

MEETING OF  
FINMERE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2017 in Finmere Village Hall

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

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

1. Apologies:- Apologies were received from County Councillor Ian Corkin (IC) and Parish Councillor Amanda Hodgkins (AH)

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND INVOLVEMENT

ST declared an involvement in any matters to do with the VHPF Committee. JB declared an involvement in Valley Rd traffic issues.

3. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of 7<sup>th</sup> of November 2017 were approved with corrections.

4. MATTERS ARISING

4.01 **Cross Tree Turf and Drainage Problems** SC has emailed Kathryn Gash (KGA), OCC Highways, again and KGA has replied to say that she is to try and escalate this matter as she has still heard nothing and this may be an under road issue. c/f

4.02 **Spinney Acquisition** MKB has spoken with Revd Alice Goodall, as the Chair of the Mixbury Trust, but the Trust has still not sent a reply. MKB is to continue to pursue this matter. c/f

4.03 **Old Banbury Road Path** SC has had a reply from Mike Wasley (MW), OCC Highways, explaining that due to lack of resources he has not yet considered the Finmere issues. SC is to keep IC updated. IC has offered to meet with MW and walk around the village with him to address all the current highways related issues and it is felt that this would be a very good idea; SC is to ask if IC can arrange this. c/f

4.04 **Road signs** This painting is still to be completed. c/f

4.05 **Cross Tree Signpost** Refer to item 4.03 above. c/f

4.06 **Grass Cutting** SC has reminded KGA of the problem with the missed area of verge, between the roundabout, which is cut by OCC, and the wide verge where the bench is

situated, which is cut by the PC contractor. KGA confirms that as the area is not a visibility splay it will not be cut more than once and Finmere has already received this years' cut. She does not confirm whether the area is on the OCC grass cutting map. It may be best to raise this matter with MW and IC for their walkabout. c/f

- 4.07 **Insurance and Governance of Village Hall and Playing Field** From now on this item will be dealt with under the agenda item Playing Field Progress and Condition, please see Section 8 below.
- 4.08 **Stable Close Bund Proposals** The Berrys invoice has been paid. JB has spoken to Eny Owen (EO), Head of Legal Dept at Redrow Homes, and EO is to chase up the matter of lifting the covenant. JB is to continue pursuing this matter. c/f
- 4.09 **Computer** SC has contacted IJT regarding drivers and they have put her in touch with HP the makers. However, on contacting them SC was asked to provide a stock purchase number. ST suggests that it may be time to purchase a new printer which is able to both photocopy and scan. MK knows of a reconditioning company in Milton Keynes that may well have a higher spec model that will be more economical. SC is to spend up to £150 on a machine. Proposed ST, seconded KO, carried unanimously. MK is to forward the company details to SC and she is to try there first. c/f
- 4.10 **HS2 Liaison** SC has again emailed Lorraine Kelly (LK) of Fusion but has had no reply, there appears to be no new information at the moment. IC is to arrange a liaison meeting with the OCC HS2 representative in January. MKB has been given a contact, George Reynolds, regarding the Wardington Community Fund which can be applied to for grants regarding HS2 impacts. c/f
- 4.11 **Grass verge near Pines** Refer to item 4.03 above for OCC response. It is not known whether any conversation has taken place between residents but the car is still sometimes parked on the verge. MKB will check to see if the resident who contacted him is now happy. c/f
- 4.12 **Carol Service** This was a very successful evening.
- 4.13 **Queen Victoria's Jubilee Tree** KO has removed the ivy and any new suckers. SC has informed Barbara Cunningham (BC), villager, that the work has been carried out.
- 4.14 **Traffic problems in Valley Rd/Mere Rd** Refer to item 4.03 above. c/f
- 4.15 **Councils and Charities Training** SC has received a reply from OALC, there are no other training dates but a power point presentation was prepared and this has now been forwarded to councillors.
- 4.16 **Berrys Invoice** This has been paid, see Item 4.08 above.
- 4.17 **Internal Auditor Engagement** The engagement has been confirmed.
- 4.18 **Fencing & Stile for Stable Close bund boundary** The work has not yet been carried out and ST suggests that as the fence around the old play area near the spinney has to be removed it may be worthwhile to suggest that this could be re-used. JB is to speak to the contractor. c/f

