

MEETING OF  
FINMERE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2017 in Finmere Village Hall

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

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND INVOLVEMENT

AH declared an interest in the matter of the Stable Close bund. 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 3<sup>rd</sup> of October 2017 were approved with corrections.

4. MATTERS ARISING

4.01 **Cross Tree Turf and Drainage Problems** SC has emailed Kathryn Gash (KGA), OCC Highways and KGA has replied to confirm that this matter has again been passed on to the relevant bodies. SC is to press for confirmation or obtain direct contact details for the appropriate body. c/f

4.02 **Mixbury to Finmere footpath** KO confirms that the path is passable, though only with difficulty in some places. As the path is not walked frequently there is considerable undergrowth in some areas and where this coincides with a stretch of electric fence the passage is particularly tricky. Unless the path is used more there is little that can be done.

4.03 **Spinney Acquisition** MKB has still not received a reply from the Mixbury Trust regarding the PC offer, it is felt that this possibly indicates an unwillingness to accept the offer. MKB is to chase this matter up. c/f

4.04 **Old Banbury Road Path** Nothing heard from Mike Wasley, OCC Highways. SC is to inform IC of the situation. c/f

- 4.05 **Road signs** This painting is still to be completed. c/f
- 4.06 **Cross Tree Signpost** Nothing heard from Mike Wasley, OCC Highways. SC is to inform IC of the situation. c/f
- 4.07 **Grass Cutting** SC has informed 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 she has informed the relevant department but no reply has been received yet. SC is to chase this up. Meanwhile on the Bucks CC side of the road men in yellow jackets with strimmers have been observed, despite the 'no action' response to SC's raised report. c/f
- 4.08 **Register of Members Interests – Diclosable Pecuniary Interest** All forms have now been sent to the website and to CDC.
- 4.09 **Insurance and Governance of Village Hall and Playing Field** MKB is still to confirm why OALC advised other PC's against entering village halls on the asset register. He has been in touch with Community First Oxon but their Village Hall representative is currently on leave. SC will not alter the asset register on the website until confirmation is forthcoming. A risk assessment will need to be carried out if the hall is added to assets.

SC wrote to Illa Moss, Chairman of the Village Hall and Playing Fields Committee, and the VHPFC discussed the matter of the pavilion at their monthly meeting. ST was somewhat concerned with the wording of the letter which wrongly attributed comments about the Sports Association proposal to himself, SC apologised for any inaccuracy. In addition the point raised regarding the future of the pavilion if no one was willing to accept responsibility gave some concern to the VHPFC, SC explains that the point was raised at the meeting but on reflection apologises for including it in her letter. ST was not present at the VHPFC meeting but he understands that the proposal was not enthusiastically welcomed. MKB has heard no more from Mike Geelan (MG), Chairman of the SA, so it is still not clear whether the Football Club has been consulted.

SC circulated an offer from a grounds-keeping company and it was felt that the possible nature and cost of services could be inquired about, though no quote should be obtained at this juncture. SC has had no reply to her enquiry from the company so it is probable that they do not provide services of that nature. ST points out that the mower is now practically unserviceable and that next year's cricket season will be very difficult if no replacement is purchased.

This will need to be an agenda item in the future. c/f

- 4.10 **Stable Close Bund Proposals** AH leaves the room. Jonathan Carpenter of Berrys has declared that his valuation was correct given the available information and would still stand if the covenant is removed, he requires payment for his invoice of £240. It is decided to pay the requested amount. Proposed KO, seconded ST, carried unanimously. JB has written to Redrow Homes but has received no formal reply, apparently legal advisers only visit the Northampton office periodically. JB is to continue pursuing this matter. c/f AH re-enters the room.

