

## FRITWELL PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES FOR THE MEETING MONDAY 13<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2020

#### 1. Welcome and apologies

- Present: Councillors Foster (Chair), Boyce, Ultsch, Simmonds, the Clerk (Vicky Hibberd) and members of the public: Colin Smith, Rob Aunins, Anthea Unsworth, Robin England, Rachael Clark, Angela Stillgoe, Glynis Lowdon, Mike Stewart, Lauren Fletcher, Stephen Gray, Debbie Hudson, Anju Lazenby.

Cllr Fatemian (OCC) attended for part of the meeting.

- Apologies: Cllr. Mike Kerford-Byrnes (CDC)
- Councillor Foster began by welcoming everyone to the meeting. She paid tribute to Mike Dockrey who died in December 2019. His enormous contribution to the Parish Council from 1979 until 2015 was acknowledged. Even after resigning as a councillor he attended meetings and was always happy to share his knowledge and experience. He will be sorely missed.

#### 2. Declarations of Interest

- Cllr Foster – Lagan Homes / Dar Land matters
- Cllr Boyce – The Pond

#### 3. Public Participation

- Robin England expressed disappointment that his statement made at the last PC meeting had not been printed in full as part of the minutes and that all the points raised were not fully addressed by the Council. Cllr Foster (Chair) suggested a personal face-to-face meeting to try to achieve a better understanding and dialogue about these issues. **ACTION: Cllr Foster**
- Anthea Unsworth brought up the matter of flooded drains at junctions. Other villagers mentioned certain drains near them that needed attention. Most had already been reported on "Fixmystreet". The clerk confirmed that she had asked Oxfordshire County Council for a visit from the Gully Clearing Lorry and received the following response: *Thank you for reporting this issue. The gully issue/blockage will be included in our forthcoming gully cleansing programme. As there are limited budget we have to prioritise high flood risk areas. It is a common issue in Oxfordshire for rain water to not flow away as quickly as it should, the water usually flows away after a few hours but if it has not then please report again. We will continue to monitor this on our routine inspections. Regards. State changed to: Investigation complete.* **ACTION: Everyone to continue to report blocked and flooded drains to OCC.**

#### 4. Local Council Matters

- Cllr Fatemian (Oxfordshire County Council).
  1. In response to a question from the Chair, AF confirmed that the OCC councillors' priority fund will run for another year, although at a reduced level.
  2. The road adoption problem with the Covert Farm development off Fewcott Road is to be resolved between OCC and the landowner. A proposal has been submitted and is waiting for a response from OCC.
  3. Cllr Boyce asked if the resurfacing of May's Close and The Lane is complete, since it does not look complete. **ACTION: Cllr Fatemian to follow up with Highways.**
  4. A member of the public asked if Forge Place resurfacing was on the OCC's list of projects. **ACTION: Cllr Fatemian to follow up with Highways.**

5. **To agree the Minutes of 11<sup>th</sup> November 2019 as a correct record.** The minutes were AGREED as a correct record.

#### 6. Matters Arising from the Minutes (not covered elsewhere on the agenda)

- **Buses** The Lynx bus let passengers down over Christmas, failing to arrive and leaving people waiting in the cold and rain. Cllr Foster has had contact with the bus company and OCC community transport officer and the service is now reliably running to Banbury on Thursdays and Bicester on Fridays for a trial period. The Comet Bus on Mondays to Bicester is currently agreed to the end of March when the funding arrangement with local county councillors is due to expire. **ACTION: Cllr Foster to keep monitoring performance. Clerk to put Transport on the agenda for the March meeting.**
- **Cemetery Tree.** Agreed with PC grounds' maintenance contractor. **ACTION: Cllr Boyce to chase this and other matters (including spraying in Church Lane and hedging in cemetery).**
- **Gritting in winter** All the salt has been moved to Cllr Simmonds' house for storage. The old defective gritters were sold and a new hand-push one is being tested.
- **GDPR** to be moved to the March agenda. **ACTION: Clerk**
- **Overgrown Hedge in Church Lane.** **ACTION: Cllr Foster to speak to the homeowner concerned.**

## 7. Financial Matters (Cllr. Simmonds)

- **Financial Report and to agree spending since last meeting.** AGREED. Proposed Cllr Ultsch, Seconder Cllr Simmonds.
- **To agree the Budget for 2020/21.** It was noted that the draft budget increases the precept from £6600 to £6700. This represents an increase of about 74p per year for a Band D property. Cllr Ultsch thanked colleagues for their work on the budget. Cllr Simmonds proposed that the budget for 2020/21 be agreed. Seconded by Cllr Boyce. AGREED.
- **To agree the precept amount to submit to CDC.** Proposed by Cllr Foster, Seconded by Cllr Ultsch. AGREED.

