

MEETING OF
FINMERE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held on 4th February 2020 in Finmere Village Hall

Present:- Councillors, Mike Kerford-Byrnes (MKB) (Chairman), Katherine Grimston (KG) (Vice Chairman), Steve Trice (ST), Joanne Brooks (JB) and Tim Ayling (TA)

In attendance:- Sharron Chalcraft (SC) (Parish Clerk and RFO) and Alec Howard (AH), Mixbury Trust

1. APOLOGIES (19.31)

Apologies were received from Councillors Mike Kirby (MK) and Peter Goss (PG)

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND INVOLVEMENT (19.32)

ST declared an involvement in issues involving the Village Hall Management Committee (VHMC).

3. MINUTES (19.33)

The minutes of the meeting of 7th of January 2020 were approved with corrections.

4. MATTERS ARISING (19.34)

- 4.01 **Sports Pavilion Issues** MKB and ST are currently waiting to hear from the Sports Club. c/f
- 4.02 **Spinney Acquisition Funding** AH gave an update from the Mixbury Trust. The Charities Commission have confirmed that provided the Trust can show that due diligence has been carried out to the Diocese then this will be sufficient. In order to show due diligence an independent land agent report is required; one has been commissioned to report on the spinney. MKB reports that the Pools Plot have agreed to make a donation of £1,000 toward the cost of the spinney. c/f
- 4.03 **Defibrillator Guardianship** SC has forwarded the email to MK so that he can check the smartphone app for accuracy. The school is happy for the PC to fit a light above the defibrillator. SC is to look for suitable lights from suppliers and circulate info. c/f
- 4.04 **Trees of Remembrance** The issue of plaques will be dealt with by KG. c/f
- 4.05 **Christmas Lights** The faulty lights have now been replaced.

- 4.06 **Stable Close Play Area Refurbishment** There will be a working party on Saturday March 14th. MKB is to provide necessary equipment. ST is to list the ride-on animals on ebay. All waste materials are to be moved to MKB's house for collection with other waste at the spring clean. c/f
- 4.07 **Direct debit for ICO** This has now been set up and renewal confirmed.
- 4.08 **Local resilience plan** This item is to be carried forward to the March agenda. Some information has been received by SC and circulated. The next newsletter is to mention the plan and ask anyone with special needs that might affect their coping with an emergency to give their details to the PC if they are happy to do so. Any who do will be given a copy of the PC GDPR policies.
- 4.09 **Parish Precept Request** This has been submitted and receipt confirmed.
- 4.10 **HS2 Objection letter** This has been circulated. AH was asked to comment on concerns on behalf of Mixbury. It is important that we do not allow HS2 to divide and conquer communities. There has already been a problem with traffic going through Mixbury village, which HS2 had assured it would not do, due to an entrance way being used at 'Bottle Bank Corner,' after protests another route is now being used. MKB has arranged to meet Chris James (CJ) of Effiage Kier tomorrow and walk around the quarry site with him. This will allow him to experience the smell from the landfill, which may be an issue for HS2 workers if it persists, and will also give MKB the opportunity to ask about rumours that HS2 have applied to use the Finmere airfield as a lorry park during the construction phase. It is rumoured that the land for the borrow pit has been compulsory purchased. This will not be able to be used for filling by the landfill operators after completion, rather HS2 will fill it in. The water table is currently being re-investigated as the depth of it in the area is 6m and the borrow pit will be deeper than that. MKB is to point out to CJ that the new Cell 10 will be on the western side of the quarry land, not far from the route of the railway. The old railway line which is to be used was filled to a depth of 6m with unregulated waste some years ago. The EA has designated this as contaminated land. Nearby cells will also still need water pressure surrounding them, in order for inward pressure to prevent leachate escape in the event of a perforation of the liner. The digging out of the new line may result in instability of nearby cells due to reduced surrounding pressure. The traffic plan is now indicating up to 1,000 lorry movements a day.
- 4.11 **HS2 funding press release** This has been circulated.

5. FINANCIAL REPORT (19.59)

The monthly financial report was presented.

It was reported that there was £9,914.30 in the Treasurer Account and £4,819.41 in the Business Money Manager Account.

The following had been paid out during January:

£23.32 to e.on – running costs – electricity

£48.05 to Glasdon – running costs – purchase of dog bin lid

£75.00 to Citizens Advice – S137 (LG Act 1972) – village benefit

£35.00 to Information Commissioners Office – general admin – subscription

£303.95 to SC (general admin – for Clerk and RFO duties and internet and website costs)

6. S19/S137/URGENT BUSINESS (20.04)

No requests for funding had been received. No urgent business had been carried out.

