

# **Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held 08 May 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; R Curtis, District & County Councillor I. Corkin

Also Present: Madeleine Gilpin, Lynne Roberts, Ruth Corkin, Jon O'Neil

Election of Chairman: As Councillor Thornton was standing down a ballot was held for a new Chairman & Councillor Jenkins was elected. Proposed Chris Thornton, Seconded by Nicki Lewis. Councillor Lewis agreed to remain as Vice Chairman. Proposed Huw Jenkins, Seconded Peter Johnson. A presentation was made to Councillor Thornton on behalf of the Council for his many & varied successful achievements during his time as Chairman. His contributions will be missed.

Parishioners' issues: Dog Bin broken on Ardley Road. Chris Thornton agreed to repair it. Overgrown hedge on Water Lane obstructing the path, similar on Paddock Road. Overgrown trees on the Knob overhanging the footpath. Photos to be submitted by Lynne Roberts. Friends of Ardley with Fewcott Wood notices to be printed at a cost of £30 to identify volunteers to help with the development & preservation of the wood. Broken tree issue already dealt with by Chris Thornton. Another storm damaged tree at 13 Castlefields, backing onto the woods, needs to be reviewed & the fence line needs repair, Councillor Johnson agreed to investigate.

Declaration of Interests: None

Apologies: None

Election of Councillors: With 2 prospective councillors present, Councillor Shepherd-Cross tendered his resignation on the grounds of work commitment & to facilitate new members. His resignation was reluctantly accepted & he was thanked for his many contributions to the Council. Ruth Corkin was co-opted as a councillor after being proposed by Councillor Jenkins & seconded by Councillor Curtis. Jon O'Neil was co-opted as a councillor after being proposed by Councillor Johnson & seconded by Councillor Lewis.

Minutes of the meeting held on 13 March 2017 were accepted & signed.

### Matters Arising:

- B430 Air Quality results Clerk to discuss contact with Councillor Corkin
- Remedial work to barrier opposite Water Lane – Clerk to contact Gordon Hunt
- Emergency Plans to be developed in conjunction with Church & Village Hall are ongoing
- Planning training for Councillors. Clerk to arrange with Bob Duxbury
- Quote for 2 new notice Boards & appropriate locations for 2017/18 – ongoing.
- MCNP draft resolution, word changing needed. Huw Jenkins dealing.
- Jon O'Neil volunteered to join the MCNP committee to support Huw Jenkins.
- Traffic calming. Councillor Lewis confirmed that 2 locations on B430 & Ardley Road to be monitored for 2 weeks in June. Councillor Johnson to confirm exact dates.
- A £50 contribution towards personal mower repairs was approved to Chris Thornton
- The poor state of the village mower was discussed again & the best way to dispose of, or utilise, the current machine was assigned to Councillor O'Neil to review

District Councillor – Ian Corkin thanked all those Parish Council volunteers who were the backbone of the District structure & responsible for the positive direction of the organisation. Expressed his pleasure at the successful & mutually beneficial relationship with South Northants. Advised that Sue Smith had left CDC & Yvonne Rees has taken over as Leader of the Council. CDC satisfaction survey reached a positive 75%; Bicester business is thriving in the evenings;

Business rate incentives are being offered where premises are empty for a period of time; Pop up shops are being encouraged; Castle Quay & Spice Ball developments are under consultation; Graven Hill progressing with self-build/ custom built properties & starter homes at attractive prices; Bus services require more work & devolution delayed until after the election on 8<sup>th</sup> June.

County Councillor: - Ian Corkin gave an overall perspective of the County Operation

Grass Cutting; Woods Report & Lease and Tree Survey - Councillor Johnson will head up a revised Woods Group to provide direction to a new committee, including the Gardening Club. This committee will generate a maintenance plan for the woods & fenced areas, agreeing protocol issues & addressing the increasing nuisance of dog fouling. A realistic budget will be agreed.

Planning Applications. - A schedule of planning applications was tabled & discussed. All items agreed. Proposed by Councillor Jenkins & seconded by Councillor Lewis.

Finance – Audit documents for 2016/17 were authorised by the Parish Council & signed by the Chairman. All documents had previously been distributed. A question by the Internal Auditor was about the adequacy of the financial reserves & if they posed a future risk if unexpected costs arose. Expenditure had exceeded income in each of the last 2 years.

Councillor Lewis pointed out that the reserves include £15,000 of restricted funds awaiting the proposed footpath, & thus free reserves were indeed tight. With extra unquantified cash requirements for the woods, fences & traffic calming keeping within budget will be a challenging exercise this year. Councillor Peat reminded the meeting that these issues were the reason for this years' 5% increase in precept, which followed several years without any increase.

The Clerk's remuneration for 2016/17 was due for review. After much discussion, the monthly hours were increased to 250 per year [4.8 hours per week] & the hourly rate increased to £9.054 [step SCP16 on the NALC scale. Clerk to confirm with NALC if the scale was progressive or fixed. This will increase the annual cost to £2,263.50 [£565.88 per quarter, or £188.63 per month].

A schedule of payments made in April & expected to be made in May 2017 were presented. All items agreed. Proposed by Councillor Jenkins & seconded by Councillor Johnson

Any Other Business -

The next Parish Council Meeting will be on **10th July 2017** in the Village Hall. Starting **at 7.30pm**

Signed.....

Date.....

# **Ardley with Fewcott Parish Council meeting 08<sup>th</sup> May 2017**

## **FINANCE TOPICS**

AUDIT Documents for 2016-17 to be authorised & signed. Already previously issued.

Parish Clerk remuneration from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017 for next 12 months.

**PAYMENTS MADE:-**

14<sup>th</sup> April 2017: Cherwell District Councils. Emptying Dog Bins. £144.14

**PAYMENTS TO BE MADE:-**

08<sup>th</sup> May 2017: S. Deakin – Clerk's Quarterly salary - £565.85

**\*\* Proposed by:-** .Huw Jenkins

**Seconded by:-** Peter Johnson

## **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

15<sup>th</sup> December 2016: MW.0038/17 – Viridor – new door & hard standing parking for mobile plant  
Action required to reply.

**NOTICE OF DECISION**

2<sup>nd</sup> March 2017 – Mr & Mrs W Blake – Erection of two storey & part single rear extension. Permission Refused. Excessive scale & visually incongruous form of development – not harmonious with existing dwelling & result in demonstrable harm to character & appearance of local area. Over-bearing development & loss of privacy for the neighbour. Cherwell Local Plans// Form, scale & siting fails to comply with policy ESD15 and Policies C28 & C30

**\*\* Proposed by:** Huw Jenkins

**Seconded by:** Nicki Lewis