

**Minutes of the Fyfield and Tubney Annual Parish Council Meeting
held on Tuesday 20th September 2011.**

Present: Mr John Watts – Chair
Mrs Shirley Collins
Mr Ben Lay.
Mrs Valerie Maher.
Mr Julian Mellor.
Dr Stephen Fraser – Clerk

Two members of the general public.

Apologies: Mrs Jean Burley.

On opening the meeting, the Clerk offered the Council's condolences to the Chairman on the recent death of his wife.

Minutes of the Last Meeting:

These were signed as a true record by the Chair.

Matters Arising:

A road sweeper had been around the village clearing, to some extent, the gutters of silt. The Highways department was unable to specify how frequently this should occur. The Clerk would contact Mr Iain Brown, the County Councillor, to enquire about budgets and frequency of service.

The willow trees by the A420 had been aggressively cut back. Other vegetation affecting visibility had been reported but no action appeared to have been taken to date.

The Highway Works newsletter indicated that work was now scheduled to regrade a ditch in Diggin lane, Fyfield; to investigate a blocked gully in Netherton Lane, Fyfield; replace the footpath gate in Old Main Road, Fyfield.

There was no progress on the Tubney Litter Bin.

The new notice boards had been erected and key holders, other than the Clerk, were Mrs Valerie Maher for Fyfield and Mrs Shirley Collins for Tubney. It was resolved to reimburse the Clerk £245.47 covering the cost of the notice boards, wooden backing sheet and some batten. There was no objection to the old Tubney board being passed to Mrs Rosemary Kitto for use by Tubney Church.

Mr Mellor reported that the Tubney Neighbourhood Watch scheme had burst back into life. At the request of Mr Mark Baker, the Clerk would enquire of the local Police Community Support Officer concerning the resurrection of the Fyfield scheme.

The July information sheet was circulated around the parish and placed on the web site. The Rubbish Pick was successful. Mark Baker pointed out that there was a lot of verge side rubbish on the road between Longworth and Appleton where it passes through our Parish. The Clerk to ascertain whether Verdant was responsible for clearance.

Planning:

The following applications had been circulated and responded 'No Objections':

Old Farm House, Fyfield (FYF/12815/6) for partial demolition of existing garage and erection of garage, home office, play room and store.

Sturrocks, Netherton (11/01321/FUL) for replacing existing garage with new garage and hobby room.

Craftmatic House, Fyfield Wick (FYF/2273/12) to demolish office complex and erect a single dwelling.

Willows Edge, Tubney (11/01489/FUL) demolition of existing building and erect new dwelling.

Tubney Manor Farm, Appleton (11/01463/FUL) proposed tennis court and fencing. Notification was subsequently received that this application had been withdrawn.

The following applications had been circulated and responded 'No Objections with comments':

The Manor House, Fyfield (FYF/3048/21 & FYF/3048/22-LB) demolish and replace two story lean-to structure. It was felt that the new windows were not sympathetic with the existing building.

Tubney House, Tubney (11/01500/LBC) demolition of dilapidated curtilage listed greenhouse. It was requested that the original fixtures and fittings be retained.

Permitted notification had been received for:

Old Farm House, Fyfield (FYF/12815/6) for partial demolition of existing garage and erection of garage, home office, play room and store.

Sturrocks, Netherton (11/01321/FUL) for replacing existing garage with new garage and hobby room.

Tubney House, Tubney (11/01500/LBC) demolition of dilapidated curtilage listed greenhouse.

To be Circulated:

The Village Stores, Fyfield (11/01985/FUL) for change of use to ancillary residential accommodation in association with Lane House.

Finance:

The External Audit had been passed with no comments and no charge to the Parish.

The second instalment of the 2011 – 2012 precept of £250.00 had been received and banked.

An invoice from the Vale of White Horse DC for £100.00 covering 'uncontested election costs' had been paid.

The current bank balance stood at £1,040.70.

Tubney Chestnut and Fyfield Cherry Trees:

The replacement of the diseased Tubney chestnut tree to mark the Queen's forthcoming Diamond Jubilee was discussed. Mr Jeff Burley had passed on comments about suitable species and had stressed the need for regular watering and weeding for at least the first season. Since a County Council tree planted at the A420 – Diggin Lane intersection appeared to have died for lack of water, it was felt that a local resident should be sought who would be prepared to look after the tree. Mr Mellor would seek support for the venture.

Mr Mark Baker had indicated prior to the meeting that the Fyfield cherry tree outside The Manor

had become diseased. He had subsequently been given advice that if the tree was heavily cut back after the next flowering, it would probably last a further ten years.

Correspondence:

Advance notice of the Town and Parish Council Forum to be held on Wednesday 23rd November 2011 had been received. It was agreed that the Chairman and Clerk should attend.

Details of the temporary closure of the A415 at its intersection with Diggin Lane had been circulated and posted on the notice boards.

It was resolved to take advantage of the County Council offer of a free 1 tonne bag of salt for the winter. Mr Lay offered to store the bag. An invitation to a Snow Day was declined.

A survey request from Oxfordshire County Council concerning the Octabus Dial-a Ride service had been received. As it was unknown if any resident used the service, it was decided that a response was not appropriate.

The District Council had brought forward the precept timetables for 2012/13 by one month. Because the precept notification date was now before the prospective January Council meeting and the November meeting was before the tax base finalisation, it was resolved to postpone the November meeting to Tuesday 29th November 2011. The Clerk to amend the booking of The White Hart.

The Clerk was able to confirm that the Town and Parish Council Planning Training seminar for the 19th October had been reserved for Mrs Maher and Mr Mellor.

AOB:

Mrs Collins reported that there was a serious pothole between Fyfield and Netherton where a culvert appeared to be collapsing. This had been reported and chased without result. Mrs Maher agreed to chase the job through her Highways contacts.

Mr Watts reported that the Tubney Woods gravel pit had requested a five year extension for complete infill leading to shut down by 2018. Extraction from the Upwood Park site would start in January 2012.

Mr Mark Baker informed the meeting that from November, the Police would activate 101 as a non-urgent contact number within the region. He also passed over information on the 'National Personal Safety Day' on 10th October 2011.

Dates for 2012 were proposed as:

Tuesday 17th January

Tuesday 20th March

Wednesday 16th May

Tuesday 18th September

Tuesday 20th November

The Clerk to confirm these dates with The White Hart.

The meeting closed at 8:40pm.