

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on 13th July 2015

Venue: Norman Fraser Suite, Community Hall at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors: C. Thornton, N. Lewis, H. Jenkins, C. McGarry, D. Peat, District Councillor, I. Corkin & County Councillor, C. Fulljames

Also Present: Madeleine Gilpin, Lynne Roberts & Victoria Embleton-Sencer.

Parishioners' issues:-

- Mrs Gilpin advised that there were approximately 45 trees in Quarry Cottages that required binding to protect their growth.
- Mrs Gilpin also advised that the Stride Charity Bike Ride was taking place on 12th September & she was seeking sponsorship.

Declaration of Interests:- None

Apologies:- Councillor R. Shepherd-Cross

Action Points & Matters Arising from Council Meeting held on 19th May 2015:-

- New Parish Councillor: Victoria Embleton-Spencer was co-opted as a new Parish Councillor to fill the vacancy left by Ian Corkin's resignation.
- Neighbourhood Plan Champion: Richard Shepherd-Cross is acting in this capacity currently. It is a most important role since Ardley is the Lead Council on this project. Chairman will confirm current progress with Richard Shepherd-Cross.
- Incinerator Lighting:- Nicki Lewis attended the Ardley Viridor Liaison Meeting on 8th July [minutes enclosed] & was advised that Viridor had tested the lighting in May but did not advise the council of the action until afterwards. Further testing will take place with all interested parties being advised of the timetable.
- Rural Housing:- Anna Kennedy has now taken over responsibility for Rural Housing. She advised waiting until September, when the new eligibility criteria should be clear & then a further survey of interest can take place.
- Vehicles parked on the pavements:- Council no parking signs to be distributed. PC Caroline Brown was advised of the situation & will patrol the village speaking to any offending vehicle owners to advise them how dangerous this practice is in a small village. PC Brown wants to remind villagers that people are not allowed to put their own cones in the road.
- Overgrown village hedges: Water Lane hedges now cut but Quarry Cottages hedges are badly overgrown. Chairman to take action.
- Playing Fields Committee – Victoria Embleton-Spencer to be the Parish Council representative on the Playing Fields Committee.
- Herbley House planning application:- Chairman spoken to District council & he believes immediate action is required in this case, rather than the usual 3 years to complete.
- AFFECT issues:- Richard Shepherd-Cross to check the lease before a decision is made & communicated.
- New "Wood Warden": Chairman to approach Mike Stokes again.
- Mick Day memorial:- Council to work in conjunction with Playing Field Committee.

County Councillor:

Catherine Fulljames was sad to report that Hazel Watt from Bucknell had died & was given an amazing funeral, which included a Victorian hearse. Hazel was well thought of, particularly because of her involvement with the action against the Incinerator.

The County Councillor also attended the official opening of the Incinerator & was pleased to hear senior Viridor officials thanking all the local people for enduring the inconveniences that have arisen over the last 5 years. Lighting at the Incinerator continues to be an issue & the Planning Committee was monitoring its performance.

The Viridor Recycling Centre will close in the next 3 or 4 years & so a new site for a Recycling Centre was being investigated.

Catherine Fulljames also reported that the Agrevert Committee has now been disbanded because of the lack of cases to investigate. Any unacceptable odours in the future should be referred to the Environment Agency.

Traffic on local roads continues to cause concern, particularly on Middleton Stoney Road which is operating well over capacity. Housing developments at Upper Heyford & Bicester will only add to the congestion on local roads as increasing volumes of traffic head for M40 junctions 9 & 10. HS2 rail construction will also further create congestion as vehicles full of aggregate head for M40 junctions 8 to 10. County Councillor will continue to press for improved infrastructure planning.

Ardley to Fewcott footpath – Although some funds have been received more money will be required to complete the project. The Viridor Fund is a diminishing pool of resource which has a finite life & so requests for contributions from them needs to be made as soon as possible. Initially a report by Tim Wild, advising the names of contractors, needs to go to the Highways Committee for their agreement. Interim meetings are required to facilitate action.

Middleton Stoney Parish Council have written to Ardley regarding the excessive use of the B430 by HGV traffic regularly using villages as a through route to the M40. The request for an early joint meeting would be considered by the Chairman.

Catherine Fulljames was asked to intervene in the ongoing dispute with BT where part of the village has been excluded from the high speed broadband rollout. Nick Carter to be approached.

District Councillor:

Ian Corkin reported that on Local Plan 1 the warehousing proposal for Junction 10 was rejected & the proposal for a McDonald's restaurant at Baynard Green was also likely to be rejected.

However Local Plan 2 is still being considered which could allow small industrial developments within Green Belt.

The Councillor also reported that the Heyford/ Amboseden Rural Children's Centre, providing domestic help & early intervention for children under 5, is in danger of closing because of lack of funding. OCC is considering concentrating centres in Oxford itself rather than in rural locations.

There will be a public consultation in September & more details will be provided once available.

The next joint Incinerator meeting will be on 4th October & it was noted that a visitor centre was being established on site which would welcome organised groups of up to 20 people.

A major Self Build development is being established at Graven Hill, where 2,000 units of self-build & off-site build will be constructed once the army has vacated the site. This will add to the road & infrastructure problems already identified within the local area. Ian

Corkin reported that the playing fields car park resurfacing cost has been calculated including VAT. A request for funding has been sent to the Viridor Credits Charity Group which will hopefully consider this proposal favourable since there are few other options available.

The joint working of Local Councils appears to be progressing well with Cherwell & South Northants particularly co-operating together to optimise the use of resources. Stratford-on-Avon council is also partially involved.

Planning Applications:-

2 Applications; 1 notice of intention & 1 Decision had been received – All had been dealt with. District Councillor advised that a “notice of intent” to undertake work on trees in a conservation area, relating to conifers at Fewcott House, was currently being processed.

Finance:-

The Annual Audit of the Accounts had been completed.

Parish Clerk was asked to confirm the cost of training courses for new Councillors' & Clerk.

It was also pointed out that the one copy of "The Parish Councillor's Guide" was out of date & the Clerk was asked to find out the cost of providing an up to date copy for each member.

Nicki Lewis & Stewart Deakin are to be added to the bank signature list.

Correspondence:-

Ardley with Fewcott on the internet. It appears that the original site now has a domain squatter which makes it unuseable. A new domain Ardleywithfewcottpc.co.uk has been purchased which will be linked to the web & activated in the next couple of weeks.

Safeguarding policy: The current document is not really user friendly & the Chairman will see if it can be quickly represented. Since the policy relates in part to children it was suggested that a joint document with the Playing Fields Committee would be appropriate.

Readiness for Winter correspondence had been distributed and queries were raised about the need for another sand/salt bin, possibly close to the Community Hall.

Any Other Business:-

The chairman confirmed that the grass is currently cut twice a year. This was felt to be inadequate & poor value for money. ODC may be prepared to devolve the budget to the parish council but a programme for the whole village needed to be considered. 3 separate quotes to maintain the whole village would be required. Different options for parts of the village could be considered.

Further discussions took place regarding fir trees needing to be cut back at the Knob & a requirement to review the condition of the footpath from Water Lane to the White Lion public house where the poor road surface & overgrown hedges could be considered unsafe.

Speeding yellow vans in Water Lane need to be reported to PC Caroline Brown.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.20pm.

Date of next meeting 14th September 2015 at 7.30pm.

Signed: Date.....