## 8. Village Maintenance and Appearance

- **Fewcott Road Closure March 22 – April 22** **ACTION: Clerk to publicise this on mailing list and website.**
- **Pond** **ACTION: JB to chase contractor to provide costed planting plan for next meeting.**
- **Forge Place Sewerage Leak and Flooding.** A member of the public has reported raw sewerage in their garden and on the road at the closed end of Forge Place. Residents have made calls to Sanctuary, and the Environment Agency but do not seem able to get anything done. The members of the Parish Council were very concerned about the health and welfare of residents and agreed to take action with as many agencies as they could to help deal with this matter quickly. **ACTION: Cllr Ultsch to contact local MP Victoria Prentice. Cllr Foster to contact the responsible person in Sanctuary Homes and make sure this is prioritised, Cllr Boyce to contact Ofwat / WaterUK to report the inaction.**
- **Dog and litter bins.** It was confirmed that CDC only emptied the bins once a week for the whole of the last year and this cost the PC almost £900 including VAT. There are issues with people not using the correct bin for their dog waste, and with bins overflowing in the summer which causes smells and health dangers. It was agreed that the Dog Warden should be asked for advice about how to deal with people who don't clear up after their dogs and how to encourage people not to put dog waste into the ordinary bin. Cllr Ultsch and Anthea Unsworth were thanked for their many years of service emptying litter bins at the Bus Shelter and the Village Hall. **ACTION: Vicky Hibberd (our Clerk) offered to do these bins from now on as a volunteer resident (not included in the Clerk's responsibilities). Clerk to buy bin liners for the purpose.**

## 9. Planning Matters

- **Progress on Cala Homes outline application.** This was approved by CDC at their December 18<sup>th</sup> Planning Meeting. Village organisations, residents and the Parish Council now need to ensure future detailed plans are thoroughly scrutinised and challenged where necessary, and that appropriate mitigation and village enhancement is funded and carried out.
- **To review current applications** 12 The Lane: Cllr Foster already in contact with the Planning Officer for this application. **ACTION: Cllr Boyce and Clerk to speak to neighbours of this site. Cllr Foster to draft PC response.**
- **MCNP (Mid-Cherwell Neighbourhood Plan) Forum** – recently sent out a questionnaire about older people's housing. Cllr Foster thanked those who distributed it and residents who had taken the time to

return it. 145 responses in total were received by MCNP. The responses will be considered at the next MCNP meeting on January 15<sup>th</sup>.

- **The MCNP Forum** is also looking for areas and groups that might be interested in re-wilding projects. If anyone has any ideas for suitable areas in or near Fritwell for planting wildflower seeds, trees etc. or have other ideas please contact the Parish Council.
- **Other planning issues** – The application by Wolf Resorts in Chesterton was mentioned and people were encouraged to respond to the consultation on the CDC website. The website address is: <https://planningregister.cherwell.gov.uk/Planning/Display/19/02550/F> To submit a response, click on “Comment on this application”.
- **Lagan Homes** Notes of the presentation and discussion held before our November meeting have been requested by residents. **ACTION: Cllr Boyce to check and edit draft.**  
It is currently thought that Lagan has no immediate plans to submit an application to CDC.

#### 10. Emergency Plan including Winter Weather Plan

- All Councillors have this including the risk assessment. **ACTION: Clerk to put risk assessment onto the website along with the Snow and Ice annex of the Emergency Plan.** We need a core of volunteers to help with actions in the event of an emergency, such as flooding, power outage, major road accident etc. **ACTION: Clerk to send out request for volunteers to make themselves available to help in the event of an emergency. Deadline end of January. ACTION: Clerk to sort out expired website certificate.**

#### 11. Recruitment of Clerk

- There are two applicants for this post and interviews will take place as soon as possible.
- The Clerk has resigned with immediate effect from the role as Responsible Financial Officer (RFO). Cllr Simmonds will stand in until the new clerk can take up this position.

#### 12. Highways and Traffic Calming

- Cllr Boyce has prepared a report on speeding and the requirement for traffic calming and this will be taken forward by the Council in due course. **ACTION: All to read and comment. Clerk to put this on the Agenda for next meeting.**

#### 13. Correspondence

- Clerk has had an update request regarding the Defibrillator contacts. Eva Wheeler has confirmed that she is still willing and this has been completed.

#### 14. Meetings attended by members of the Council

- Cllr Foster attended a workshop on Cherwell - Thriving Economy and Place – found it very interesting.
- Cllrs Foster and Boyce went to the Cherwell Liaison meeting for Parish Councils.
- The Rural Community Resilience Group will meet on 22<sup>nd</sup> January in Ardley VH at 7pm. – **ACTION: Cllr Boyce and Clerk to attend and bring up speeding and door to door hawkers.**

#### 15. Any Other Business

- Cllr Boyce has been looking into safety and security issues regarding cold callers. **ACTION: Security to be added to agenda for next meeting.**

#### 16. Next meetings

- **March 16<sup>th</sup> 2020 NB NEW DATE**
- **May 11<sup>th</sup> 2020 –AGM and APM**