- 4.11 **Computer** The subscription for Microsoft Office 365 has been paid by SC and she has been reimbursed by the PC. SC has tried to contact IJT regarding drivers and tech support but has been unable to get through due to time constraints and long waiting times. SC is to pursue the matter. c/f
- 4.12 **HS2 Liaison** SC has heard nothing from Lorraine Kelly (LK) of Fusion this month. SC is to contact LK before the December meeting. c/f
- 4.13 **Christmas lights** These have been checked and are all in working order.
- 4.14 **Grass verge near Pines** MKB has spoken with Mrs Horwood, villager, who knows the residents of the Pines and will speak to them regarding the parking issue. c/f
- 4.15 **Carol Service** Paul and Sylvia Nash are happy to turn on the lights. MKB has confirmed that he will be doing the reading. MKB has also had it suggested to him that the PC could ask Sylvia Barnes next year, this is to be noted.
- 4.16 **Memorial Wreath** This has been paid for.
- 4.17 **Queen Victoria's Jubilee Tree** An email has been received from Barbara Cunningham (BC), villager, regarding the tree. BC points out that following her communication in July the tree has had the suckers removed but that the ivy is still in place and will cause damage. KO confirms that he is happy to remove the ivy. SC is to notify BC. (Following the meeting an email was received from KG confirming that she had removed the suckers and cut the ivy back at the base so that it would die back rather than pulling it off the bark, which is better for the tree.) c/f
- 4.18 **Traffic problems in Valley Rd/Mere Rd** Nothing has been heard from Mike Wasley, OCC Highways regarding the proposed 'brain storming' of the issue by his department. Several emails have been exchanged with Clive Birch, Valley Rd resident, regarding the outcome of the meeting. SC is to thank him for his cooperation. The PC discusses the implications of the continuing situation but it is felt that it is best to wait to hear from OCC, SC is to pursue this matter with them. c/f
- 4.19 **Planning Application 17/01900/F** – Five Gables, Fulwell Rd – single storey rear extension – this was dealt with by JB who circulated her findings under urgent business and submitted a reply to CDC. The PC had no objection to the application but made the following comments, reflecting the feelings of neighbours, - there was some concern over the accuracy of the plans regarding the fence line, there were concerns about overshadowing and light issues and there were also concerns about the materials to be used, notably large quantities of cedar cladding.
- 4.20 **Conservation Area Conference** Nobody was able to attend.
- 4.21 **National Highway and Transport Satisfaction Survey** No comments were submitted.
- 4.22 **Councils and Charities Training** SC has asked OALC for notice of other training dates or notes on the training provided, no reply has been received yet. c/f

## 5. FINANCIAL REPORT

The monthly financial report was presented.

It was reported that there was £6,686.36 in the Treasurer Account and £4,804.24 in the Business Money Manager Account.

The following had been paid out during September:

£390.00 to John Donaldson (running costs – grass cutting)

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

£288.29 to CDC (running costs – dog bins)

£16.62 to e.on (running costs – electricity)

£100.00 to Royal British Legion (S145 – for memorial wreath)

£79.99 to Microsoft – c/o SC (general admin – Parish Clerk equipment)

An invoice was received from Berrys in the sum of £240.00 (see Section 4.10 above) proposed KO, seconded ST, carried unanimously.

A letter of engagement had been received from Phil Hood (PH) of Arrow Accounting. It is decided to engage PH for the coming audit. Proposed KO, seconded MK, carried unanimously.

## 6. S19/S137/URGENT BUSINESS

No requests were received. The planning application detailed in Section 4 above was dealt with under urgent business.

## 7. FINMERE LANDFILL SITE UPDATE

The quarry liaison meeting was postponed due to a lack of people able to attend. MKB has corresponded with John Cunningham (JC), villager, concerning the material on the mound, JC reported concerns about tipping activity on the mound before October 3<sup>rd</sup> and has further requested information. MKB has confirmed the explanation for the activity as explained in the minutes of October 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Louise Greenwood (LG), EA, has confirmed that there are still facts about the new owners which need to be confirmed for the transfer of the landfill licence.

There is to be a planting of trees on the mound shortly, the PC have been invited to attend and possibly plant a tree. It is felt preferable that perhaps BC should be asked as village representative at quarry liaison meetings.

## 8. PLAYING FIELD PROGRESS AND CONDITION

Progress regarding the lease is still ongoing. The ownership of the pavilion is still under discussion (see Section 4.09 above).

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.

## 10. TREE SURGERY ON PLAYING FIELD

The tree in question is the Belinda Crabtree memorial tree. JB has inspected the tree and has emailed Rosemary Crabtree, villager, explaining that there is no need to raise the crown of the tree but some branches are rubbing and chafing and JB will prune these back in the spring.

## 11. FENCING AND STILE FOR STABLE CLOSE BUND BOUNDARY

SC circulated some examples of stile provision. JB has spoken with a local contractor whom the Brooks have used previously. He has provided a quote for the provision of a stile (with dog gate (£230 + VAT) or without (£180 + VAT)). This quote also includes a basic post and rail fence for some 20 feet beside the stile. The stile is to be made with one large post to provide extra support for users. This would cover the most damaged area of fence and the PC could then look at options for any remaining damaged sections. It is possible that some of the posts and rails will be reusable as they are made of oak. It is felt best to opt for a stile without dog gate as these can be problematic if wedged open and the PC do not want any incidents if sheep are kept in the field at a future date. Proposed ST, seconded AH, carried unanimously.

MKB has sent a copy of the plans to Mr Adrian Goosey (AG), the tenant of the field. No work has been carried out on the fencing as yet.

