

FINMERE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held on 3rd of March 2015 in Finmere Village Hall

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

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

1. Apologies:- Apologies were received from County Councillor Catherine Fulljames (CF), Councillors Steve Trice (ST) and Amanda Hodgkins (AH), for probable lateness

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the PC meeting of 3rd of February 2015 were approved with corrections.

3. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

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

4. QUARRY LIAISON MEETING REPORT

No quarry liaison meeting has taken place since the February PC meeting.

5. MATTERS ARISING

5.01 **Obtaining a defibrillator** Dick Tracey, SWAS, has met with MKB and the equipment has been checked. MKB is to visit the school and will discuss the fitting of the equipment. c/f

5.02 **Village Notice Boards** c/f

5.03 **VAS Signs** MKB has spoken with Dick Calcraft, CDC, and he is to forward the information on obtaining a key. c/f

5.04 **List of assets (the pond)** MKB is still to talk to Mr Tompkins. c/f

5.05 **Blocked gullies** Cliff Monger, OCC Highways, has confirmed by email that he has raised defects on several blocked drains, Fulwell Rd outside 'Finch Hattons' – 3, Valley Road – 3, Valley Rd junction with Old Banbury Road – 1. These should be dealt with shortly.

5.06 **Traffic speed in Mere Road** Peter Egawhary, OCC, has emailed SC and would like to meet with a councillor on site. SC is to forward his email to MKB. c/f

- 5.07 **Bins in Mere Rd** The invoice for the bin has been paid. The bin is still to be installed. c/f
- 5.08 **Unauthorised Activity on the Field** c/f
- 5.09 **Additional Parish Councillor** c/f
- 5.10 **Tree surgery and other works on PC land** c/f
- 5.11 **Underpass Gullies** c/f
- 5.12 **Drain Covers** Cliff Monger, OCC Highways, confirmed in his email to SC that he has raised defects for two manhole covers, at Coniston and No 21 Mere Road and also that he has reported the manhole frame and cover near the Church to Thames Water under a Section 81. These should be dealt with soon.
- 5.13 **Public Protection and Development letter** c/f
- 5.14 **Dogbin** c/f
- 5.15 **Compliance – Health and Safety Assessment of Assets** SC brings in the sheet for the computer.
- Street light – The PC has checked and there are only 4 other street lights in Valley Road so the PC light must be one of the 5 being maintained by CDC.
- Stable Close open space – on the agenda
- Chinalls Close paving – c/f as ST is away.
- c/f
- 5.16 **Road Repairs** Cliff Monger, OCC Highways, confirmed in his email that the surface of Valley Road is very similar in condition to many in Cherwell and there are only limited funds available for repair at the moment. However 7 potholes have been defected.
- 5.17 **Water lying on the road** The drain at this location has been defected, see 5.05 above.
- 5.18 **Parish Precept Review** SC has submitted the alteration and it has been acknowledged.
- 5.19 **Proposed Development of Land off the Old Banbury Road** Flyers were sent out to publicise the meeting and over 100 people turned up. The general feeling was that 50 properties are too many for the site. No actual application has been deposited yet. When it is submitted then an official village meeting needs to be held.
- 5.20 **OPFA Membership Renewal** This has been paid.
- 5.21 **Responsibility for Mere Lane** Cliff Monger, OCC Highways, has forwarded an email from Tamsin Ingle, OCC Environment and Economy, confirming that the width of the carriageway of Mere Lane is in Oxfordshire but that OCC are not responsible as it is not an adopted road and does not appear on the Rights of Way map. SC is to

call Tamsin and check whether the responsibility for the lane is therefore the responsibility of homeowners on both sides of the lane.

- 5.22 **Stile on Fulwell Road** Sarah Aldous, OCC Footpaths Officer, has confirmed by email that the damaged stile was reported to her in January and she contacted the owner of the land on January 19th to advise them that it needed attention. She has had no reply so far but will be following this up in due course.
- 5.23 **HS2 Select Committee** MKB attended the select committee and delivered his report on behalf of the PC. CDC hired a QC. The procedure is that you put in your petition and HS2 then address your issues and if you are happy you withdraw your petition before the committee considers it. CDC were happy and wanted to withdraw. OCC have not petitioned and nor has the local MP. Barry Wood, Leader of the Council, instructed CDC officers to attend and support the deputations from Finmere, Mixbury and Newton Purcell.

MKB pointed out that North Oxfordshire has an unemployment rate of 0.8%, so would hardly benefit from any jobs brought to the area, and is the farthest point from the stations so will not benefit at all from the train itself. There were no discussions on this subject with HS2. Featherbed Lane will now not be closed but a haul road along the old railway line will be used instead. This will take 12 weeks to set up. MKB pointed out that there should be wheel washing facilities between the haul road and the A421.

There will be pinch points on the A43 affecting the M40 with the estimated 8,400 vehicle movements a day. There will be grid lock. The PC asked that the roads be mended after construction. Owls up to 1.5 km from the line are being built new homes while people living only 121 metres away have no help at all. The interest costs for the project will also be being met by locals who have no use of the line at all.

