

Fritwell Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting Monday 16th March 2020

1. Welcome & apologies

Present: Cllrs. Polly Foster (PF) (Chair), Jon Boyce (JB), Gill Simmonds (GS) and Parish Clerk (Lauren Fletcher).

Members of the public: Colin Smith, Debbie Hudson, Stephen Gray, Eileen Binns, Hazel Allen, Jane Ryall, Angela Stillgoe.

Apologies: Cllr. Sheila Ultsch (SU), Cllr. Arash Fatemian (OCC), Cllr. Mike Kerford-Byrnes (CDC), Laura Cowling (Anglian Water), Ian Glendinning, Rachael Clark, Helen Metcalfe.

The Chair began by thanking Vicky Hibberd for her work as Parish Clerk during the last 2 years and welcoming Lauren Fletcher to her first meeting as our new Clerk.

Seating had been arranged for the meeting as recommended for virus control. Attendees were reminded to join the residents' email list or check the file in Wrighton's shop for PC documents and minutes.

The Chair confirmed that the meeting was quorate.

2. Declarations of interest

- Cllr Boyce: Pond
- Cllr Foster: Lagan Homes

3. Public Participation

Public comments were sought for the following:

- Public & Community Transport (Agenda item 4),
- Issues in Forge Place (Matters Arising from the Minutes, Agenda item 7)

A member of the public raised that her grass verges were not being cut. It was pointed out that this is not a parish council issue.

4. Public and Community Transport

The Chair explained that the current arrangement for the Monday Comet Bus was funded to the end of March 2020 by our county councillors through their Local Priority Funding.

Following discussions, Cllr. Ian Corkin has offered to continue his funding for the Comet and the Parish Council are hopeful that Cllr. Arash Fatemian will also continue his contribution to enable the bus to run for a further year at no cost to residents.

Bus users were invited by the Chair to comment about the Comet and Lynx buses. All said that they were very pleased with the quality and reliability and commented particularly on the friendly and helpful drivers.

The Chair pointed out that the services may be disrupted by responses to coronavirus, and the Lynx services were privately operated and likely to be more seriously affected by the lack of income during this period. The Chair will try to keep residents updated.

ACTION: PF

The point was raised that the bus stops on East St. are often blocked by cars and vans parked in front of them.

Councillors agreed to try to maintain both Comet and Lynx services and residents reiterated their willingness to pay some fares if necessary.

5. Local Council Matters

No County or District Council members in attendance, although both had sent reports to the meeting.

6. To agree the minutes of 13 Jan 2020 as a correct record

Corrections

- Item 8 – Cllr Foster, not Cllr Boyce to chase the contractor
- Item 5 – to agree Minutes 11th November. Correction needed to November Minutes to include the link for Robin England's statement made under Public Participation at the November meeting. Correction to be made to Minutes Book, digital file and printed copy of Minutes currently available in the file at Wrighton's. **ACTION: Clerk**

Otherwise AGREED as a true record

7. Matters arising from minutes

- Public Participation - The face-to-face meeting offered by the Chair to Robin England and a small group of residents was held on 5th February. PF thanked Fritwell Scouts for allowing use of their hut and reported that she felt the meeting had been useful, increasing understanding and identifying common issues for the future.
- GDPR moved to a later meeting as the agenda for this meeting was too busy to properly give time to this issue.

Forge Place - flooding and sewerage leaks.

Actions taken:

JB connected with OFWAT, which was not the correct route to go down, however found 3 organisations - Consumer Council for Water, Local Government Ombudsman, Environment Agency.

Banbury Guardian also reported on the situation after issue raised by resident.

SU took up the issue with MP Victoria Prentis who contacted Anglian Water on behalf of the residents of Forge Place.

The Parish Council received the following statement from Laura Cowling (Anglian Water) apologising for the current situation and promising investigation and action

Anglian Water are taking the ongoing issues with flooding within Fritwell village very seriously and apologise for any inconvenience caused whilst we undertake our investigations.

Recently, we did identify a blockage within our network which has been resolved, but recognise that historically there have been previous incidents causing flooding during wet weather. We would therefore like to apologise that we attributed these historical issues to blockages in the most recent news article and recognise that we need to complete a thorough investigation of our network and assets to try and resolve this.

We have identified an increase in flow in our network over the wet winter period and we are trying to identify the root cause of this. This could be attributed to weather and associated groundwater levels or another cause including a potential water leak or groundwater flows entering our sewer system.

On Thursday 19th March we will begin our investigations into the network, which will involve an artic tanker on site at our water recycling centre to drop the levels within the sewer to enable us to undertake a camera survey of the pipework. This will allow us to check for any defects or infiltration which could be the root cause of these high flows and associated flooding.

We would like to provide regular updates to the Fritwell Parish Council, and would be happy to attend your next meeting in May to discuss the outcome of our investigations.

ACTION: JB to visit the site.

8. Financial Matters (GS)

Financial Report and to agree on spending since the last meeting:

- AGREED - Proposed PF Seconded GS

To agree to a grant request for £500 to Forget-Me-Not club:

- AGREED - Proposed PF Seconded GS
- ACTION: PF to ask Forget-Me-Not club to confirm payment details.