7. FINMERE LANDFILL SITE UPDATE (20.05)

AH was again asked if there had been any odour impact on Mixbury. There has been a lot of smell in Mixbury. AH attended the January 7th meeting and could not understand why pipes had not been fitted to the cell before it was filled. MKB explained that the cell has to be filled first as the pipes are then fitted into holes drilled down vertically into the waste. This cell has been rotting down and therefore producing odour very quickly. The EA are definitely investigating. Cell 11 problems could be replicated though as nobody really knows what has caused them. Some sacrificial horizontal pipes have been fitted in Cell 10 to allay the situation but there is still a problem.

MKB confirms that the planning applications that were submitted last year for more cells on land to the immediate rear of the site that will amount to a new plot approximately 1/3 the size of the current site being added.

AH explains that he observed a tractor spraying the field to the left of the quarry drive with liquid from a bowser a few days ago. This appeared to be water. The field is laying very wet, with deep ruts filled with water. At the Widmore Farm end of the site he observed the same thing happening and filmed it. He was challenged by the driver and moved away. Councillors are concerned whether this liquid could be leachate, though this would seem unlikely. AH points out that if there is wet weather this liquid will be washed down into the water course which runs into Finmere village itself. JB suggests that there should be sampling carried out by the EA. MKB points out that video evidence of this would ensure sampling is carried out. The PC wonders whether the EA could be being negligent in not finding out that this practice is going on. MKB confirms that Victoria Prentis came to look around recently, due to the efforts of some villagers. She is now trying to fix a meeting with the head of the EA. The PC needs to integrate its efforts with those of Mixbury. AH will share his film with the PC. Apparently, there was a case of leachate spreading being carried out on land in Cornwall some time ago, and this also resulted in an odour problem. ST points out that there has been a huge impact around the village, the problem seems to have surprised everyone, from the operators to the EA, there is definitely something radically different happening.

8. PLAYING FIELD PROGRESS AND CONDITION (20.27)

The sorting out of the leases is still ongoing.

ST confirms that he has walked the field this month and all is well although shallow rabbit holes in the play area will need attention soon.

The relocation of the dog bin will be discussed at the March meeting as MK is not present.

9. NEW RESIDENTS NOTIFICATIONS (20.32)

There are possibly some new residents in Mere Road this month, ST is to check and give them a letter if needed.

10. GDPR – AUDIT QUESTIONNAIRES AND INTERNAL REGISTER OF PROCESSING ACTIVITY SHEETS (20.35)

Nearly all Audit Questionnaires are now completed. Most councillors still need to complete their Internal Register of Processing Activity sheets. SC is to re-circulate some examples.

11. ROAD REPAIRS (20.40)

There is a large pothole in the Water Stratford Rd, on the right as you turn the corner past Rosethorpe. SC is to report this on fix-my-street.

12. TREE MAINTENANCE PLAN (20.45)

This is still ongoing. This is to be an item on the April agenda.

13. CROSS TREE BENCH (20.50)

The PC has obtained a grant of £500.00 from the Community Fund of County Councillor Ian Corkin to replace the Cross Tree bench. SC is to circulate further links to benches as the one circulated earlier was not ideal. The bench must be purchased and fitted by the end of March. This can be dealt with under urgent business if necessary. SC has informed the resident who had requested a memorial bench in Chinalls Close that her kind offer to place her bench at the Cross Tree if needed will not now be necessary. JB is to help with the fitting of the memorial bench. KG is to ask BC, as a WI member, whether the Mixbury WI donation plaque should be fitted to the new bench at Cross Tree to commemorate the original bench. This generous funding is to be mentioned in the next newsletter.

14. VE DAY CELEBRATIONS (21.05)

There are now several events planned in the village and other parties, including the school, are wanting to become involved. JB is organising a meeting between all interested parties to coordinate things but is doing this in her capacity as part of the organising of the Church event. As this is not a PC event it need not be an agenda item in future unless requested but SC will again enquire of IC whether any scheme has been introduced to make street closures for parties easier to apply for.

15. WAR MEMORIAL CONNECTIONS (21.12)

KG has this matter all in hand as part of the above celebrations. This need not be an agenda item unless requested.

