

## **Minutes of Fyfield and Tubney Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2019**

**Present:** Mr Julian Mellor – Chair  
 Mrs Jean Burley  
 Mrs Shirley Collins  
 Mr Jonathan Greaves  
 Mr John Watts  
 Dr Stephen Fraser – Clerk  
 Mrs Anda Fitzgerald-O’Connor – OCC Councillor  
 Mr Eric Batts – VofWH DC  
 Six members of the general public.

### **Apologies.**

Apologies had been received from:

Mr Alan Woodward  
 Mr Anthony Hayward – Vale of White Horse DC

### **Minutes of the Last meeting.**

These were signed as a true record by the Chair.

### **Matters Arising.**

Mrs Budgen was awaiting notification that the Air Quality Management devices had been installed.

Mr Greaves had not received an update on Rainbow Bridge. He had registered the potholes on Netherton Lane with ‘Fix my Street’.

The Clerk had reopened the Coach Road ‘Fix my Street’ and Mrs Collins reported that the vegetation had been cut back.

### **Lioncourt Development.**

Mr Mellor reported that the parish council and FLAG had submitted a robust objection to the Lioncourt application. OCC had also submitted a long objection. The Inspector’s latest response raised no major objections to the site.

Mr Batts stated that he did not expect a ‘letter of soundness’ until April and that DC elections meant that the plan would not come before the council until May. He stated that the objections raised by OCC, in his opinion, would prevent the development proceeding in the immediate future.

### **S106/CIL for Lioncourt Development.**

The council sought advice from Mr Batts as to how best to ensure that S106/CIL/S278 monies were available to the parish should the Lioncourt development proceed. Mr Batts encouraged us to ‘aim high’ to ensure maximum benefit to the community and to approach Stuart Walker (DC planning officer) to arrange a meeting to discuss the way forward. The Clerk to arrange a meeting, possibly also involving Mrs Budgen (A420 crossings) and Mr Macelvogue (church community space).

### **Fyfield Church Community Space**

Mr Macelvogue gave a brief statement on progress being made to convert the rear of Fyfield church into a community space. Plans had been drawn up to remove pews at the rear of the church and make an open space for flexible seating, a small servery, disabled toilet and storeroom. As part of the development, the large font would be removed and a smaller font placed near to the entrance door. They had received verbal approval from the Diocesan Advisory Committee and had applied for a Faculty to proceed. Permission to begin was anticipated this quarter.

Costs were estimated at £50k plus VAT though VAT should be reclaimable. They were currently looking at grant sources and expected to raise about 20% of the cost within the parish.

Mr Batts suggested that the 'New House Bonus Scheme' and the 'Community Grant Scheme' operated by the DC may provide some funds. The SSE Resilience Fund had been used for the Defibrillator purchase and would be accessed again. Calor also operated a similar community grant scheme.

### **Parish War Memorial Adenda.**

Mr Harris reported that a medal collector had approached the church in respect to a war casualty by the name of William Barnes MM, a Fyfield resident, who died during the battle of the Somme on 17<sup>th</sup> August 1916. His name was not on the parish War Memorial in Fyfield Church.

It was proposed to add his name with an additional brass plaque at a cost of £222 and Mr Harris asked if the parish council was prepared to meet that cost.

Before making a decision, the Clerk advised that the Finance agenda item setting next year's precept be brought forward. He distributed a short paper setting out the known expenditure for the remainder of this year assuming that the above item was approved. This would result in a balance carried forward of £475.89.

Known costs for the next financial year totalled approximately £405.00. He indicated that the council would need to raise its precept from the level that had been set for many years, namely £500, if any further unforeseen costs in fighting the Lioncourt development of the Tubney Quarry were to arise. After some discussion, it was **resolved** to set next year's precept at £1,000.00. The chairman duly signed the request to be submitted to the DC.

Having set the precept, the council **resolved** to pay £222.00 towards the cost of updating the parish war memorial.

### **A420 Road Issues.**

Mr Mellor reported that a meeting had been with Ed Vaizey MP on the 18<sup>th</sup> January with the participation of a number of parishes along the A420. The intention was to seek his high level advice as to how to proceed with OCC Highways. Littleworth had suggested that a set of topics be passed to Mr Vaizey prior to the meeting. It was feared that this could set the agenda too tightly but these should be used as an 'aide memoir' to ensure all topics were covered. The Clerk to respond to Littleworth's email using a response drawn up by Mr Mellor.

Mrs Fitzgerald-O'Connor stated that the A420 working party was due to meet this week and would discuss a number of safety topics. However, she indicated that a lack of finance would restrict any substantive improvements to the road.

Mrs Budgen and Mr Mellor would forward their base papers on safety issues to Mrs Fitzgerald-O'Connor in time for the meeting.

#### **Local Road Issues – Abingdon Road, Tubney & Netherton Road, Fyfield.**

Mr Williams, a resident of Abingdon Road, Tubney, had asked for help from the council concerning speeding vehicles down the road. To date, he had received little response from the police. After some discussion, it was felt that if a local group could act as Speed Awareness operators under the guidance of the police, there was a possibility that offending could be curtailed. The Clerk to suggest that Mr Williams attempts to create a local group to perform this monitoring.

Mr Greaves raised the subject of excessive traffic using Netherton Lane during the morning rush hour to avoid queues at the A415/A420 round-a-bout. This was causing damage to narrow verges making pedestrian access difficult and preventing safe two way traffic on the blind bends. Various suggestions as to how to restrict traffic were suggested, most probably illegal. Finally, Mrs Budgen said she would seek advice from Mr Lee Turner, OCC Highways, as to what options were open to the community.

#### **Planning.**

No new applications have been received since the last meeting.

#### **Finance.**

- Balance brought forward. £1,078.79
- Record Payment of the following:
  - Clerk for Parish Council Insurance. £230.72
- Balance carried forward. £848.07

#### **AOB.**

The Clerk reported that the forthcoming Deep Clean of the village would focus on the footpath between Tubney and Fyfield, extending the clearance work done last year.

The Clerk reported that both notice boards were leaking water at the base of the unit. He would remove them shortly and attempt to seal the perspex using sealant.

The Clerk also informed council that elections would be held this spring. If there were only six candidates, then they would be elected without a ballot. If less than six, again no election but the council would then have to advertise a Casual Vacancy for each unfilled post. If no election required, then councillors could be co-opted. If more than six candidates, a ballot would be held. An uncontested election would cost the parish £100. A contested election would cost more but the amount was unknown.

Mrs Fitzgerald-O'Connor reported that she had just received a Community Risk Management Action Plan for consultation. She would forward an electronic copy to the Clerk.

Mr Mellor stated that the Clerk's emails were often not acknowledged. Councillors were asked to respond promptly if this was implied, if only to acknowledge receipt and 'no comment'.

There being no other items, the Chairman closed the meeting at 10:00pm.

Next Meeting Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> January.