

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held 14th September 2015

Venue: Norman Fraser Suite, Community Hall at 7.30pm

Present: Parish Councillors: C. Thornton, N. Lewis, H. Jenkins, C. McGarry, D. Peat, V. Embleton-Spencer, R. Shepherd-Cross & County Councillor C. Fulljames.

Also Present: Madeleine Gilpin.

Parishioners' issues:-

- Mrs Gilpin advised that the hedgerow near Somerton Road needed to be cut back & hawthorn on the Quarry Road path was dying. The Chairman agreed to ask Mike Stokes to investigate & take action as appropriate.
- Mrs Gilpin also advised that the 40mph speed restriction sign on the B430, near the church, was not working & the one on the opposite side of the road, near the playing fields, was completely obscured by overhanging branches.
- Following the last council meeting in July several parishioners complained about fly tipping in Ardley woods. The offending rubbish was kindly removed by Geoff Mills & a warning sign erected to deter any further illegal dumping of unwanted material.

Declaration of Interests:- None

Apologies: District Councillor, I. Corkin

Action Points & Matters Arising from Council Meeting held on 13th July 2015:-

- 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.
- Incinerator Lighting:- Awaiting dates for further testing to take place.
- Vehicles parked on pavements:- While action had been taken in the form of posters & PC Brown visiting the area, there are still issues in Ardley & Russet Roads [number 7]
- Herbley House planning application:- Chairman believes immediate action now taken.
- AFFECT:- Richard Shepherd-Cross, the Chairman & Clerk to check the lease details
- Mike Stokes has agreed to be the new "Wood Warden" & Chairman will confirm with Ian Corkin which areas are actually involved. Nicki Lewis discussed if the council had any objections to concrete footings being used to secure the proposed fixed seating.
- Mick Day memorial:- Council to place plaque on bench overlooking the green
- New Councillor training for Huw Jenkins & Stewart Deakin to be booked for November & all councillors to be issued with updated copies of "The Parish Councillor's Guide"
- Audit papers distributed & displayed on the notice boards. Barbara Gow's offer of £30 contribution towards the cost of the audit was appreciated but unanimously declined
- Chris Thornton, Nicki Lewis & Stewart Deakin are confirmed as bank account signatories
- Ardley to Fewcott footpath: Nicki Lewis confirmed that applications had been submitted to Highways Department & estimates to undertake the work are being sought. A request for funding has been submitted to the Viridor Fund but unfortunately there are limited monies available & the contribution is now restricted to £20,000. This is well short of the £130,000 estimated cost of the footpath & other sources of funding will now need to be investigated.

County Councillor

Catherine Full James advised the meeting that the requirement for further Budget cuts of £60m meant that difficult decisions would need to be made by OCC over the next 5 years. One way to address the priorities dilemma was to issue a series of consultation documents to determine what the public really wanted the county to concentrate on in future years. Consultation notifications have been issued on household waste disposal [more houses being built but number of recycling sites reduced, where should sites be located?]; Children support centres [several small centres to be merged & centralised or replaced by self help groups & Charities. Where & how can funds be best utilised?] & Transport, where a 500 page policy/plan document has been issued [this will greatly affect our parish, particularly with the housing developments in Bicester & Upper Heyford and our proximity to motorway access, including HGVs using M40 junction 10 short cut to A34]. The B430 bridge weight limit issue & the implications for the Incinerator traffic access was discussed & the Middleton Stoney cross roads being declared "over capacity". Ardley & Middleton Stoney Parish Councils to meet with other interested parties to review joint action possibilities. Richard Shepherd-Cross was advised to address his queries re revised M40 J10 directional access to Victoria Prentice & it was suggested that the Chairman should direct the ongoing BT broadband dispute to Nick Carter.

Rural Housing:- Deborah Peat confirmed that Anna Kennedy has now taken over responsibility for Rural Housing but was unfortunately unable to attend the Council meeting. She was keen to discuss how to address issues but advised waiting until late September, when the new eligibility criteria should be clear & then a further survey of interest can take place.

Safeguarding Policy:- New simplified paper was issued by Deborah Peat, which was well received & approved. This document was to be taken to the Ardley with Fewcott Playing Field Committee by Victoria Embleton-Spencer for their consideration since it would be sensible to have a village wide policy on this important issue.

Village defibrillator:- Nicki Lewis made the case that this was an essential asset not currently available in the village and she advised that the cost was likely to be in the range £900 - £1,500. After much discussion the White Lion was the preferred location for a permanent defibrillator since there were concerns about placing it in any area where vandalism could take place. Nicki Lewis to further investigate purchase prices.

Planning Applications & updates:- Richard Shepherd-Cross reminded the meeting why Ardley with Fewcott was the lead council on the important Neighbourhood Plan project & why limited action appeared to have been taken so far. He updated the meeting that the parishes structure had now been completed & was available for consultation. An Executive Committee had been established, consisting of Steeple Aston; Middleton Stoney & Upper Heyford, which held regular reviews with the Dorchester Group, which funds the project overall. Pegasus Consultants have been retained to complete much of the day to day legwork. While an extra 750 houses were expected the importance of the Neighbourhood Plan was emphasised by Richard Shepherd-Cross where only by having an overall plan could the councils influence what was built, where & even when. Thus the local plan was to be developed & circulated before being incorporated into the overall plan. The Chairman asked to accompany Richard Shepherd-Cross to the next management meeting.

Finance:- The cheque for the work on the new domain had gone astray & should be cancelled

Any Other Business:- The availability of Councillors to deal with correspondence was discussed.

Date of next meeting 9th November 2015 at 7.30pm.

Signed: Date.....