

Minutes of the Fyfield and Tubney Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 11th November 2020.

Due to the Coronavirus Restrictions, this meeting was held on ZOOM and made open for members of the public to attend.

1. Present:

Mr Julian Mellor – Chair.
Mrs Penny Budgen.
Mrs Jean Burley.
Mr Jonathan Greaves.
Mr John Watts.
Mr Alan Woodward.
Dr Stephen Fraser – Clerk.

Mrs Anda Fitzgerald-O'Connor – County Councillor.

Six members of the general public.

2. Apologies.

Apologies were received from Mr. Jerry Avery, District Councillor, together with notification that he still had a sum of money available for assistance to elderly parishioners. He had already contributed money to Appleton towards the cost of the Comet bus service.

3. Minutes of the last meeting.

These were signed as a true record by the Clerk because of the physical remoteness of the chair.

4. Matters arising.

i. Speed Control Measures – Abingdon Road Tubney.

Mrs Fitzgerald-O'Connor explained that officers had been on secondment because of Covid-19 and she had not received a response to date. **Mrs Fitzgerald-O'Connor to contact OCC officers to explore possible traffic calming measures for Abingdon Road, Tubney.**

ii. Speed Control Measures – Blanket Ban on Initiatives.

Mrs Fitzgerald-O'Connor to speak to the Faringdon Traffic Advisory Group and to Mrs Judith Heathcote to determine why the ban existed.

iii. Scrub at entrance to St. Johns Close.

Mrs Budgen reported that this had been cleared. A parishioner had cut down some of the scrub and the next day, the verges were mechanically cut by the District Council, removing the rest of the growth.

iv. Water Leak near Tubney Church.

Mr. Woodward and Elaine Croft had both contacted Thames Water who had inspected the problem. Because of its position, the work would have to be done at night under a temporary traffic control order. No timescale was available at this point in time.

v. Netherton Cherry Tree Maintenance.

The Clerk had received a quotation of £45.00 from Mr. Russ Gooding for the removal of the dead branches. It was **resolved** to accept this quotation and **the Clerk was requested to authorise the work.**

5. A420 Road Issues.

Mr Mellor reported that David Johnston MP had requested a briefing on the A420 as he had secured an adjournment debate slot. Mr Greaves reported that this had made the local ITV news and the Clerk was then able to circulate a link to the Hansard report to the councillors.

Mrs Budgen reported that the Fyfield bus stop refuge work was complete. It had proved only possible to install mains powered lights on the south side of the road. Their illumination had been checked at night-time. Warning signs of ‘pedestrians crossing’ had also been erected. In addition, she had been able to get the pavement on entry to the village cut back to permit safe entry to the village from the stop.

Mrs Budgen reported that the coroner’s crossing was being designed and that we would have sight of the plans before final approval.

The proposed erection of signs highlighting A420 accidents was impractical as these would require planning permission.

6. Comet Bus Service.

At the last meeting the council had been asked to contribute to the cost of running the Comet bus service as several parishioners were regular users. An annual contribution of £500.00 was suggested.

It was agreed that the parish should support the service financially. Because this request had not been included in this year’s budget, it was **resolved** to contribute £250.00 in this financial year and to meet the full charge of £500.00 in future years.

In view of the monies that Mr. Avery had available, **the clerk to seek a matching contribution of £250.00 from the District for this financial year.**

If money for such a contribution was no longer available, it was **resolved** to contribute the full amount using reserves.

7. Lioncourt Development.

Mr Mellor stated that the application was under consideration and that he felt we had submitted a robust response to the application.

8. Planning.

The Clerk explained that though he had submitted the council’s comments on P20/O200/FUL, KB&S Business Park, on two occasions, neither had registered on the District Council’s web portal. He could not account for this omission.

