

MEETING OF
FINMERE PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of meeting held on 3rd March 2020 in Finmere Village Hall

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

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

1. APOLOGIES (19.31)

Apologies were received from County Councillor Ian Corkin (IC) and Councillor Tim Ayling (TA)

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND INVOLVEMENT (19.32)

ST declared an involvement in issues involving the Village Hall Management Committee (VHMC) and an interest in the planning application addressed in Section 14 below.

3. MINUTES (19.33)

The minutes of the meeting of 4th of February 2020 were approved with corrections.

4. MATTERS ARISING (19.34)

4.01 **Sports Pavilion Issues** MKB and ST are still waiting to hear from the Sports Club. SC is to remind the club of its loan repayment for the year in the sum of £200 and the grass cutting contribution due in April, in the sum of £600. c/f

4.02 **Spinney Acquisition Funding** There is no further news this month. c/f

4.03 **Defibrillator Guardianship** MK is still to check the app for correctness of information. The school confirms that they are happy for the light to be fitted during the day so that they can liaise with the fitter. SC circulated links for several solar powered lights. MK suggests that a light run by the power supply to the cabinet would actually be best as the solar powered lights only run for up to ten hours. SC is to talk to Roger Blake, who installed the light, about feasibility and of course the PC would have to offer to pay the school for the cost of running the light. If a solar light is the only possibility then SC is to order the most expensive of those looked at, which has the ability to site solar receptors at a distance and gives the best duration, at a cost of £44.99, proposed ST, seconded PG, carried unanimously. c/f

- 4.04 **Trees of Remembrance** The issue of plaques is still to be dealt with by KG. c/f
- 4.05 **Stable Close Play Area Refurbishment** The working party will meet at 10am on Saturday March 14th. MKB is to provide extensions or a generator and a trailer. ST is to provide an angle grinder. The ride-on animals will be photographed by ST beforehand and listed on ebay; they are to be stored at MKB's house. All waste materials are to be moved to MKB's house for collection with other waste at the spring clean. c/f
- 4.06 **Water Stratford Rd Pothole** This is reported 'fixed' by fix-my-street but JB explains that it is only really half filled. There is now another large pothole further toward Water Stratford on the left-hand side of the road. SC is to report both. c/f
- 4.07 **Cross Tree Bench** SC circulated several links for wooden benches. It is decided to proceed with the Wealden bench at a cost of £450. SC is to order it to be delivered to MKB's house. It must be in place by March 31st. c/f
- 4.08 **VE Day Celebrations** IC has confirmed that there are no special arrangements for road closures on the day and that normal procedures can take up to 12 weeks. JB confirms that there is now no need for a closure; KG and her husband Charley have kindly agreed that the garden of Titch's cottage can be used instead.
- 4.09 **Fence Invoice** This has been paid.
- 4.10 **Membership Renewal** The membership of Community First has been paid.
- 4.11 **Landfill Letter** This has been circulated. IC has thanked the PC for this useful information.
- 4.12 **Emergency Vehicle Access Signs** Two of these have been obtained and MKB is to liaise with the resident who requested them as to their location.
- 4.13 **OALC Charity Training** Unfortunately nobody was able to attend.
- 4.14 **Speed Reduction Notice (TTRO)** This has been placed on the notice board
- 4.15 **HS2 Meeting** MKB and JB attended the meeting. There was a more detailed discussion on traffic implications. Traffic will come north along the A43 and will turn off on the A421 for access to the trace at Warren Farm, the A422 for access to the trace at Turweston and just past the BP garage near Brackley, on a new slip road, for access to Turweston. Unfortunately, the southbound empty lorries will be blocked by those coming north and turning off at earlier junctions and there could be long delays. HS2 is hoping to be able to change the regulation on which road is most used, currently set in law as the A422. There was also information on the design of bridges etc that will be uniform along the length of the line. Fencing, hedges and trees were also detailed. Many of the specimens planted will be quite small but there will be some larger trees planted to give instant impact. CDC has its own plans to plant 3 million trees over the next 20 years. There will also be flood mitigation in the form of settle ponds between Fulwell and Westbury.

- 4.16 **Spring Clean** This has been booked, equipment will be delivered to MKB's house on March 27th and the rubbish collected along with the equipment on the 30th. The Spring Clean will take place on Saturday 28th. SC is to put up posters with the March minutes and there is to be a newsletter produced in the next 10 days. c/f
- 4.17 **Newton Purcell Information** SC managed to trace the contact for the Newton Purcell Parish Meeting and the information on how to complain about odour from the landfill has been disseminated.

5. FINANCIAL REPORT (20.20)

The monthly financial report was presented.

It was reported that there was £9,401.35 in the Treasurer Account and £4,819.41 in the Business Money Manager Account.

