

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held 9th November 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 & District Councillor I. Corkin

Also Present: Madeleine Gilpin, Mike Stokes & Anna Kennedy

Parishioners' issues:-

- Mrs Gilpin advised that the hedgerows on the bend, near Quarry Cottages, needed to be cut back & that the footpath from the Knob to postbox was uneven & slippery underfoot. The Chairman to raise with Council
- Mr Stokes recognised some of the issues raised regarding hawthorns planted on edge of the Quarry Cottages track. He confirmed that he would attempt to repost any hawthorns still alive. Mr Stokes also advised that the ragwort had been very heavy this year & prompt action will be required next season. He assessed there were no obvious safety issues in the woods but a survey of the trees was now required & determine who was responsible for them. The bridle path also needed clearer demarcation.

Declaration of Interests:- none

Apologies: County Councillor, C. Fulljames

Points Action & Matters Arising from Council Meeting held on 14th September 2015:-

- 40 MPH speed signs appear to be working intermittently & unsatisfactorily
- Incinerator Lighting:- Still awaiting new dates for independent lighting survey – although CDC asking for type of lighting being used to be reviewed
- Vehicles parking on pavements:- still issues reported re Paddock Road [number 8]
- Clerk to check the lease details for woods access.
- Nicki Lewis advised that the design for the seat in the woods was being circulated and the location currently being reviewed.
- Mick Day memorial:- Council to place plaque on bench overlooking the green
- New Councillor training for Huw Jenkins & Stewart Deakin awaiting new dates & all councillors to be issued with updated copies of "The Parish Councillor's Guide"
- Fritwell to Fewcott footpath: Nicki Lewis advised that more applications for funding were in progress while support was being offered from Smiths & Tim Wise from Highways Dept. Both Parish Councils agreeing to development although some questions were raised about the degree of public consultation. Issues to consider include drainage; gap between path & road plus ongoing maintenance on completion.
- Ardley & Middleton Stoney meeting awaiting confirmation from Councillor Fulljames
- M40 directional access raised with Victoria Prentice – no action possible
- BT broadband dispute ongoing – see note from Ian Corkin
- Readiness for Winter correspondence to be reviewed by Chairman
- Village defibrillator:- Nicki Lewis advised that the cost of a fully automated defibrillator would be approx £1,400. She would continue discussions where White Lion would locate it.

Anna Kennedy, CDC, Rural Housing.

Anna explained her function as an enabling role, promoting small developments of social housing with a priority to support local connections & initiatives, within a changing environment moving from 100% Housing Association support into a small percentage of market houses.

Anna explained that a new survey of all households in the parish could be undertaken to establish who might be interested & she explained the options of Green Square Association [CDC own building scheme]; positive self build schemes or others tailored to suit Ardley – by request. However it was possible to simply set up a “register of interest” rather than undertake a full survey.

A rural Housing Pack – approved by CDC - should be available by Year end clarifying the new eligibility criteria. CDC will support local council with open evening consultation events.

The proposed site needs to be well identified & normally takes years to develop during which time names of interested parties can change but eligibility classification does not. Applicants must be on Council waiting list.

Rural properties on the exception site scheme will not be eligible for right to buy scheme.

Anna closed by asking counillors to e-mail any further questions directly to her after seeing revised Housing Pack after Christmas.

District Councillor – Ian Corkin

McDonalds Application at Baynards Green due in near future

Graven Hills delivery phase offering substantial savings [25/30%] on self build schemes. Large plots in good locations available too for discerning buyers.

Another Viridor application for regeneration of landfill area expected – prompting even further vehicle movements. Landscaping proposals facing St Marys Walk a positive move, although nothing on Bucknell side.

CDC finances fluid but co-operation with SNC very positive. Devolution plans –where District & Town Councils work together for the benefit of further infrastructure – being discussed.

Thames Valley data re speeding HGVs to be circulated

Several Neighbourhood Plans being delivered now & CDC uneasy about current plans for Childrens' Centres including Heyford

Planning Applications & updates:-

Richard Shepherd-Cross advised the meeting of the positive work being undertaken by the Neighbourhood Plan Executive [Ardley; Steeple Aston; Middleton Stoney & Upper Heyford] covering all 19 parishes. Local consultation meetings must take place - which is very demanding. Ardley agreed to contribute towards funding an administrator for the Executive. Issues being dealt with included publishing updates on website; consultation process & establishing Focus Groups. Early draft of Pegasus Consultants plans already includes 17% of CDC area in it and works with Dorchester Group to benefit the villages. Plans need to be kept simple & at a high level but it should be remembered that small developments do not gain extra infrastructure benefits.

The Planning Application for Community Hall Car Park was also discussed with much emphasis being placed on the original concept of designated disabled & pedestrian access. While the plan was supported overall it was felt that the lack of a marked footpath created safety issues & distracted from the original intentions discussed. However this change could only be made by a reduction in the number of parking spaces available, which need not be beneficial. Councillors to

make their comments clearly & quickly to the clerk so that any reply on the application could be completed within the required timescales.

Any Other Business:-

Victoria Embleton-Spencer advised the meeting of the poor state of the grass cutting equipment which would require £11.5K + VAT to replace. While this is being 50% funded by Football Association a donation of £2K was requested. After much discussion it was decided that this request could not be considered until next financial year as much of the Council's current funds had already been utilised as a contribution towards resurfacing the car park

Speed Watch – the number of signs required at £69.50 + VAT each was raised. Fritwell were to provide the signs as a contribution for the use of the speed guns. Victoria to check.

Date of next meeting 11th January 2016 at 7.30pm.

Signed: Date.....