

FRITWELL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING MONDAY 11th NOVEMBER 2019

At 7.00pm there was a presentation by Lagan Homes of their proposal for new homes and associated access on land off Forge Place. A note of this is available.

The Parish Council meeting began at 7.45pm

1. **Welcome and apologies – Arash Fatemian OCC, Anthea Unsworth (resident).**
2. **Declarations of Interest – Polly Foster: Lagan Homes development. Jon Boyce: The Pond**
3. **Public Participation** – Robin England presented a prepared statement about his views on the CALA application for 28 homes and associated access off Fewcott Road, and calling on the PC to withdraw its support. Mr England's statement may be read on the Cherwell District page for the CALA application and the link is:
<https://planningregister.cherwell.gov.uk/Document/Download?module=PLA&recordNumber=68355&planId=1509788&imageId=69&isPlan=False&fileName=Robin%20England%20%20Comment%2012-11-2019.pdf>

This issue was not on the agenda for discussion, and the PC agreed to consider making a written response to RE.

4. **Local Council Matters**

Cllr. Kerford-Byrnes (Cherwell District Council)

Covert Farm – Savvy's client has to sort out the issue with the County Council regarding the adoption of the road. The road as it stands does not conform to OCC standards so they cannot adopt it until it is rectified. The impasse may be dealt with by having a "Private Street Agreement", which the client has now prepared and submitted to OCC. If OCC agree to it, the site can be completed and the homes sold. Meanwhile Savvy have had to deal with vandalism of the site while it lies empty.

Cherwell District Council is looking at budgets. Whilst next year looks affordable, the following year is going to be difficult not least because the cost savings associated with linking up with South Northamptonshire are no longer relevant. There will need to be savings.

There was some discussion with MKB about the 750 homes cited in the Local Plan for Category A villages and the recent successful appeals brought by developers.

5. **To agree the Minutes of 9th September 2019 as a correct record.** Minor alteration of Mrs Barnhill's address as Fewcott Road, not Hodgson Close. The minutes were passed as a correct record.
6. **Matters Arising from the Minutes (not covered elsewhere on the agenda)**

- **Court Farm Cemetery access.** Mr Barlow of Court Farm did not comply with the conditions that the Parish Council gave him regarding access across the cemetery. Mr Barlow sent an email of apology. The matter is now closed.
- **Highways and traffic calming.** Cllr Boyce mentioned that workers have now arrived in May's Close and that people need to try not to park in their way. **ACTION: Clerk to send out email to remind people of this.** The Clerk will also contact OCC Cllr. Arash Fatemian and ask who might be able to come and talk to the PC about traffic calming measures and what might be appropriate for Fritwell. **Action: Clerk.**
- **Comet Bus.** The future of this is uncertain as the current funding arrangement is to end of March 2020. Meanwhile Cllr Foster has spoken to and accepted the offer of Cherwell Valley Bus and Coach to operate two Lynx bus services on Thursday (to Banbury) and Friday mornings (to Bicester). This will be a pay service, rather than free like the current Comet bus, and bus passes will unfortunately not be accepted. It is hoped enough people will use the new services to make them successful. **ACTION: Cllr Foster to continue campaigning for better bus services in Fritwell.**

7. **Financial Matters (Cllr. Simmonds)**

- **Financial Report and to agree spending since last meeting.** These were approved by all councillors:

06/11/2019	Heywire	inv2512	Office Running Costs	£144.00
06/11/2019	V Hibberd	repayment for Dog Bin signs	Village Appearance	£13.00
06/11/2019	Barstows	invoice no 78476	Office Running Costs	£56.24
06/11/2019	CDC	Dog Bins	Village Appearance	£439.30
- **CDC Invoice for dog bin collection.** This was very high and was investigated. It has now been halved to £439.30 as the collection has only been happening once a week, rather than two as the invoice stated. Frequency of summer collections to be considered next year.
- **Draft Budget 2020/21** – this was discussed and will be finalised at the January meeting once a better idea of expenditure is available. **ACTION: All Councillors**