The following had been paid in during February:

£500.00 from OCC – grant for purchase of a replacement bench

The following had been paid out during February:

£654.00 to Kimble & Sons – running costs – fence repair

£55.00 to Community First – general admin - membership subscriptions

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

SC has been in contact with the internal auditor and has been supplying any requested information and material. The internal auditor has confirmed that he is happy to sign off on the audit once the external auditor has published the AGAR.

6. S19/S137/URGENT BUSINESS (20.25)

No requests for funding had been received. The response to the Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste plan was circulated under urgent business. The decision to continue support for the Comet bus service for a further year was made under urgent business following a request from IC.

7. FINMERE LANDFILL SITE UPDATE (20.27)

The odour problem is ongoing. MKB has had an email from Richard Webb, OCC and CDC Environmental Health, explaining that there was a meeting of planning, environmental services and environmental health officials and others to coordinate the approach to the problem. There are to be two tele-conferences in the next two weeks with senior EA officials to ascertain what has been done, what can be done and why the problem has arisen.

MKB phoned Sarah Kent, EA, to ask about progress and see if the monitoring station was staying and what the results were showing. The EA are being very cautious in discussing any results of their investigations, simply reiterating that they are ongoing.

Villagers raised concerns last year about a man driving around the village in a Range Rover taking pictures. It transpires that this was Ian Greaves, Certificate of Technical Competence holder at the landfill. He was taking 'sniff tests' with a handheld device, not photographs. MKB encountered him this week, still doing 'sniff tests.' He stated that the site cannot find what is causing the odour, the EA had a technical team visit only last week and they were unsuccessful. Tomorrow the EA are making the operators test the whole site with some more proven equipment, to try and pin down the source. They will insert 'pinhole pipes' into any pockets which show enhanced emissions. There is a briefing coming out soon from the EA and MKB will include this information in the spring clean newsletter.

MKB is to talk to Victoria Prentis MP, ST suggests that we should ask the EA to our next meeting, SC is to contact Sarah Kent and invite her.

8. PLAYING FIELD PROGRESS AND CONDITION (21.00)

The sorting out of the leases is still ongoing.

MK confirms that he has walked the field this month and all is well, though very waterlogged. The junior football team are no longer playing at Finmere on Saturdays but have moved the games to Tingewick. MKB's daughter, whose son plays in the team, was told this was due to the PC refusing permission but she explained that this was not right. ST explains that Finmere FC proposed that the newly formed Seniors team matches should be played on Sundays, not Saturdays. As football matches are already played every Saturday by the two Finmere teams, and football matches impact on the village hall and playing field users etc, and the type of bookings which can be accepted are limited when football matches occur, a suggestion was made by the VHMC that the Seniors matches were arranged for Saturdays at a different time to the other two Finmere teams. This would allow the village hall to be free for villagers and other users on Sundays, other than when cricket matches were played in the summer. The suggestion made by the VHMC was not acceptable to Finmere FC, partly because the Seniors played in a Sunday League. There was no suggestion by the VHMC that the Junior team could not be accommodated on a Saturday at Finmere. It may be that the Junior's moved as the pitch was so waterlogged.

MK explains that the CDC official who empties the dog bins had pointed out that the one on the field was not being used now that the play area had relocated. ST has checked it and found it to be half full. There would be a problem with moving the bin closer to the play area as any overspill could then be close to children playing. MKB has noticed that there are dog mess bags in the yellow bins around the field. It is felt best to leave the bin where it is for now and monitor the situation, proposed ST, seconded MKB, carried unanimously.

9. NEW RESIDENTS NOTIFICATIONS (21.08)

There are no known new residents this month.

10. GDPR – AUDIT QUESTIONNAIRES AND INTERNAL REGISTER OF PROCESSING ACTIVITY SHEETS (21.10)

Now only two Audit Questionnaires are outstanding. SC is to remind the councillors during the coming month. Four councillors still need to complete their Internal Register of Processing Activity sheets. SC is to re-circulate some examples and reminders.

11. PARISH REMUNERATION PANEL'S REPORT (21.15)

This had been circulated for consideration. The PC decides not to pay allowances for the coming year, proposed MKB, seconded MK, carried unanimously.

12. LOCAL RESILIENCE (EMERGENCY) PLAN (21.20)

JB has been looking into this and has produced an article for the next newsletter giving details of a scheme to hold details of vulnerable residents being supported by SSEN (Scottish and Southern Electricity). This information is then made available to emergency services in the event of an incident so that they can easily prioritise those most in need of help. There is also funding available to help develop and resource local plans. JB has given details of how to register your details with this scheme and also given the contact details for SC if anyone needs advice on how to proceed. SC confirms that she is happy for her phone number to be put in the article. JB is to update this article with a reference to the current plans regarding Covid-19 and it is to be included in or put with the next newsletter.

