving slabs)
- £50 to mck photography (running costs – village hall decoration)
- £287.50 to SC (general admin – for Clerk and RFO duties and internet costs)

SC will chase up the Sports Association loan repayment which has not yet been received this financial year.

JB suggests that the PC should check for alternative suppliers for electricity. As e.on provide the PC with an unmetered supply certificate it may be difficult to obtain an alternative but SC will ask around other companies.

7. S19/S137

No requests had been received.

8. URGENT BUSINESS

The sum of £640.00 was paid to John Donaldson, grass cutting contractor, for re-laying the paving slabs.

9. FINMERE LANDFILL SITE UPDATE

MKB has had no reply from Ben Wragg regarding a Quarry Liaison meeting. There has been no interest shown in such a meeting by the administrators. Given that another application for extension and removal of conditions has been received, see Section 13 below, it is felt that this matter needs to be pursued; the PC needs to be kept informed. MKB is to chase up. c/f

10. PLAYING FIELD PROGRESS AND CONDITION

The bonfire waste has now been cleared.

MK and ST have walked the field this month and report it to be in a satisfactory condition.

11. NEW RESIDENTS NOTIFICATIONS

SC forwarded the welcome letter to MK who has delivered it to his new neighbours. There are new residents in White Houses, Mere Road; ST is to deliver a welcome letter to them.

12. OLD BANBURY ROAD PATH CONDITION

The date for the working party is set at Saturday March 11th. MK apologises. JB is to take away waste on her trailer. KO has a hedge trimmer which should cope with the brambles. Shovels, brooms, loppers, secateurs and wheelbarrows will also be needed.

13. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Finmere Bridleway No.4 (Part) Public Path Temporary Diversion Order 2016 – order confirmed, SC has displayed the notice and plans on the village hall notice board

13/00973/CM – Finmere landfill – removal of conditions 1, 7, 8 and 29 – to provide for the deposit of waste in the haul road area that cuts through Cell 6 as part of the capping works to Cells 3, 6 and 9; the tree planting on Cells 4, 5 and 8 by 31st March 2017 and for the restoration of Cells 1, 2, 3, 6 and 9 by 31st December 2017 – MKB explains that the haul road has to be filled in for Cell 6 to be capped. KO and ST feel that the PC should make an objection to the continuous requests for extension of time limits from the landfill. JB points out that they must have known for some time that they would not make the deadline but have waited until the last minute to apply. MKB says that as Devil's advocate he does know that

the administrators are very busy with many problems and trying to fulfil all time restraints is probably low on their priority list. ST asks what will happen if the site is declared an 'orphan' site and taken over. MKB explains that it will be CDC that has to take the site on and they will have to pay for it out of council tax unless they can prove it is a hazard in which case the EA become responsible. There is no obligation on them to fulfil all the planning applications that are in place. MKB is to write and circulate comments for the objection. He is also to press for the restoration of regular quarry liaison meetings.

14. CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence for meeting –

High Sheriff letter about carers – this explains the idea of setting up a community information network to assist carers. Carers Oxfordshire would like to come and see the PC. MKB suggests that this would be a good item for the APM, this is agreed on; SC is to send an invite.

Emails printed –

PR about the bottle bank – see 5.07 above

ICO registration documents – see 5.12 above

Precept confirmation – see 5.16 above

Beryl Smith reply to thank you letter – see 5.14 above

Spring Clean letter and form – the date chosen is Saturday March 18th with delivery to Mike on Friday 17th and collection on Monday 20th. MKB is to book the hall for refreshments. SC is to return the form.

Oxfordshire Clinical Consultation invite – SC is to circulate this to all.

SCAS charity appeal – this can be paid into under S137 as it directly benefits the village by providing the defibrillator service. It is decided to donate £100 to this invaluable cause. Proposed MKB, seconded KG, carried unanimously.

New street trading policy document – there are no businesses in the village that spring to mind.

Jon How about the sports pavilion showers – this confirms that the Football Club are close to being able to build the showers; they need the name of the owner of the land for the application. SC has told them MKB but MKB points out that it would be best to put the Clerk. Councillors change but the Clerk position is constant. SC is to let Jon How know.

One Oxfordshire meeting invite – SC is to circulate this to all

Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste strategy consultation – SC is to circulate the link

Emails forwarded –

Various photographs of vehicles from the agent for the Little Tingewick land application – these show vehicles parking possibly dangerously near the pub but the circumstances are not clear and it is not felt appropriate for the PC to put them on the website or publicise them in any way.

OALC December/January update

Usual reports

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Waitrose scheme KG points out that the Brackley Waitrose has Operation Playground as one of its green token beneficiaries at the moment.

War memorial KG volunteers to take on the planting of flowers around the war memorial for a trial period.

New pothole On the Water Stratford Rd between the Brooks' farm and the farm cottages there is a new very deep pothole. SC is to report to fix-my-street.

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting is Tuesday 7th of March 2017.

MK apologises for the March meeting.

Meeting closed at 21.55.

CORRESPONDENCE CIRCULATED

Glasdon leaflet