

FRITWELL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held at the Village Hall on 14th November 2022 at 7.00pm

Present: Councillors Polly Foster (Chair), Gillian Simmonds, Marc Beeney, Jonathan Boyce, Sheila Ultsch, Cllr Arash Fatemian (OCC), Clerk (Kelley Hood) and 8 members of the public

1) Welcome and apologies

The Chair welcomed all and introduced Kelley Hood the newly appointed Clerk.

Apologies from Cllr Eddie Reeves (CDC)

2) Declarations of Interest

Cllr. Boyce noted that he had an interest in any matters discussed involving the village pond or the enforcement relating to a neighbouring property.

3) Public Participation

3.1 Resident raised issue of dogs not being kept on leads when walked near livestock despite the signage to warn against. Pictures were shared of the damage to sheep caused by dogs. Advice about reporting issues regarding dogs to be supplied by Cllr Ultsch and added to the website by Cllr Boyce. Reminder email to be sent out by the Clerk to the distribution list on behalf of the Parish Council to add greater weight.

3.2 A further issue was raised regarding dog poo and poo bags. Residents encouraged to raise directly with dog walkers if seen to hold them to account. Poo bags no longer issued by CDC and when the Parish Council tried to supply bags they disappeared quickly. Residents need to take responsibility for their own dogs.

4) Approval of Minutes of Meeting held on 12th September 2022

All Councillors agreed to accept the draft minutes as a true and accurate reflection of the meeting held on 12th September. Proposed by Cllr Simmonds, seconded by Cllr Boyce and agreed by all. The minutes were signed by Cllr Foster.

5) Matters arising from the Minutes (not covered by the agenda)

5.1 Fence between the 2 blind bends near the beginning of Raghouse Lane still an issue of concern for the village. No further update.

5.2 Cllr Boyce confirmed he is now a 'Super User' on Fix My Street. He urged residents to contact him via phone or email if they are aware of any potholes.

5.3 Cllr Ultsch will contact Anglian Water again regarding the results of recent testing and future plans. The gullies have now been cleared and water is flowing freely.

5.4 Cllr Foster reminded councillors to explore relevant training courses as there is budget to fund– go to OALC website.

5.5 Kings Head- Cllr Beeney said he would contact the enforcement team at the District Council again to follow up on their timelines for response as it was previously suggested this was imminent.

5.6. In the last Parish Council Meeting, residents were reminded to submit their details to the Clerk if they wished to be added to the Parish Council mailing list. They would then be sent a GDPR form to complete.

5.7. Cllr Foster to visit Heath Farm regarding the broken stile.

6) Local Councillors Reports

Cllr Fatemian (OCC) arrived towards the end of the meeting and said he would email the report.

6.1 Cllr Foster shared a plan of proposed local sites put forward for development in the draft Cherwell Local Plan which is due to be released soon for public scrutiny and consultation

7) Financial Matters

7.1 Cllr Simmonds explained where spending had been made and that a VAT claim had been processed but was too late to include in the financial report shown at the meeting.

7.2 The Proposed request for a second brown bin was deemed unnecessary upon reflection and the 2023/24 budget would be adjusted accordingly to remove the costs associated.

7.3 Payments, receipts and transactions from the last PC meeting were approved - proposed by Cllr Boyce and seconded by Cllr Simmonds, agreed by all.

7.4 Cllr Simmonds will be handing over the RFO (Responsible Financial Officer) duties to the Clerk as soon as equipment is received from Barclays.

7.5 Cllr Foster suggested that the Parish Council purchase two notice boards to be put in the village located at Forge Place & North Street. Cllr Beeney shared suggested styles of notice boards and it was largely agreed that wooden boards would not be the best option due to how they weather. Question of funding is still outstanding and an application will be made to Cllr. Fatemian for Local Priority Funding.

7.6 Resident raised question of the training budget and why this isn't being used. Cllrs were again reminded to review what is offered and submit training requests.

7.7 Pond Maintenance – it was pointed out by a resident that there doesn't appear to be any provision for this. Cllr Boyce confirmed that all his efforts are voluntary.

7.8 2022/2023 Budget - Resident asked about the 4.5k provision in the budget that is set aside and does this carry over to next budget if not used. It will carry forward unless spent but the Parish Council is expected to keep up to the value of the Precept of 7k. Residents were reminded that this budget is still in draft at this point and will need further discussion by the Cllrs and will be presented for approval at the January PC meeting.

7.9 2023/2024 Budget – Cllr Boyce mentioned that both Microsoft and Antivirus licences will need to be added in.

7.10 Resident questioned the spend on emptying the dog waste bins and how it differs from West Oxfordshire. Cllr Foster reminded residents that we operate under a different council (Cherwell). Also, residents are requested to inform the Clerk if dog bins are not emptied or if any commercial business is spotted dumping dog waste in our bins.