OCC have sent out a questionnaire asking for details of any buildings suitable for use in an emergency as a place of safety. The PC have normally included the village hall. This time, however, the request insists on a 24/7 contact number for access. SC is to telephone OCC and ask if a list of names can be given, so that there will not be a problem with holidays etc. TA has suggested that a key box might be an idea. SC is to ask whether these are being used by other parishes, whether the access code could be given rather than a phone number, and whether it would be totally secure.

13. PLANNING APPLICATIONS (21.30)

19/02840/AGN – Finmere Grounds Farm – storage building for agricultural goods and machinery – prior approval not required (JB did not leave the meeting at this point as no discussion took place, merely an announcement of the result)

MW.0021/20 – Finmere Quarry – non-material amendment to revise the route of the internal haul road as permitted by planning permission 19/00070/CM (MW.0003/19) – the operators want to move the internal haul road to the east so that Cell 10 can cross the current route. The original application was to vary the pre and post settlement contours for cells 1, 3, 6, 7a, 7b and 9; to amend the deadlines for the completion of landfilling, capping and restoration of cells 1, 3, 6, 7a, 7b and 9; and to make minor revisions to the position of the internal boundaries between cells 10, 11 and 11a and to the landfill sequence. It is listed that the

amendment is required to enable cell development, in order to release airspace capacity and in preparation for the release of the final valley between cells 8 and 10, which will form the final tipping capacity. The PC has no objections, proposed MKB, seconded ST, carried unanimously. ST is to check that no other considerations have been attached to this application and if happy is to submit the PC decision, if he finds anything concerning then he will circulate comments under urgent business.

14. CORRESPONDENCE (21.35)

Correspondence for meeting –

SLCC membership renewal - £92 to be paid, proposed MKB, seconded KG, carried unanimously

OALC membership renewal - £140.42 to be paid, proposed KG, seconded ST, carried unanimously

OPFA membership renewal - £42 to be paid, proposed ST, seconded PG, carried unanimously

SGN letter – help to heat scheme – taken by JB for inclusion in her newsletter article

At this point ST leaves the meeting.

Planning application 20/00337/LB – Glebe House, Water Stratford Rd – replacement guttering, replacement soil and vent pipe, renovate two painted windows – the PC has no objections, proposed MKB, seconded PG, carried unanimously. This application will need to be on the agenda in April.

At this point ST returns to the meeting.

Emails printed –

Issues above

Email from a resident regarding damage to a bin and the lack of a blue bin in the churchyard – the PC has no responsibility for the churchyard. ST will nevertheless approach CDC regarding a new bin and an additional blue bin.

Emails forwarded –

Issues above

Rural isolation programme request – it is not felt that Finmere is sufficiently remote to qualify for inclusion in this upcoming television programme.

OALC February update – no issues were raised

Photos of water spreading at the landfill site – JB points out that this is continuing and wonders whether the EA have tested the water. MKB is to ask them. SC is to try to find details of a commercial lab that may do the work, and the costs involved.

Request for confirmation of continued support for Comet bus from IC – this was dealt with under urgent business. The PC confirmed that provided the service was still being used by residents and the costs did not spiral then they would be happy to support the bus for another year.

Brexit briefing from IC – for information

Usual reports

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS (21.56)

Trees at side of playing field KG asks whether it is worth planting some trees along the edge of the field to help deaden the noise, now that HS2 is definitely going ahead. JB confirms that to qualify for funding the area of land involved needs to be at least 5 acres. MKB feels that some trees could definitely be added to the hedge, he recently cleared the ivy from the base of the trees around the field. The species used should be native and could be Ash, Oak, Horse Chestnut, Sycamore, Maple, Hornbeam or Holly among others. JB is still completing her tree plan and will carry out a feasibility study, some of the trees currently in the corner of the field have a lot of rabbit holes near their roots, it may be difficult to get saplings to take in these conditions. This is to be on the agenda in September.

Grass Cutting ST confirms that John Donaldson, grass cutting contractor, will begin cutting at the end of the month. He has recently informed ST that the charge per cut will be going up by £10. This still means that the charges are more than reasonable. The PC will continue with Mr Donaldson, proposed ST, seconded MKB, carried unanimously.

Mower Service ST points out that the mower service is due soon, the contribution from the Sports Club should help with the cost.

Playground inspection ST explains that the Village Hall Committee has been asked by John Hicks, playground inspector, whether he should inspect the play area this year and that they have confirmed this, his charges are very reasonable.

Fallen tree JB points out that a willow tree has fallen into the pond. MKB confirms that this tree is from the section of bank belonging to one of the residents of the village, not the PC, and that the resident is aware.

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING (22.09)

The date of the next meeting is April 7th 2020. Meeting closed at 22.10.

CORRESPONDENCE CIRCULATED

Clerks and Councils Direct February 2020