

FRITWELL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held Online on Monday 15th March 2021 at 7pm

Present: Councillors Polly Foster (Chair), Jonathan Boyce, Sheila Ultsch, Gillian Simmonds, County Councillor Fatemian, District Councillor Kerford Byrnes, the Acting Clerk (Helen Metcalfe) and 4 members of the public.

1. Welcome and apologies

The Chair welcomed all. There were no apologies

2. Declarations of Interest

Cllr. Foster noted that she, Cllr Ultsch and Cllr Simmonds were residents of East Street and so all had an interest in Item 7 on the Agenda. This appears as Item 6 in the Minutes.

3. Public Participation

Two residents would speak on Item 7 on the agenda, Sewage Plant, Ground Water and Tankers. This appears as Item 6 in the Minutes.

4. Minutes of Meeting held on 11th January 2021

- With the change of 'Cty Cllr' to OCC Cllr' the minutes were **AGREED as a true record**. Proposed Cllr Boyce, Seconded Cllr. Simmonds. The minutes will be signed at a later date.

Cllr Foster changed the order of the Agenda to accommodate District Cllr Kerford-Byrnes and OCC Cllr Fatemian who had to leave early to attend other meetings.

5. Local Councillors Reports

- **District Councillor Kerford Byrnes** reported that the revised budget had been passed, providing the same level of services as last year. Work continues on planning applications and the Cherwell Local Plan Review. The Inquiry into the refusal of the Wolf application at Chesterton is finished, a good case had been made for refusal and a decision could be given within one month.
Cllr Foster asked about Castle Quay Shopping Centre in Banbury which was bought by the Council as an investment and is set to make significant losses in rent. Cllr Kerford-Byrnes responded that the losses will have little effect on the District Council's finances as it was bought as an investment and with a view to guarantee its future as an asset to Banbury. The Council is not intending to sell it.
- **OCC Cllr Fatemian** reported that the County budget had also been approved, with a 2.99% increase in the Council tax. Increases have been made to the allocations for Adult Social Care, Highways (Drain Clearance), Youth Services and the Homeless. It is still an investment budget and the Council chose not to add the maximum permitted council tax increase.

6. Sewage Plant, Ground Water and Tankers

- Resident CS reported his heightened awareness of the potential for flooding in the village as a result of the increased trips of the tankers to and from the sewage plant. Although grateful for the use of the tanker to prevent flooding, with 15 new properties about to be occupied in the near future and the addition of a further 28 new dwellings, he asked that the Parish Council, District Council and County Council determine Anglian Water's future plans for the plant. He believed that money spent on the tankers could have been used to upgrade the plant and expressed

dissatisfaction that Thames Water bills had increased due to passing on increased costs for waste water.

- Cllr Foster explained that the tanker was being used to remove excess surface water that was going in to the system and without it Forge Place would have been flooded.
- Resident RJ endorsed CS' comments and added his concerns about the nuisance to residents caused by the frequency of tanker journeys through the village. He asked for more formal information from Anglian Water in terms of a more economical long term solution.
- Cllr Foster reported that there had been complaints from other residents, and that the Council had already formally written to Anglian Water about the excessive use of the tanker. A response had been received that day which explained that investigation of the sewer system had identified an area of significant ingress. Work to repair this would take place within twenty days. They will continue to carry out further investigations and there is an ongoing review of the whole of the network and water recycling centre, which is hoped will identify improvements to the catchment. A level monitor is already in place on the sewer network which needs to be upgraded so that an alarm will be raised when the sewer levels begin to rise above the norm.
- OCC Cllr Fatemian had asked for advice from County officers and reported that movements of the tanker can't be restricted unless there is evidence of bad driving, it is not within the remit of departments for highways or drains, Anglian are acting legally and are within the planning laws.
- Cllr Foster acknowledged that the use of the tanker is not a long term solution and expressed concerns over the capacity of the plant. Plans related to drains are beyond the comprehension of non-experts so it is difficult to comment on them in the consultation stage.
- District Cllr Kerford-Byrnes emphasised the need to get rid of the excess water without the use of a tanker. An upgrade of the plant would seem to be inevitable, and ditches need to be maintained. Cllr Boyce reported that the Council has been working to see that this has been done. Cllr Kerford-Byrnes will investigate planning documents for further information.
- Further points made included the need to discriminate between short and long term solutions, the need for stronger objections to planning applications on the grounds of the capacity of the plant, the use of the tanker at school times, the need for a long term dialogue with Anglian Water and confirmation that sewerage is not being released into the stream and river system.
- After further discussion it was **Agreed that the Council would wait for twenty days before replying to the email and then stress the need for a long term solution.**