## 12. HS2

There has been no news from the Fusion liaison (see Section 4.12 above). IC is arranging a meeting with the OCC HS2 representative. MKB hopes to be able to attend. SC is to confirm the date and time of the meeting with IC and let all councillors know. Detailed maps of the works to be carried out in the area have been received and circulated to all councillors.  
c/f

### 13. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

MW 0074/17 – Finmere Quarry - details pursuant to Condition 2 – time period calculation on extraction – it is doubtful that the PC can object to this on planning grounds but MKB is to speak to David Perriam, OCC, and circulate any concerns for comment under urgent business

MW.0083/17 – Finmere Quarry – Section 73 application to continue sand and gravel and clay extraction for use in on-site landfill in p/a 10/01515/CM without complying with conditions B1, B2, B3, B8, B9, B14, B16, B17, B20, B26, B32, B35, B37 and B39 to enable development (including restoration) to continue until 6<sup>th</sup> January 2034, alternative screening to be provided along the eastern boundary and the updating or deletion of conditions which no longer apply - it is doubtful that the PC can object to this on planning grounds but MKB is to speak to David Perriam, OCC, and circulate any concerns for comment under urgent business

17/01864/F – Fuzz Field, Fulwell Road – erection of a timber cabin (temporary agricultural workers dwelling) – application withdrawn

Regulation 55 application – Swan Practice, Lace Hill, Buckingham – outline consent and premises approval – the PC has no planning objection to the move of premises to a new location further from town but is concerned at the total loss of town centre prescription services from the practice. It is also felt that there may be a detrimental effect on town centre chemists. In addition there is a concern for Finmere residents as the local bus will no longer drop people off very close to the practice.

17/01328/OUT – Land East of Heatherstone Lodge, Fulwell Rd – permission refused

TPO (No. 17) 2017 – Various trees at Foxley Fields, Finmere – an extensive list of individual trees and copses have now been protected by TPO at the landfill site

### 14. CORRESPONDENCE

#### **Correspondence for meeting –**

Oxfordshire Transport Survey – this is to be filled in online. SC reads out the questions concerning local traffic needs and access. SC is to submit the answers online.

17/01667/F – 13 Town Close, 2 storey side and rear extension, single storey rear extension – permission subject to conditions – will be on December agenda

17/01821/F – Rosethorpe, Water Stratford Rd, rebuilding of section of barn – to be on the December agenda – the PC consider the application and do not feel that any neighbours will be affected. The PC raises no objection but would like to comment with a question as to the status of the outstanding Section 106 for an earlier application and to ask for confirmation that this application will be the subject of a new Section 106.

MW.0060/17 – Finmere Landfill, replacement site reception compound and related facilities – permission granted – to be on December agenda

**Emails printed –**

Aecom about traffic survey – Helen Woodmancy of Aecom explains that automated traffic counts are being undertaken on the section of the A421 near the Finmere Quarry entrance as part of some preliminary survey work in relation to future planning applications. The company will fully brief the PC on findings.

Sanctuary Housing about affordable housing sites – no sites are identified

John Cunningham re landfill site – see Section 7 above

IC concerning grant funding – there is some funding available for services which OCC once provided and now no longer provide. The thing funded must be self-sustaining and for the benefit of Oxfordshire communities. SC is to ask if this money could possibly be used to fund the purchase of a new mower for the playing field.

**Emails forwarded –**

Community First AGM invite – nobody is able to attend

Groundcare Company groundskeeping service flyer – see Section 4.09 above

IC rights of way news – sent to Fianders – this is to be recirculated to all councillors so that they can be clear on the implications to local rights of way and SC is to chase this up with the Fianders as she has not heard from them

Traffic photo email from Clive Birch used at last meeting – for information

Information on purchasing stile – see Section 11 above

IC facebook page news – for information

IC HS2 update – for information

OALC October update – for information

Parish Liaison meeting invite – MKB is to attend in his capacity as a District Councillor

GP service planning consultation – for information

TVP new police and crime plan/AVDC Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan consultation – for information

IC County update - for information

Usual reports

## 18. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

**Machinery noise** Several councillors have heard machinery noise coming from the landfill. KO is sure it is a pile driver. MKB is to check.

**Grit bins** The bin outside Cross Tree House is half full of water. There is to be a working party to investigate, if necessary the bin could be filled to the top to keep water out.

**Newsletter** There will need to be a newsletter for the Carol Service and Christmas tree lighting. MKB is to produce by the weekend. He will also mention the fact that there will be elections for the Parish Council next May and that anyone is welcome to stand for the PC.

## 19. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting is December 5<sup>th</sup>.

MKB apologises for late arrival.

Meeting closed at 22.15.

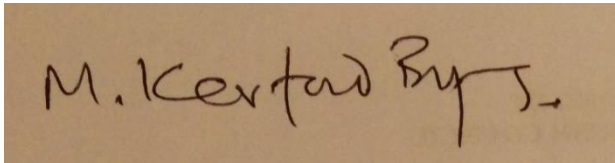
## CORRESPONDENCE CIRCULATED

Glasdon leaflet

Seton leaflet

Wicksteed flyer

Clerks and Councils Direct Nov 2017



M. Kerford By J.