- 4.19 **HS2** This has been dealt with, see Item 4.10 above.
- 4.20 **Planning Application MW0083/17** There were no comments to submit.
- 4.21 **Reg 55 Application, Swan Practice, Buckingham** SC has written in with the PC's comments but has been informed that the letter needs to be re-submitted to a new authority which is now dealing with the matter. SC is to forward. c/f
- 4.22 **Oxfordshire Transport Survey** SC submitted the PC's views online.
- 4.23 **Rights of Way** Roger Fiander (RF), villager, has been in touch to confirm that the footpaths shown on the OCC map are correct and complete, he has informed IC of that fact.
- 4.24 **Parish Liaison Meeting** MKB was unable to attend. Notes of the meeting have been circulated.
- 4.25 **Machinery Noise** MKB has been informed that the noise was caused by investigations into the water table, and any possible problems, on the far side of the mound.
- 4.26 **Grit bins** There is to be a working party of ST and MK on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December to investigate how the water is getting into the bin and sort out the clearing of it. c/f
- 4.27 **Newsletter** This was produced and circulated.

## 5. FINANCIAL REPORT

The monthly financial report was presented.

It was reported that there was £6,158.03 in the Treasurer Account and £4,804.24 in the Business Money Manager Account.

The following had been paid out during September:

£240.00 to Berrys (general administration – valuation fees)

£290.33 to SC (general admin – for Clerk and RFO duties and internet costs)

An invoice was received from ICO for renewal of data protection registration in the sum of £35. This is to be paid by cheque, proposed MKB, seconded ST, carried unanimously.

## 6. S19/S137/URGENT BUSINESS

No requests were received. No urgent business was carried out.

## 7. FINMERE LANDFILL SITE UPDATE

The soil on the mound, which is being tipped in preparation for capping the far side, seems to be very high. ST is concerned that the amount is excessive for capping. The PC needs to keep an eye on the matter. MKB is to check with Bill Stewart-Jones, OCC, about their site visits. KO has heard that contractors on the site have cut through the cable to the generating station by mistake.

## 8. PLAYING FIELD PROGRESS AND CONDITION

MKB has received and circulated two model leases for consideration. The matter is very involved and a solicitor will need to be consulted. MKB hopes to get the work done on a pro bono basis. ST suggests that MKB should take Phillip Rushforth (PR), Village Hall and Playing Fields Committee, along with him so that any considerations involving the committee can be addressed.

MKB is still to confirm why OALC advised other PC's against entering village halls on the asset register.

The VHPFC has considered the matter of the pavilion and sent a reply which explains that they are not happy to take on the extra work involved. MKB and SC are to chase up the matter with Mike Geelan (MG), Sports Association Chairman, as it is still not certain that the Football Club have been consulted. On the matter of maintenance of the field ST is sure that the Jones' brothers are happy to carry on, at least for the next few years. IC has replied regarding the mower grant that the mower must be used for at least some work that was provided by OCC in the past. The mower will be used to cut the verge from the village hall to the allotments or other nearby areas which were formerly cut by OCC. SC is to inform IC.

MK confirms that he has walked the field this month and all is ok.

## 9. NEW RESIDENTS NOTIFICATIONS

There are no new residents this month although there are likely to be some at Warren Farm soon.

## 10. PREPARING FOR EMERGENCIES

The new guidance on emergency planning or community resilience was circulated for consideration. This involves encouraging members of the public to become involved in setting up a plan and it is felt that a small item could be included on the website and in the next newsletter. SC is to send a piece to Paul Nash (PN), website administrator.

## 11. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

17/01667/F – 13 Town Close, Mere Road – 2 storey side and rear extension and single storey rear extension – permission subject to conditions

MW 0060/17 – Finmere Quarry – replacement site reception compound and related facilities – permission granted

17/01821/F – Rosethorpe, Water Stratford Rd – rebuilding of section of barn – permission subject to conditions

17/01900/F – Five Gables, Fulwell Rd – single storey rear extension – permission subject to conditions

17/02032/AGN – Northwell Farm, Fulwell Rd – 2 agricultural buildings – does not require prior approval

MW 0074/17 – Finmere Quarry – pursuant to condition 2 (time period calculation) of planning permission 17/01189/CM (MW 0004/17) - approved

## 14. CORRESPONDENCE

### **Correspondence for meeting –**

SLCC training on data protection – SC feels that this would be worthwhile as the new regulations are very important. SC is to attend the course at a cost of £75 + VAT. Proposed ST, seconded MKB, carried unanimously.

### **Emails printed –**

IC email concerning Finmere issues – see various items in Section 4 above.

MW email concerning Finmere highways issues – see various items in Section 4 above.

KGA email concerning Finmere issues – see various items in Section 4 above.

Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group – consultation on locality based plans. To be filled in individually online by December 17<sup>th</sup>. SC is to forward this to all.

VHPFC reply to pavilion suggestion – see Section 8 above.

Roger Fiander reply to rights of way query – see Item 4.23 above.

ICO renewal instruction – see Section 5 above.

Louise Coogan regarding a job centre location service – the link is to be put on the web.

Local Council Public Advisory Service – pack of 20 documents regarding data protection – not all of these will apply to Finmere.

Montpelier Estates – a request to make a presentation to the PC regarding proposals for development on the Kings Head paddock – this is to be an agenda item in January.

**Emails forwarded –**

Introduction of the General Data Protection Regulations – to be an agenda item in January.

HS2 meeting updates – to be held in January.

OALC power point on charity training – for information.

Cherwell Parish Liaison Meeting notes and follow up – for information.

CDC Peer Challenge invite and news – for information.

Community First Autumn Newsletter – for information.

Public Enquiry for Ox-Cam Expressway and update – for information.

Councillor briefing from IC – for information.

Oxfordshire Matters newsletter – for information.

Notification of planning policy consultations – for information.

VHPFC reply about pavilion – see Section 8 above.

OALC member update for July – for information on data protection.

OALC member update for November – this raised several points:

Page 3 – finances – the PC should have the last 3 annual returns on the web, only 2 are on there, SC is to scan and post the third.

Page 7 – parking enforcement powers – letter requesting information on parking restriction enforcement in villages – this is for South Oxfordshire only.

Page 10 – clerk’s salary – this confirms that the rise to budget for next year will be between 1 and 1.5%

Page 15 – expressway route information – this map shows that one of the possible routes, route C, is very close to Finmere. OALC are interested in local views before their meeting with authorities on December 14<sup>th</sup>. SC is to send them this section of the minutes. It is felt that the village has quite enough to contend with given the situation with HS2. To have such a huge expressway so close to the village would undoubtedly change the feel of it, there

would be an increase in urbanisation. There would be considerable disruption during construction which could well overlap with HS2 building disruption. This would also inevitably lead to further demands for development in the village itself. This will need to be an agenda item in the future.

Page 16 – external auditors – SC checks that no councillor present has a connection with Moore Stephens, the appointed external auditor. Nobody does. SC is also to check with AH.

Page 23 – data protection – more advice on the coming changes. SC is to circulate notes for consideration over Christmas and this will be an agenda item in January, to be finalised in February after SC has attended training.

Page 26 – diversity survey – OALC want all councils to complete this survey as it will provide important info – the PC needs to look at making a diversity pledge. SC is to recirculate the link.

Usual reports

MKB received an email from Trevor Jones (TJ), villager, with various concerns:

It appears that the landfill site is tipping on top of the capped mound – this is due to the soil being placed for capping on the far side of the mound, see Section 7 above.

The speed monitoring sign on Old Banbury Road does not seem to be having much of an effect – MK is to replace the battery. There is little more that the PC can do as there is no other equipment available.

The hedge along the Old Banbury Road beside the school field and beyond is very overgrown and causing a problem to traffic and pedestrians which could lead to an accident – ST has already reported this to SC who has placed a report on fix-my-street. The matter should be dealt with in the next few days. It is pointed out that the hedge outside Finmere House is also overgrown, is this a public hedge? It is felt that this hedge is the property of Finmere House, SC is to write and ask if it could be cut back.

MKB is to reply to TJ to this effect.

## 18. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

**Power problems** JB asks if any others experienced a drop in power (phase drop) on November 30<sup>th</sup>. Everyone did, KO was told that this was due to a jumper cable failing. This affected three villages. KO confirms that there is to be a lot of work on electricity supply infrastructure in preparation for HS2. There is to be a large sub-station near Skimming Dish Lane in Bicester.

19. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

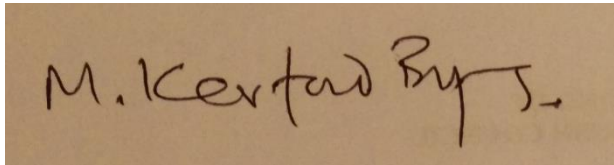
The date of the next meeting is January 9<sup>th</sup> 2018.

KO gives his apologies.

Meeting closed at 21.35.

CORRESPONDENCE CIRCULATED

None

A rectangular area containing a handwritten signature in black ink on a light brown background. The signature reads "M. Kerfaw By J." with a horizontal line under the "J".