HS2 said that the lane would be ok and that traffic won't be a problem. HS2 discussed the issues of safety at Warren Farm and also road noise. Sound proof tarmac will be used but this needs more frequent repair. The road at Warren Farm used to be a straight B road, the A road had a kink put in 600yds west of the Warren Farm entrance. This will be straightened and HS2 say this will get Highways approval and will be safe.

An official pointed out to MKB after his presentation that no matter what HS2 says it is the committee who decide and they may well see the merit in the PC argument.

6. FINANCIAL REPORT

It was reported that there was £1,746.11 in the Treasurer Account and £5,295.69 in the Business Money Manager Account.

The following had been paid out:

£40.00 to OPFA (general administration - subscriptions)
£152.12 to Glasdon (S137 (LGAct 1972) Village benefit)
£284.75 to SC (general administration)

SC is to check with the PCC about the church clock maintenance bill for the year to April 2015. This has to be paid by S137 and the sum cannot be carried forward.

7. S19/S137

No requests have been received.

8. URGENT BUSINESS

No urgent business was carried out this month.

9. FINMERE LANDFILL SITE UPDATE

There is nothing to report this month.

10. PLAYING FIELD PROGRESS

The due diligence information has been provided by the Village Hall and Playing Field Committee (VHPFC) and MKB has forwarded it to Jonathan Dawson (JD), solicitor. The PC is confirmed as holding the freehold of the land. A letter of engagement is now needed if the work is to continue. Bills will be sent for work every 14 days, with interim reports if the work is taking longer. The charge is £140.00 per hour. An estimate of costs will be provided and regular advice given if there is thought to be a chance of extra work. The letter is to be sent – proposed MKB, seconded KO, carried unanimously. MKB and possibly another councillor are to meet with JD and determine the work to be done. At MKB's discretion a VHPFC member could also be taken along.

11. PLAYING FIELD CONDITION

MK has walked the field this month and confirms all is well. SC has received an email from the insurance company confirming that the policy does not stipulate a need for warning signs and that the insurers just ask that the area is checked to make sure it is safe (trees not rotting and likely to fall etc) and accept that people use rural areas at their own risk.

12. PARISH REMUNERATION PANEL'S REPORT

The report of the parish remuneration panel is reviewed and the PC decides to continue making no payments for expenses. Proposed MKB, seconded MK, carried unanimously. SC is to post receipt of the report in line with regulations.

13. STABLE CLOSE OPEN SPACE USAGE

SC has confirmed with CDC that there is no restriction on use of the open space excepting that it cannot have its use re-classified or be built on. The PC must preserve for 15 years what the developers put in place. Everyone is sure that the development has been in place that long but MKB is to confirm from the deeds the date that the PC actually took control. The equipment can then be removed just before bonfire time. The boundary fence is to be left in place.

14. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

14/01809/LB – Coach House, Mere Rd – replacement front door – the PC have no objection or comment to make

MW0031/15 – Ope, Finmere Quarry for the retrospective planning permission for minor changes in orientation to a limited part of and an extension to the footprint of the Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) building the subject of planning permission reference 10/00361/CM, changes to the surface water management system, the provision of boundary fencing and non-material amendments to the consented MRF building including the addition of doors, roof lights, signage, generators and air management equipment, external stairs, amendments to the offices and internal layout of the building and the variation of planning permission reference 10/00361/CM to remove Condition C24 (landscaping mitigation measures) and Condition C29 (relating to landfill engineering works) – this has been discussed at previous Quarry Liaison meetings and the PC has no objection

14/02138/F – Orchard Cottage, Mere Rd – garage conversion – permission subject to conditions

15. CORRESPONDENCE

A renewal notice for membership of the SLCC has been received with a cost of £88. It is decided to continue SC's membership – proposed MKB, seconded KG, carried unanimously. SC is to pay this by BACS.

An insurance quote has been received from Zurich Insurance, this is to be kept for comparison when Aon send a renewal notice.

A letter has been received from Oxford Edens an Oxfordshire gardening business. This is to be given to ST for reference when quotes need to be obtained for grass cutting services.

Bucks CC has sent a registration document for their Minerals and Waste consultation, SC is to register.

HS2 additional land requirements information has been received, the only entry is the realignment of Footpath 303/7.

The Spring Clean 2015 form has been received. It is decided to hold the spring clean on Saturday April 18th. SC is to submit the form and MKB will arrange refreshments at the village hall after the litter pick.

Emails printed –

Email from Cliff Monger about Highway Issues – see 5. Matters Arising above

Email from Cliff Monger about Highway ownership – see 5. Matters Arising above

Email from insurers about warning signs – see 5. Matters Arising above

Email from Sarah Aldous, OCC, about stiles – see 5. Matters Arising above

Emails forwarded –

An invitation was received from Finmere School for councillors to attend an open day – none were able to attend but MKB is to visit the school on another day

Clean Slate newsletter

Local Transport plan Consultation for consideration

Planning application MW0031/15 - see 14. Planning Applications above

Usual reports

16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was raised.

17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting is Tuesday 7th of April 2015.

The meeting closed at 9.25 p.m.

CORRESPONDENCE CIRCULATED

Wicksted playgrounds leaflet