

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on 09 May 2016

Venue: Norman Fraser Suite, Community Hall at 7.45pm

Present: Parish Councillors – C. Thornton, N. Lewis, V. Embleton-Spencer, H.Jenkins, P. Johnson, D. Peat, R. Shepherd- Cross.

District Councillors B. Wood & I. Corkin

Also Present: Mike Stokes

Parishioners' issues:-

- A note from Mrs Gilpin was read out requesting consideration for a litter bin in the lay-by on the Fritwell Road, leaving Fewcott & heading for Fritwell, where litter tends to accumulate.
- While this was considered a good idea the issues of cost & bin emptying were constraints.

Declaration of Interests: None

Apologies: County Councillor, C.Fulljames

Elections: C. Thornton was re-elected as Chairman & N.Lewis re-elected as Vice-Chairman.

Councillors: Peter Johnson was welcomed onto the Council & all Acceptance certificates signed

Minutes of the meeting held on 09 March 2016 were accepted & signed.

Matters Arising.

- Following a successful training session, the village defibrillator is now available for use in an emergency & housed in an accessible display case outside the White Lion Public House. A note for the attention of Parishioners to be inserted in 3 Parishes Magazine.
- A date for an update of village Neighbourhood Plan was provisionally agreed as 15th June & will hopefully be in conjunction with Fritwell, with wide publicity to attract more villagers.
- A survey document will be distributed about rural housing needs following up on from the previous survey which concentrated on parishioner interest. It seems that Shared Ownership does not require participants to be on the Housing Register but renting out properties can only be to people that are on the Housing Register.

District Councillors Barry Wood & Ian Corkin.

The meeting was addressed by Barry Wood – one of the 3 newly elected District Councillors – who advised that the district was now very large & he would be working with Ian Corkin & James McNamara in the best interests of the whole, expanded community. He outlined the concept of devolution & Unitary Council and emphasised the “value for money” approach they would take. Options are currently being evaluated & hopefully decisions will be made on the best way forward by July. Options included North Oxford & South Northants [current co-operation area]; West Oxford & Cotswolds but there was a growing feeling that cross- boundary working would not be a preferred option since it complicated service provision. On the housing front the Oxford overspill problem would have a significant impact on Cherwell District. Some big issues, watch this space.

District Councillor Ian Corkin then spoke about the delayed high speed internet roll out to the parish being referred to the Cabinet Minister responsible in an attempt to overcome current difficulties. He also addressed the bus services issues, citing a possible limited solution from Heyfordian, with a suggested weekly service [Friday?] from Fringford to Bicester. He promised to investigate unpleasant smells identified by the Environment Agency, possibly from the cleaning process at Viridor – although they don't accept any responsibility at the moment. Other topics included Viridor lighting and ongoing Neighbourhood development plans with a Heyford Master Plan/ Dorchester Group update being presented to the Executive soon.

Finance

The Accounts for Year-ended 31st March 2016, having been previously circulated, were reviewed, considered & agreed by the Parish Council & then signed by the Chairman & Parish Clerk. The Accounts were then sent to external Auditors BDO for their review & comments.

Planning Policy –Devolved Authority

The Council considered a proposal that responsibility for replying to all planning applications in a timely manner should be delegated to the Parish Clerk. Separate Council meetings to consider each planning application would therefore not be necessary but the Clerk needed to co-ordinate responses with each Councillor. The proposal was carried unanimously.

Any Other Business

M.Stokes reported that a 15ft tree had collapsed onto the path parallel to Somerton Road, into Quarry field. The tree was rotten but required 2 hours of sawing to clear the obstruction. About 20 trees have died in the woods & a safety survey needs to be completed urgently. The cost would be about £400 & 3 quotes were being sought.

Dates for future meetings would continue on the second Monday of the month & are thus:-

11July 2016//

12 September 2016//

14 November 2016//

09 January 2017//

13 March 2017//

08 May 2017.

The Chairman closed the meeting by offering a vote of thanks to Colin McGarry, who has just retired as a Councillor, for his very many years of devoted service to the Council.

A gift from his colleagues will be presented to Colin by the Chairman.

The next Parish Council Meeting will be at 7.30pm on 11 July 2016 in the Community Hall.

Signed.....

Date.....