

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held 12 September 2016

Venue: Norman Fraser Suite, Village Hall at 7.30pm

Present: Parish Councillors – C. Thornton, N. Lewis, V. Embleton-Spencer, H. Jenkins, P. Johnson, R. Shepherd- Cross; District Councillor I. Corkin & County Councillor C. Fulljames

Also Present: Madeleine Gilpin & Lynne Roberts

Parishioners' issues:-

- Mrs Gilpin thanked the Council for having the road sign into the village cleaned but pointed out that possibly the speed sign by the church was still not working. This would be checked. She also pointed out that the B430 outside the refuse tip was covered with litter & unsightly. Much discussion followed about whether this is entirely Viridor's fault but Councillor Lewis agreed to assess the situation & write to Viridor for their cooperation with the clean-up.
- Mrs Roberts commented on the state of the footpath from Water Lane to the White Lion, where overhanging bushes made it difficult to walk. This action needed to be taken before winter. The Chairman agreed to check who owned the bushes to ensure action was taken.
- A complaint had been received from a Water Lane resident that smoke from regular bonfires at Fewcott House constituted a nuisance. The bonfires were felt to be too close to residential fences & the smoke filled the gardens causing problems for residents, particularly on days when washing was airing outside. The matter should be reported to the District Council, giving details of times & frequency of the nuisance.

Declaration of Interests: None

Apologies: Michael Stokes

Minutes of the meeting held on 11 July 2016 were accepted & signed.

Matters Arising:

- Mrs. Gilpin, Mrs Roberts & Mr Stokes to e-mail Chairman with details of overgrown hedgerows & uneven curb stones as agreed.
- Confirmed one of the Village gates on Fritwell road was broken but repairs were in hand.
- Grass cutting – OCC claim they cut 2.5 acres, however much of this area may actually be maintained by parishioners already. Chairman to obtain maps to confirm area involved.
- Lease of Ardley Woods. New 15 year Lease retained same terms as previously. Paperwork awaited & agreed that the Chairman & Councillor R. Shepherd- Cross would be signatories.
- HM Queen's Birthday Celebrations – all bills received & final accounts being completed
- Footpath estimates – cost details still awaited
- Broadband upgrade – up to 20 houses not covered in current BT plan & they need to wait until December 2017 for improved broadband unless Council pay for cabinet upgrade. Chairman to establish approximate cost estimate for cabinet work & time frame to complete
- Rural Housing – Assessment of need survey being established, Wording to be circulated.

County Councillor Catherine Fulljames –

She had received details from several parishioners about smells from Agrivert affecting the village. Talks held with Environment Agency to aim to eliminate the causes of the specific odours.

Viridor continue to be compliant in most areas although lighting is still an issue. Community funds in the area now seem to be limited with the grants process being centralised elsewhere.

A meeting was held with OCC to discuss recent village flooding & urgent action was agreed about clearing ditches before the wet winter weather arrives. Remedial work was also agreed to the barrier opposite Water Lane where the water's edge is overgrown & not clearly defined. Unless action is taken an accident could result. Councillor Fulljames will follow up & advise Chairman.

Traffic monitoring figures of B430 junction 10 to Middleton Stoney in April 2016 showed traffic peaking at 781 vehicles per hour Northbound & 544 vehicles per hour Southbound. Council reorganisation debate scheduled for 13th September with 6 possible reorganisational options available. Councillor Fulljames favoured a single unitary option covering Oxfordshire only since it appeared to generate the most savings for the people of Oxfordshire. It was considered a complex issue with both Grant Thornton & Price Waterhouse Coopers offering possible options. Councillor Fulljames spoke about Community Engagement in Oxfordshire [see their website] particularly the sterling work by the fire brigade checking electric blankets. She also praised the facilities at Bicester library & the revised dial a bus service operated by OCC via Comet.

District Councillor Ian Corkin.

Spoke about Cala Homes development of 34 houses in Fritwell. Ardley with Fewcott [AwF] council had limited knowledge of this development but were keen to understand more & Chairman agreed to contact Fritwell PC to establish the status of the application & any implications for AwF PC. Devolution issue - Councillor Corkin advised an announcement is expected in Autumn Statement. Announced that the prestigious self-development at Graven Hill put first 10 plots on the market. Councillor Corkin advised he had requested air pollution data which he'd circulate on receipt. District Councillor advertised Bicester Jobs Fair on 28th September and Age UK Bicester Open Day on 30th September.

Neighbourhood Plans.

Huw updated the meeting that average responses to the plan across the represented parishes overall were a disappointing 8.7%, with AwF being substantially lower at approximately 5%. However the overall relationship between the parish representatives & the unfolding common goals was helping to develop a positive feeling of belonging to an active, stronger structure. It was considered important to raise the profile of the developing plans for the whole area.

Emergency Plans.

At the request of OCC the Parish has agreed to review its emergency plans in conjunction with the Village Hall & the church. This would include action, for example, in the event of a serious accident on the M40 or major power failure across the parish. Councillor Peat will initiate this review.

Planning Applications.

Items tabled & discussed:-

Decision – Approved - Simpson/ Whitecroft, Fritwell Road – Demolition of conservatory & erection of rear extension.

Decision – Approved – Heritage Centre at Upper Heyford

Current – Council objected to application to convert 3 farm buildings into 5 dwellings at Ashgrove Farm – outside permitted guidelines

New – Notice of Intent to undertake work to 9 trees in conservation area. Mrs Millson, The Old Rectory, Church Road, Ardley.

The actions on the planning applications were proposed by Councillor Peat & seconded by Councillor Lewis

Finance

The Clerk explained that the Audit had been successfully concluded & the Statutory Financial Accounts for 2015/16 were now [& had been since 1st September] on the Notice Boards.

A schedule of payments made in August & those due for payment in September were presented. The payments were proposed by Councillor Peat & seconded by Councillor Lewis.

Woods Report.

No changes from last meeting, although trees have now been marked for action. It is hoped that the successful contractor will leave the fallen trees in suitable piles so that, through decay, they will provide a good source of food for animals & trees. In Mr Stokes' absence a paper was tabled outlining his discussions with a local environmental group, TOE2, about various AFFECT initiatives, including seating in Ardley Wood; better access to the old quarry area; improved signage; wild flower planting; and woodland "furniture". The full report to be circulated to all council members and a further detailed update will be available at the next meeting.

Any Other Business

Village Hall – Emergency plans requirements to be raised at their AGM on 22nd September

Village Hall would prefer the parish council to obtain their own Community First Oxfordshire [CFO] membership rather than enjoy a joint membership.

Fritwell - in view of the proposed Cala homes development traffic calming measures should be considered for AwF. Proposal to be included on the next council agenda & Councillor Shepherd-Cross to consider the implications of the development & lead the discussions on this issue.

The next Parish Council Meeting will be at 7.30pm on 14 November 2016 in the Village Hall.

Signed.....

Date.....