8. **Village Maintenance and Appearance**

- **Ground maintenance contract 2019 and renewal contract 2020.** It was agreed not to tender this year as the current contractor is performing very well. The new contract was approved and will be signed by the contractor asap. **ACTION JB and PF**
- **Pond improvements.** The above contractor is going to do a plan and a costing for planting up the pond. Cllr Boyce reported that he is monitoring the level of the pond. He also reported that the culverts near Church Lane will need clearing in the next year in order to prevent flooding on Church View Fields. **ACTION: Clerk to get contact details of owner in order to ask if he can do it.**
- **Cemetery replacement tree.** Cllr Boyce proposed that the species of Silver Birch quoted by Mr Stevens at £375 to buy and plant be agreed by Councillors. Proposer: Cllr Boyce, Seconder Sheila Ultsch. Proposal AGREED.
- Cllr Foster reported that Forge Place has lost its street sign and a new one is being made. This will take about 6 weeks. Mr Cox has asked if he can keep the remains of the old sign because he collects such things. It was AGREED that he could have it once the new sign is installed.
- **Drainage** – there are a number of drains that need clearing because they overflow and if the weather freezes walkers and road users are in danger. Angela Stillgoe has reported on Fixmystreet but more people should do the same. **ACTION: Clerk to find someone at CDC to contact and list all drains that need clearing.**
- **Winter weather plan.** Cllr Boyce explained that our current gritters are not really fit for our purposes and they need to be removed from their current storage place since the owner needs the space for other uses. It was AGREED to sell them on Ebay and buy instead 5 hand-push gritters which can easily be stored by councillors and made available for use in icy and snowy conditions. The bags of salt will need to be stored. **ACTION: Cllr Boyce.**
- It was mentioned that all the emergency planning documentation needs reviewing. **ACTION: Clerk to make changes to details, circulate to councillors and put on agenda for next meeting.**

9. Planning Matters

- **To review current applications.** The most recent is 81 North Street, and the council will need to comment on this in the light of the previous application by 69 North Street and concerns that these proposals may lead to further applications for building in this area of North Street. **ACTION: all councillors.**
- **Other planning issues.** The BOAT application for the bridleway 219/2 in our parish has been rejected and it stays as a Byway with Restricted Access (not open access for motorised vehicles)
- Road Closures – Cllr Boyce mentioned the two road closures at the end of November and beginning of December. Details on the Parish Council website www.fritwell.org.uk. **ACTION: Clerk to put on website and email to villagers.**
- MCNP – Cllr Foster has a survey from the MCNP about assisted living needs. She asked the Council to help with delivering this in the village. **ACTION: PF and councillors**

10. GDPR Update

- Cllr Boyce will be circulating recommendations to councillors soon. The only thing left to do in the short term is to arrange for all councillors to have a separate email address for Parish Council matters. **ACTION: Cllr Boyce.**

11. Correspondence

- **Resignation of Clerk** – we are now looking for a clerk. Cllr Foster asked the public to consider the post, and to think of people they know who might be interested. **ACTION: Clerk to get poster into 3 Parishes Magazine for December issue and put on agenda for next meeting. All: Review job description.**
- **Village Hall Committee representative** – Mrs Stillgoe has now resigned as Parish Council representative on the village hall committee so there is a vacancy for this post. It was noted that the position requires full participation not just observing at meetings.

12. Meetings attended by members of the Council

- 18th Sept: MCNP Forum – Cllrs Foster and Boyce
- 16th October: OCC Rights of Way Local Forum (Cherwell and W. Oxfordshire) Cllr Foster
- 19th October: Community Resilience Meeting - Clerk
- 29th October: OCC Parish Transport Representatives meeting – Cllr Foster and Ms Clark

13. Any Other Business

- A truck parks on the corner of the Fewcott Road and East Street, Cllr Boyce has investigated and will approach the owner and explain the danger of this location. **ACTION Cllr Boyce**
- The overgrown hedging on Church Lane. Cllr Foster will discuss with the homeowner. **ACTION: Cllr Foster**
- Cllr Ultsch – ordinary bins are still being used for dog waste. Please all be vigilant and advise anyone seen doing this. **ACTION: All**
- Speedwatch. Cllr Boyce reported that he has been collecting data and wants to restructure the way this is done. He will continue to report back as and when meaningful information is available. **ACTION: Cllr Boyce**

14. Next meetings

- **January 13th 2020**
- **March 2nd 2020**
- **May 11th 2020**