16. WEBSITE ACCESS REQUIREMENTS (21.15)

SC attended the OALC training course at the Oxford Association for the Blind. A partially sighted instructor gave the training. It was very informative and basically showed that the PC will almost certainly need to set up a new website. Paul Nash (PN), former administrator, put in a tremendous amount of effort developing the site and still provides for the village hall. However, HTML is not adaptable to the latest requirements of 3:1 contrast ratios and speed reader compatibility. The PC received a free website offer a few days ago and SC is to investigate this matter further. The PC will of course send a letter of thanks to PN for all his hard work for the village. This is to be an agenda item in April.

17. OXFORDSHIRE MINERALS AND WASTE PLAN (21.30)

This plan calls for sites to be 'suggested' as places for the provision of minerals or the receipt of waste. The landfill operators have put in two suggestions for Finmere. Planning applications will be able to be submitted to suggested sites from the summer. They have suggested the land behind the mound for the receipt of waste and land between the mound and the road for mineral extraction. OCC have sifted the results of the consultation. The sand and gravel extraction in front of the mound has been rejected but the receipt of waste on land behind the mound has been recommended for acceptance. Currently the CEO's of CDC and OCC along with District Councillor Barry Wood are looking to find reasonable grounds to object to this inclusion. There must be a consultation. Unfortunately planning permission is granted to the land, not the operator. If the EA were persuaded to refuse a permit to the company, then the company could simply be 'flipped' and a permit given to the new company. If the site is removed from the list the company can appeal and re-apply. Not being on the list would be a big hurdle to further development. MKB is currently discussing the matter with the CDC Director of Planning. MKB will circulate any info he has and there will need to be an item in the newsletter to get the villagers involved.

18. PLANNING APPLICATIONS (21.50)

19/02117/F – Grafton House, Stable Close – single storey rear extension – permission subject to conditions

19/02043/F – land adjoining and east of Foxley Fields Farm and south of Banbury Rd – demolition of three barns, erection of office building, new parking area, landscaping, drainage and access works – permission subject to conditions

19/02922/F – Finch Hattons, Fulwell Rd – erection of detached carport (re-submission of 19/01114/F) – the PC makes no objection – MKB is to return the sheet

19. CORRESPONDENCE (21.55)

Correspondence for meeting –

Invoice for fence – in the sum of £654.00 – this is to be paid, proposed MKB, seconded JB, carried unanimously. JB takes the cheque for Kimble and Son

Membership renewal from Community First – this is to be paid, proposed MKB, seconded ST, carried unanimously

Letter about landfill from resident – a resident has asked that the PC forward a letter with questions to the operators of the quarry following the meeting of the 7th. SC is to send it to both the landfill site and the EA

MKB has received a letter from a resident explaining that vehicles parked near their property blocked the access of an emergency vehicle recently and personnel had to go to and fro on foot – SC is to ask Mike Wasley, OCC Highways, for another emergency vehicle sign and this matter will be included in the next newsletter, this actually involves parking at a junction

Emails printed –

Issues above

Emails forwarded –

Issues above

Information on gas levels and detectors – for information

Fix my street report on road signs – not in the remit

Journalist email about landfill – it was decided not to involve the press

OALC training offer – working with charities on village halls – it is possible that JB can attend as it would be useful to get this information

TTRO T7418 – temporary speed reduction on Featherbed Lane – to be put on boards and website

HS2 meeting invite – Feb 18th – MKB to attend. SC is to notify the organisers that hopefully we can send two representatives along

Parish Remuneration Panel Report – to be on agenda in March

OALC January Update – community resilience info/offer of face-face legal advice/dates for Spring Clean – Mar 20/Apr 13 – it is decided that the spring clean should be booked for March 28th when the form arrives

Usual reports

20. ANY OTHER BUSINESS (22.14)

Items for newsletter JB asks whether the PC could include items on the Church plans for VE Day as well as Easter Sunday celebrations and an upcoming Gin or Prosecco and Jazz night in late March in the next newsletter. MKB will include a short item by JB.

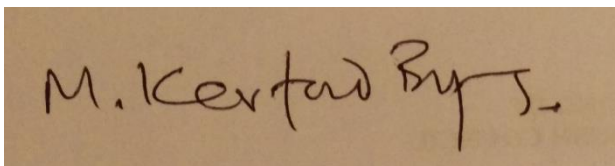
Newton Purcell JB points out that the smell has been affecting Newton Purcell dreadfully, usually on days when the wind is in a different direction and the smell in Finmere is somewhat less. They need to be informed of who to ring about the smell. SC is to contact their village meeting.

21. DATE OF NEXT MEETING (22.19)

The date of the next meeting is March 3rd 2020. MKB gives advance warning of his apologies for the May meeting. Meeting closed at 22.20.

CORRESPONDENCE CIRCULATED

None



M. Kerford By J.