7.11 Contract for Ground Maintenance was discussed and agreed to continue as was deemed very reasonable and a good job is always provided

8) 20mph Speed Limit for Fritwell

Cllr Boyce updated that a plan had been published with a suggested boundary that may mean the village gates could be pushed out. However, Cllr Boyce needs to explore if the gates to the village denotes the village boundary or the speed limits. The village will become fully 20mph with a speed reduction from 60mph to 30mph to 20mph on approach. Cllr Boyce also exploring nature of traffic going down Raghouse Lane.

9) Planning Matters

Cllr Foster talked through the planning spreadsheet and explained the status of applications.

9.1 Planning application 22/02046/F & 22/02054/F- Inkerman House, Somerton Road.

No objections or comments

9.2 Planning application 22/02620/REM- 69 North Street

No objections or comments

9.3 Planning application 22/02654/F- 69 East Street

No objections or comments

9.4 Planning application 22/01952/SO & 22/01807/OUT- Land adjoining and at 81 North Street

Strong objections remain in place. Application showing as withdrawn

9.5 Tree Application 22/03329/TCA - Heath Farm, 55 North Street

No objections, Clerk to respond to application

9.6 Tree Application 22/01818/TCA_5 – Lorne Villa 68 East Street

No objections, Clerk to check as it is believed this has already been removed

9.7 New Village Hall

Cass Miller-Jones (Chair of Village Hall Committee) stated that 6th December is an opportunity for councillors and residents to attend a presentation on the new village hall plans to gain further information and FAQs.

9.8 Baynards Green Warehousing

There continues to be extremely strong objections to this. Cllr Boyce confirmed the fight continues and advised that in 2023 there will be further information on how residents can raise their own objections

9.9 Mid-Cherwell Neighbourhood Plan Review

Cllr.Foster is representing the PC on the MCNP Forum development working group for the revised Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr Beeney also to be involved when needed. Cllrs have made a number of suggestions and have added information to the FPC Website.

A resident asked if we could challenge being a category A village? There was a short discussion around this topic and that it is likely to be raised by the draft Cherwell Local Plan Review. It is expected to divide Category A villages according to size and other criteria such as transport links etc. We do not yet know which category Fritwell would fall into.

A resident asked about Local Green Spaces in Fritwell. Cllr Foster explained where the Local Green Spaces are in the village. There was a discussion around whether the Parish Council could add any more land, and where this potentially would be. Residents encouraged to submit further ideas for submission to the MCNP Review.

10) Emergency Plan & Winter Weather Preparations

Cllr Simmonds requested that residents come forward to offer any skills or equipment that could be useful in times of extreme weather conditions or power cuts etc. Residents would be expected to complete a GDPR form to agree to having their name and contact details shared with OCC and the Emergency Services. Contact the Clerk with offers and requests for GDPR forms.

11) Village Maintenance

11.1 Cllr Boyce stated that the Fritwell sign at the Raghouse Lane entrance to the village has been removed (stolen) and will contact Highways to request a new sign.

11.2 Cllr Foster put out a plea for residents and Cllrs to “adopt a litter bin” to empty. Cllr Boyce will get the key back from Vicky for the locked bin but otherwise the following have been adopted

- Cllr Boyce – Pond Bin
- Cllr Beeney – Forge Place
- Cllr Ultsch – Bus Shelter
- Clerk – Village Hall

8:45pm Cllr Arash Fatemian arrived.

12) Cemetery

A notice has been put up at the cemetery regarding items that are placed outside of the designated areas on the graves. This is against the regulations and inhibits the maintenance and mowing of the area. There will be a notice sent out on the email list to remind residents of the regulations they signed up to and that after mid December, any items falling outside of the areas permitted will be removed.

Clerk to send email.

13) Correspondence

13.1 FPC Storage

Cllr Foster thanked the Village Hall for their offer to accommodate the filing cabinets etc at a charge of £30 per month but this was deemed too expensive and couldn't be justified out of council tax payers' funds. Cllr Foster will be seeking to reduce what is needed for storage and continue to investigate the best solution.

Clerk to send email to Village Hall Committee

13.2 Book Swap Storage

A request from Cass to move the book swap from its current location to the bus shelter and on to shelving was raised. The current solution is becoming too damaged by weather. It was agreed to allow this to be trialled for 18 months using shelving suitable for the location and curated by village volunteers.

9pmStanding Orders were suspended to allow completion of the agenda.**

14) Any other business

Next meeting date of 9th January 2023 was confirmed. Clerk to send councillors dates up until May 2023 and ensure bookings in Village Hall match.

Cllr Fatemian confirmed he will send his report for addition to the FPC website.

9:11pm Meeting Closed

Date of next meeting- 9th January 2023 7pm in Fritwell Village Hall