

**Minutes of the Fyfield and Tubney Parish Council Meeting
held on Thursday 11th March 2021.**

Due to the Coronavirus Restrictions, this meeting was held on ZOOM.

1. Present:

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

Dr. Paul Barrow – District Councillor & Prospective OCC Councillor.
22 members of the general public.

2. Welcome to Mr. Nicholas Keene.

The Chairman welcomed Mr Nicholas Keen to the council following his recent co-option to fill the post vacated by Mrs Jean Burley.

3. Apologies.

No Apologies were received.

4. Minutes of the Last Meeting.

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

5. Matters Arising.

- **Speed Control Measures – Blanket Ban on Initiatives**

Dr. Barrow informed the meeting that councillor Yvonne Constance had indicated that the blanket ban on Police assistance in setting up Speed Initiatives had been lifted. The council had previously stated that a local resident would be best placed to instigate such an initiative. Mr Scopes offered to publicise this on the Tubney Facebook page on the expectation that someone would come forward.

- **Accident Statistics on A420.**

Mrs Fitzgerald-O'Connor had not, as yet, obtained the A420 accident data from OCC.

- **Water Leak near Tubney Church.**

There had been no attempt to repair the water leak near Tubney Church to date. **Mr Woodward to forward the Thames Water reference number to the Clerk.**

- **Netherton Cherry Tree Maintenance.**

The Clerk reported that he had been unable to contact Russ Gooding regarding the costed work. **The Clerk to continue attempting to contact Mr Gooding but if no response in a couple of weeks, the Chairman would attempt to contact him.**

- **Parish Path Warden.**

Three volunteers had been identified for the post of Parish Path Warden. Mr Peter Day, Ms Gillian Messing and Mr Graham Varney would decide between themselves which areas to cover and periodically report back to the Parish Council on any issues.

6. Speed Control in Tubney & Netherton.

The Clerk stated that the product offered by Elan City provided a cost effective portable solution for the collection of speed data which could be used to encourage the police to enforce the speed limit at either location. OCC had stated, however, that they believed the device did not have the correct CE marking and was not compliant with standards. They recommended a more expensive and bulkier product.

The Elan City product would require expenditure of about £2,000 and OCC had stated that they could erect suitable roadside poles for £400 each.

Dr Barrow stated that following discussions between Elan City and OCC the product may be rated as compliant in the future. He would be in contact with OCC next week and would keep the Clerk informed of developments.

The Clerk stated that the current finances made it unlikely that we would be able to purchase any equipment in the near future.

7. A420 Road Issues.

Mrs Budgen reported that she was still in discussion with OCC as to why the footpath crossing refuge would not be lit when it was in a more dangerous position than the bus stop refuge.

Mrs Harris stated that there had been no progress on a footpath between Pharmagenesis and the Tubney bus stop. Mr Lay was mowing the field verge, when appropriate, enabling people to delay crossing the road until the bus stop but this was still a dangerous manoeuvre.

Mr Walton stated that the fence was down on the south side of the current works allowing vehicle access to the Old Road.

Mrs Budgen to contact OCC regarding the fence and to restate our requirement of suitable lighting and further refuges at the other bus stops in the parish.

8. Lioncourt Development.

Mr Mellor confirmed that the latest Lioncourt planning application had been rejected by District but that they had indicated their intention to continue with the site. It was unclear if they would lodge an appeal.

Mr Mellor thanked Prof. Cobb for his excellent work on traffic numbers and their impact on the Marcham AQMA which reinforced the officers recommendation for rejection. He also thanked Dr Barrow for his input to the planning meeting.

9. Vale 2021 Local Plan Call for Sites.

The Clerk had obtained a list of sites in and around the parish as the result of a 'Freedom of Information' request. Some 23 sites had been submitted which would far exceed the ongoing district housing requirement. Whilst most would probably not be selected, the situation needed to be monitored carefully.

The Clerk had requested that site V074 be correctly allocated to Fyfield parish rather than Kingston Bagpuize and that the name be changed from 'Land to the East of Kingston Bagpuize' to 'Land to the south of A420 in Fyfield & Tubney'. Whilst acknowledging this request, the District Council stated that the names would be considered as part of the 'site selection process'.

Prof. Cobb stated that we needed to find an absolute 'blocker' to get a site rejected. The traffic figures and their impact on the Marcham AQMA were a perfect example. He also wondered if, as the Green Belt was being eroded on the inside, it would make sense to request an outer extension.

10. Oxfordshire County Council's Local Transport and Connectivity Plan.

Mrs Budgen volunteered to respond to this call for consultation. Feedback was required by the 29th March 2021.

11. Planning.

A single planning application had been received and was in circulation.

- P21/V0435/FUL Crabtree House, Digging Lane, Fyfield

12. Finance.

No transactions had occurred since the last meeting.

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| • Balance carried forward. | £1,388.60 |
| • Balance of CIL Payment carried forward | £1,192.83 |

The Clerk had received notification that there should be an additional CIL payment in the next financial year of £2,385.67.

13. Community Infrastructure Levy.

Mrs Budgen had not received any indication from OCC as to the cost of solar powered lights at the Tubney bus stop.

The Clerk reminded council that CIL monies should be spent within five years.

14. War Memorial.

Mrs Budgen explained that the church would require full details of the design on a memorial before it could apply for a faculty.

The Clerk had obtained a ball park quote from Martin Cook in 2017 of £5k + VAT.

Ms Elton would make enquiries of personal contacts for design possibilities if she had an idea of the name count.

15. Tree Cutting in St. Johns Close.

Mrs Walton described the arrival of contractors to remove one or more trees in the Close and her subsequent contact with OCC.

OCC had commenced an exercise to survey all trees that could impinge on roads and pavements and had identified trees in the Close that they considered dangerous. It emerged that OCC had failed to inform the Parish Council of their intentions, contrary to their policy. They also stated that they had no budget to replace removed trees. However, Mrs Walton had an assurance that in this case OCC would replace the tree.

Mrs Walton was in continued correspondence with OCC as a visiting Tree Surgeon had questioned why the tree was condemned. Mrs Walton would update the Parish Council of any developments.

16. Biodiversity and Nature Recovery Forum.

Dr. Barrow had circulated parishes seeking interest in a proposed forum, organised by the District Council, covering Climate Change and Biodiversity. Interest in attending was expressed by some councillors and Prof. Cobb. The event was scheduled for some time in the spring.

17. AOB.

Mr Woodward raised the issue of Gigaclear using the Thames Water road stoppage regarding the Tubney water leak to bring fibre broadband to the properties on the north side of the A420. **Mr Mellor to canvas residents for their interest in taking up Gigaclear and Mr Woodward to pass information regarding the fault reference to Mr Mellor.**

Prof. Cobb was concerned about the verge cutting policy of OCC which was detrimental to the growth of roadside wild flowers and subsequent impact on wildlife. Without specific examples of where this was happening, it was difficult to see what the parish could do to change OCC policy. Prof. Cobb would attempt to provide locations which he felt were being adversely controlled.

Mr Walton informed the meeting that in the National Arboretum, silver birch trees carried plaques and wondered if this might be a means of creating a war memorial inside the church yard. It was felt that this would be unacceptable to the church authorities. Prof. Burley stated that there were many examples of war memorials available on the web and this could be a source of memorial design.

There being no further business, the chairman closed the meeting at 9:35pm.

Next Meeting Thursday 13th May 2021 being the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Parish Council Meeting.