

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held 09 January 2017

Venue: Norman Fraser Suite, Village Hall at 7.30pm

Present: Parish Councillors – C. Thornton, N. Lewis, D. Peat, H. Jenkins, R. Shepherd- Cross, P. Johnson; County Councillor C. Fulljames & District Councillor I. Corkin.

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

Parishioners' issues:-

- Mrs Gilpin raised the issue of air quality control monitoring of Nitric Oxide on B430. Results of 34-38 were considered high with 40 being the maximum. Councillor Corkin would provide a contact so that the actual results could be obtained & studied.

Declaration of Interests: None

Apologies: None.

Minutes of the meeting held on 14 November 2016 were accepted & signed.

Matters Arising:

- Broadband upgrade – Some data received from OCC for cabinet work – ongoing
- Remedial work to barrier opposite Water Lane now being followed up by Clerk
- Emergency Plans to be developed in conjunction with Church & Village Hall are ongoing
- Readiness for Winter Plans need to consider if a new salt/sand bin is required
- Planning training for Councillors. Clerk to arrange.
- Quote for 2 new notice Boards & appropriate locations for 2017/18 – ongoing.

Co-option of new Parish Councillor

Richard Curtis was proposed by Councillor Thornton & seconded by Councillor Peat. The proposal was carried unanimously.

County Councillor: Catherine Fulljames

Councillor Fulljames explained that the OCC deficit continues to be addressed with one option being a re-organisation including a Unitary Council for Oxfordshire.

She offered reasons for possible increases in Council Tax for each of the next two years, with increased demand for Social Care and increasing cost of current services being the main drivers. She then outlined the dilemma about the Government's housing target for Oxford being unmet and the short fall being reallocated to local County Councils. This decision is proving to be contentious. Viridor incinerator lighting continues to be too bright & will be discussed at the next liaison meeting Councillor Lewis advised the County Councillor that a meeting was being held on 10th January with Sophie Hearne to follow up on the plans for the Ardley to Fritwell footpath.

District Councillor Ian Corkin.

Councillor Corkin advised the meeting about planning applications for Upper Heyford. Proposals for warehousing & housing on the Southern Bomb Store site merited a response from Ardley with Fewcott Parish Council. Councillor Shepherd-Cross offered to draft an appropriate response. The further development of 297 houses also needed consideration because of the traffic impact. Ardley should also note that there are proposals for the separation of Heyford into two Parishes, which could impact on the current boundary with Ardley. Clerk to follow up with Emma Faulkner. Devolution - Councillor Corkin advised situation still unclear with an elected Mayor a possibility. Horton hospital – CDC supporting plans to retain & expand Horton by providing expert input. Too many missed appointments at JR, Horton therefore essential. Horton to keep high public profile.

The McDonalds development at Esso PFS Stoke Lyne has been allowed on appeal.
Flood prevention – Grips on Fritwell Road to limit flooding seem to be working.
Recycling facility to remain at the moment. Viridor wish to close at some stage but not clear when.
Highways – CDC discussions about more yellow lines & funding Traffic Enforcement Officers.

Grass Cutting; Woods Report & Lease and Tree Survey

Grass cutting. Maps A & B showing areas to be cut were shown & discussed. The Chairman was hopeful that CDC would provide a schedule showing dates when their grass cutting commitment would take place. The Parish Council contractor would cut areas in the village, as directed. The Chairman agreed to get quotes from at least 3 different contractors to undertake grass cutting.

Lease of Ardley Woods. While the new Lease retained the same terms as previously, there is no automatic right to renew but the Council is signing for exclusive security of tenure. The title needs to be registered at the Land Registry via a solicitor which Councillor Shepherd-Cross agreed to complete. The fee was expected to be about £200. Once the new lease had been registered it was agreed that the Chairman & the Clerk would be the signatories.

Mike Stokes advised that the fallen tree in the woods had been cleared.

Tree Survey. Work started on 9th January 2017 & will take approximately 3 weeks to complete. The work involved not only cutting & taking away but also stacking where requested to create natural habitats for wildlife. Invoice to be raised on satisfactory completion.

Neighbourhood Plans.

Although “Designate Green Spaces” data had been provided to MCNP [Management Committee of Neighbourhood Plans] there was a request for this information to be included on a map. Councillors Shepherd–Cross & Thornton offered to complete this task. Information on historical sites was also requested which the Chairman would address with help from the Clerk. A draft resolution from MCNP was presented for Ardley with Fewcott Parish Council to agree to support the MCNP draft policies as developed so far. After much discussion it was agreed that policy PD04 relating to Affordable Housing was not in line with Ardley with Fewcott Parish Council’s aspirations. Councillor Jenkins agreed to advise MCNP of the desired wording change. The draft resolution would be signed once the amendment had been actioned. The next MCNP meeting was planned for 18th January with Councillors Shepherd-Cross & Jenkins in attendance. The next public presentation of the Neighbourhood Plans was to be in the Village Hall on Sunday 22nd January from 10.00am until noon. All available Councillors to attend please.

Budget & Precept 2017-18

A proposed Budget for 2017-18 was presented. After much discussion it was agreed to included anticipated costs for grass cutting; footpaths; tidying up the village; help towards traffic calming & a realistic amount for the maintenance of Ardley woods [the £8K+ being spent in 2016-17 would have been much reduced if maintenance had been carried out regularly]. Councillor Peat proposed & Councillor Shepherd-Cross seconded a 5% increase in the precept, after several years being unchanged. This motion was carried unanimously. The Clerk to advise CDC of this decision.

Planning Applications.

A schedule of planning applications was tabled & discussed. Application 16/02269/HYBRID, Southern Bomb Site Stores was highlighted for special objection. Councillor Shepherd-Cross would provide a draft response for the Clerk to submit to CDC. All other items as agreed. Proposed Councillor Shepherd-Cross & seconded by Councillor Thornton.

Finance

Payments made in December & expected to be made in January were presented. Agreed & Proposed by Councillor Lewis & seconded by Councillor Shepherd- Cross.

Correspondence

The High Sheriff of Oxford award to recognise people who have made an outstanding contribution to the communities in which they live & work was discussed. While no individual was identified at the meeting there was a strong feeling that this matter was important and should be seriously revisited at a later date to see if a suitable candidate could be selected in time for next year. A request had been received from Fiona Quigley about tidying up the area opposite Quarry Cottages in Somerton Road. The Chairman had discussed the issues with Ms. Quigley & offered his views to the Council. The Council agreed that while Ms. Quigley’s suggestions could not all be accepted at the moment, the broad issues of tidying up several unadopted areas within the village needed to be incorporated within the Neighbourhood Plan. This needed to be discussed in more detail at a future meeting to identify actions & funding required.

Any Other Business

Parking on Ardley Road was becoming more dangerous, with vehicles speeding round the corner from B430; traffic visibility from Fewcott Green being restricted & buses stopping outside the Village Hall. Councillor Lewis offered to investigate the possibility of yellow lines to restrict parking & reduce the risk of an accident.

Burglaries in the Cherwell area are increasing. Police posters for the Notice Boards are required as well as items for the village website & village Facebook. Councillors Thornton & Lewis to action

The Chairman announced that he will step down from this role at the AGM in May.

The next Parish Council Meeting will be at 7.30pm on 13 March 2017 in the Village Hall.

Signed.....

Date.....