

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on 11 July 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.

Also Present: Madeleine Gilpin, Lynne Roberts & Michael Stokes.

Parishioners' issues:-

- Mrs Gilpin & Mrs Roberts commented on the state of the grass cutting along the verges of Ardley Wood, Somerton Road & Knob and the overgrown hedges in Ardley Lane & Paddock Road. District Councillor explained that Oxfordshire County Council were limiting grass cutting to emergencies only but some funds had been set aside to help parishes.
- The Chairman requested that these comments about specific verges & hedges together with worries about over grown shrubbery around the 40 MPH road sign & uneven curb stones should be e-mailed directly to him to follow up with Oxfordshire County Council.
- The Chairman confirmed that he was already dealing with issues about village gate repairs.

Declaration of Interests: None

Apologies: D. Peat & County Councillor, C.Fulljames

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

Matters Arising: None

County Councillor. – Chairman read out a note from Catherine Fulljames about the smells from Agrevert which were affecting the village. More detailed information was requested by County Councillor about the specific odours & the number of occasions that the smells were experienced.

District Councillor Ian Corkin.

Spoke about the flooding in the village, indicating that channels would need to be cut into the road to clear the water in the longer term. The flooding issues related to the ditch on the East side of the road & the drainage pipe at the end of the ditch being blocked by debris. Drains now cleared & inspected but a schedule of drains servicing to be updated. The stream through the village had been cleared of weeds as far as the Nursing Home but other areas needed to be cleared urgently to prevent any further/ future flooding. However it should be noted that the cleaning of the ditches & clearing overhanging hedgerows is strictly the Land owner's responsibility.

Barry Wood & Ian Corkin are now actively involved with local Neighbourhood plans, based on the Heyford /Dorchester Master Plan, & are hoping to provide a dedicated person to help co-ordinate. On the confusing devolution issue an announcement is expected in the Autumn Statement.

HM Queen's Birthday Celebration.

The Council offered their collective thanks to Deborah Peat & Nicki Lewis for ensuring that the event was such a success & within budget.

Footpath Update.

Footpath from White Lion to Water Lane – expecting to put down a surface of plainings [tarmac rubble] on mud; compacted by mechanical crusher & edgings added to finalise - the cost of which is expected to be refunded. The footpath will then continue from the Knob to Quarry Gate. Although the cost is expected to be about £600 Nicki will provide final estimates to complete this footpath. A public survey about the footpath project will appear in 3 Parishes while another meeting is planned with County Council to confirm the details of what's included in the current plans.

Neighbourhood Plans.

Next Committee meeting Wednesday 13th July. While Richard & Huw are unable to attend Chris is working elsewhere & maybe late. Peter Johnson volunteered to attend as Council representative. At the last local consultative meeting only 10 people attended to give their views on the key issues of the plan, with probably 15 at the Fritwell meeting. This compares with 25 attendees at previous meetings but with over 300 registered voters the public attendance is considered disappointing. Discussions continued on how to tempt more attendees to these important consultative meetings; to prompt more parishioners' involvement & foster a sense of achievement rather than criticism.

Planning Applications.

Items tabled & discussed:-

Mrs Lyn Dale/ 25 Ardley Road/ Single storey extension with rooms above.

2 Ardley Road, new buildings, no further update yet & site visit expected.

Mrs Simpson/ Whitecroft, Fritwell Road/ Demolish conservatory & erect single & double storey extensions. Full details to be distributed.

Finance

A schedule of payments made in June & due in July was presented.

Woods Report.

No changes from last meeting but quotes expected for tree safety survey & associated work. The lease for the woods is due for renewal with Oxfordshire County Council & a local solicitor is being sought to protect the parishes' interests. The rent was a nominal £100 pa but liability could be prohibitive if there was a major incident – thus the need for a solicitor. Richard agreed to deal with the issue since this is exactly his line of work & he is an expert in this field.

Any Other Business

Village Hall – Request to help with significant cost of repaving site. Happy to help but would like to see Village Hall accounts before making a decision.

Grass cutting – further to earlier issues Oxfordshire CC prepared to devolve grass cutting to parish but what cost/ benefit to the community? What would the insurance situation be of taking on this new work? Scope the job for all communal areas to establish extent of ongoing commitment. Current parish council sit on & ride mower difficult to move round the village. Proposed to sell current mower & buy new self-propelled version, with a cost in the region of £600- £900.

The next Parish Council Meeting will be at 7.30pm on 12 September 2016 in the Village Hall.

Signed.....

Date.....