7. Matters Arising from the Minutes

- Path Descriptors: PF will resend.
- Lynx Bus: no update to report.
- Salt Storage: the Clerk will contact a resident for longer term storage and Cllr Boyce will organise its removal from the shop entrance.
- Traffic Calming: there had been a good response to the survey. Cllr Boyce will post the results, inform the village and then call a meeting. Parking had been raised as an important issue, it will be addressed at the next meeting.
- Litter pickers have been purchased.
- Grant to Playing Field Committee has been paid.
- Cemetery bench: sourcing a metal worker to make a bench to Council's specifications is an ongoing project.

- Cemetery Hedge and Gate: Cllr Boyce will meet with the owner of the gate to decide on actions and the hedge will be extended in April.
- OCC Cllr Fatemian's Locality Fund: funding for one VAS sign approved by him, but confirmation not yet received.
- GDPR Action Items: a data audit is needed and a data retention policy. Website: some changes have been made, now email addresses have to be agreed as well as a privacy policy. Format and visuals will be the focus for a working group meeting.
- Emergency Plan Consent Forms: Clerk will resend the email asking for forms to be filled in.

8. Current Financial Matters

- **Financial Report to 28th February 2021:** Cllr Simmonds presented the accounts, reporting that OALC subscription is due, the shortfall in Office running costs was due to upgrading the website, and pond maintenance included planting.
- **Retrospective Approval for Payments:** Cllr Simmonds proposed and Cllr Boyce seconded that retrospective approval be given for all payments made since 14th January (highlighted on the attached accounts statement). **Approved by the Council.**
- **Request for Funding for Volunteer Drivers Scheme:** after discussion it was **Agreed that the Clerk determine the usage of the scheme by Fritwell residents before coming to a decision**
- **Members Allowances:** members considered the Report of the Parish Remuneration Panel and **Agreed not to adopt a members Allowance Scheme**
- **CDC Containing Outbreak Management Fund (COMF):** ideas for the use of available funding will be discussed at a Working Group Meeting.
- **Community First:** The Council will not be joining

9. Consultations

- **OCC Local Transport Connectivity Plan:** Details of the plan will be coming later so it was **Agreed to leave a response until then**
- **Cherwell Local Plan Review, Village Services:** this has been completed. When finally agreed it will be put on the website.
- **MCNP Survey on Bus Use and Primary Health Care Provision:** Cllr Foster has suggested that discussion on these points could take place at a meeting of the Forum, possibly in April.

10. Village Maintenance

- The renewed grounds maintenance contract has been completed and awaits signature. Cllr Boyce will follow it up, along with the GDPR contractor's form
- Village Gates: Cllr Boyce has obtained permission to use a resident's barn in which to renovate the gates, two at a time. He will be looking for volunteers to help with the work.
- Forge Place: Cllr Boyce has contacted the PCSO about the car parked partly on the pavement near the entrance to the King's Head. He is pursuing the matter on behalf of the Parish Council. **Agreed that the Clerk will report the very poor condition of the road surface in Forge Place to the County Council**
- Litter: four new pickers have been purchased and can be used by residents.

11. Planning Matters

- **Village Hall Committee application to fell the tree in its grounds:** The TPO was removed, the reason for felling was excessive shading to a garden, no specific reference to damage to property. Following discussion it was **Agreed to oppose the**

application on the grounds that approval would be acting in contravention of the Council's policy on trees in the conservation area. The Clerk will contact the planning officer.

12. Correspondence

- The announcement from Royal British Legion Industries of a new range of Tommies to celebrate VE Day and Remembrance Day in future years. **Agreed not to purchase**

13. Any Other Business

- **Deadline for Three Parishes 19th March:** it will include items on the traffic survey and information from Anglian Water
- **Stiles:** Cllr Foster will speak with the owners of Goose Farm about replacing the stile on their property.
- **Thanks to a Resident:** the Clerk will formally thank a resident for his contribution of plants for the pond.
- **Church Way:** Cllr Boyce will approach St Olave's PCC about repairs to the potholes in Church Way

14. Date of Next Meetings

Working Group: Friday, 19th March at 10.00am

AGM Monday 10th May 2021 at 7pm.

This will be followed by a regular meeting, with the APM being held later in the year when COVID 19 restrictions are lifted.