The following planning application had been approved without comment:

- P20/V1160/FUL Plot 3, Fyfield Wick

9. Finance.

The Clerk reported the current financial position as follows:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| • Balance brought forward. | £998.69 |
| • To record receipt of the following: | |
| • Second Precept Instalment | £875.00 |
| • To record Payment of the following: | |
| • Norris & Fisher – Council Insurance | £235.09 |
| • Balance Carried Forward | £1,368.60 |

10. Community Infrastructure Levy.

The Clerk reported that £1,192.83 of CIL payment had been received. This was accounted separately from the precept as it could only be used for approved infrastructure projects.

Mrs Budgen reported that she had had no response from OCC as to the cost of a Tubney bus shelter and lights. The Fyfield mains lights had cost well over any parish CIL budget but solar powered lights might be possible. **Mrs Budgen to seek costings from OCC regarding solar powered lights at the Tubney bus stop.**

11. Web Site and 'WCAG 2.1 AA' compliance.

The Clerk reported that it was now a legal responsibility for all public bodies to comply with these standards for their web sites. Even though we had only a very small number of web pages to administer, this was proving to be an onerous task that had already taken several days and was not yet completed. Work was ongoing.

12. Overhanging Vegetation on Main Road, Fyfield.

Mrs Budgen had been approached by some parishioners concerning vegetation encroaching onto the footpath from the crossroads to The White Hart. The Clerk confirmed that this was the responsibility of the adjacent property owners. **The Clerk to speak to property owners to get the vegetation cut back.**

13. Speed Bumps between Fyfield & Netherton.

Mrs Budgen had also been approached by residents about speed reduction on Netherton Lane, in particular the possible installation of speed bumps.

It was pointed out that the emergency services were not enthusiasts of speed bumps and that local residents would soon find them very annoying. In the same manner, some form of chicane was impractical given the need to pass large farm vehicles and buses. A possibility was rumble strips but these might generate intolerable noise to residents. **Mrs Budgen to consult with the concerned residents.**

14. War Memorial

Mrs Budgen reported that a number of residents had asked about a War Memorial outside of the church building where wreaths could be laid on Remembrance Sunday. Given that the Manor had changed hands, the possibility of erecting a memorial on the grass outside the Manor gates was discussed. Mrs Fraser suggested that a simple alternative would be to mount a plaque on the churchyard wall near the flagpole. This would bring the memorial into the church curtilage. The plaque would be similar to those in the Kingston Bagpuize memorial. **Mrs Budgen to put the suggestion to the Parochial Church Council.**

15. AOB.

i. Parish Path Warden

Ms Elton had recently become a Parish Path Warden and had noted that this parish was not represented. Duties were not onerous and there was full support from Oxfordshire Area Ramblers, the Oxford Fieldpaths Society and the County Council's Countryside Access Team. **Ms Elton to supply some appropriate wording for the Clerk to circulate to determine interest.**

ii. Fly Tipping in Tubney.

Mr Woodward stated that he had reported some fly tipping near his house and was concerned as to how rapidly it would be removed. The Clerk stated that a report he had recently made was cleared within two days.

iii. Coach Road Trees.

Elaine Croft informed the council of a recent issue with a tree on the Coach Road that had partially come down in high winds. It had necessitated the evacuation of a nearby bungalow until the tree was made safe. Trees along the Coach Road had collapsed in the past as well as encroaching on to carriageway. **The Clerk to speak to Prof. McDonald, director of WildCru, to make the university aware of the parish council's concerns.**

iv. Future Meetings.

Our current meeting calendar was aimed at the second Wednesday of the month which always seemed to coincide with DC Planning Committee meetings. This appeared to prevent our District Councillor from attending any of our meetings.

It was **resolved** to move meetings to the second Thursday of the month in future. This may need revision if The White Hart was not available on those nights.

The Clerk suggested the following dates for next year:

Thursday 14th January 2021.

Thursday 11th March 2021.

Thursday 13th May 2021.

Thursday 9th September 2021.

Thursday 11th November 2021.

There being no further business, the chairman closed the meeting at 9:08pm.

Next Meeting Thursday 14th January 2021.