9. Village Maintenance & Appearance

Litter Pick arranged Sat 4th April from 9.30 am outside the Village Hall.

- ACTION: PF to send message to SU to confirm if she is willing to organise refreshments afterwards in the Scout Hut.

Pond

- JB reported that residents have proposed a Duck house which they would fund and maintain. It was agreed that they should be invited to submit a formal costed proposal for approval by the Parish Council and that consideration should be given to making a contribution to costs. ACTION: PF to contact residents and invite proposal.
- Quote from our ground maintenance contractor for proposed planting round the margins of the pond. Concerns were expressed about costs, practicality and whether anchorage may compromise the base of the pond. It was agreed to ask Tim for a quote for 3 pieces for a smaller trial of the idea. ACTION: Clerk

Dog Bins

- SU has met and walked the village with the Dog Warden who has put warning signs at key points and suggests moving one of the bins that is less used to a more prominent position on East Street.
A concern was expressed by a resident about the proposed siting of the bin.

Contract maintenance

- New cemetery tree now installed.
- Holly and Beech hedge has been cut.

10. Planning Matters

Current applications were reviewed:

Goose Farm – different application suggested by Conservation Officer.

Barn at 10 The Lane - Extension on the back of the property has been turned down. Cllr. Foster suggested that councillors should read the officer's report as information may be relevant to other planning applications in or adjacent to the Conservation Area and listed buildings.

10 Townwell End - The small application has been permitted with conditions.

George and Dragon site.

Development includes an extension of the path from the new homes to the school, requiring the telegraph pole to be moved. There is some confusion about who's responsibility this is. Parking around bus stop and turning area for school bus causing some problems.

ACTION: JB

Wolf Resort at Chesterton has been unanimously turned down at a recent CDC Planning meeting, following a strong campaign against it. Fritwell Parish Council submitted a response to the application, mainly siting traffic concerns for this area. It is expected that an appeal will be made.

The official order has now been made for Fritwell's bridleway 219/2 to be Restricted Byway No. 2.

The Kings Head – It was noted that the pub sign board had been removed Sat 7th March after dark. No news yet on the appeal against the enforcement notice served for the unauthorised change of use of the pub to a dwelling house.

Road Closures

It was noted that there are many road closures in the area at the moment, and more booked for the coming weeks and months, including Ardley roundabout by M40 junction closed June and July - mostly work will carry on overnight and slip road will be open as much as possible to maintain traffic flow.

Lagan Homes – notes from the presentation to the village before the Parish Council meeting on 11th November 2019 are now available and will be on the website.

ACTION: Clerk to add notes (not official minutes) onto the website with the Minutes of the Nov PC meeting.

MCNP – It was noted that the Mid-Cherwell Neighbourhood Plan Forum was supporting the development of health and care facilities at Heyford Park. The Parish Council is generally supportive of this and will continue to watch and report back progress.

11. Traffic Issues

JB reported on Speed watch and the recent report from the data collected by the speed signs in the village. New helpers always welcome on the rota and training is given. Contact Jon if interested.

JB and PF met with an Oxfordshire County Council Highways consultant and walked the village pointing out traffic issues and problems. A report is expected with specific suggestions and proposals for appropriate road-calming measures which can then be discussed by the Parish Council and village residents.

ACTION: JB to update OCC Cllr. Arash Fatemian on this issue.

The Chair stressed that there is no current commitment or expressed intention by OCC Highways to carry out any of the ideas put forward, but the Parish Council feels it would be useful to have agreed ideas to bring forward if opportunities and funding arise.

12. Emergency Plans incl. Winter Weather

GS reported that she is continuing to update this document and has added something about illnesses and quarantine.

Current copy needs more contact details, GDPR permissions for publication and updated details from outside bodies.

Re preparation for coronavirus impacts – Wrighton's shop is developing a box scheme for orders to be delivered to residents who may need it.

Forget Me Not club will be a key organisation for identification and support of elderly and more vulnerable residents.

ACTION: GS and Clerk to continue work on Emergency Plan details and post on website when GDPR compliant.

13. Safety & Security for Residents

Due to the heavy agenda and necessary discussions, it was felt that this item should be referred to a future meeting. PF suggested that the topic could form part of our next 3Parishes column. It was reported that there were currently scams using the coronavirus as an excuse to collect details of individuals - residents were warned to be vigilant.

14. Correspondence

No additional correspondence.

15. Meetings and Training attended

(This list added after the meeting, for the record)

Police Resilience Meeting – Cllr. Jon Boyce and (now resident) Vicky Hibberd

OALC Planning Training – Cllrs. Jon Boyce and Gill Simmonds

OALC Audit Training – Cllr. Gill Simmonds

OCC Transport Meeting – Cllr. Polly Foster and (resident) Rachael Clark

MCNP policies training – Cllrs. Polly Foster and Gill Simmonds

16. Any other business

None.

17. Next meetings

AGM and Annual Parish Meeting to be confirmed.