

**Minutes of the Fyfield and Tubney Parish Council
held on Thursday 12th January 2023.**

1. Present:

Mrs Penny Budgen – Chair.
Mrs Claire Cable-Alexander.
Mr Nicholas Keene.
Mr Alan Woodward
Dr Stephen Fraser – Clerk.

Mr Jerry Avery – District Councillor.

4 members of the general public.

2. Apologies.

Apologies had been received from Dr Dimitrios Hatzis and Dr Sarah Stanhope.

3. Minutes of the last meeting.

These were signed as a true record by the chair.

4. Matters arising.

i. Pavement/Road Cleaning adjacent to No 1 St Johns Close.

Mrs Budgen had arranged with OCC to install new signs for the Close indicating that some numbers were to be found in both directions along Main Road. Once installed, there should be no excuse for contractors claiming that the road beyond the Close was not to be swept.

ii. Pavement by Tubney Church.

Having been informed that there was no money available this financial year, it had now been found and OCC were awaiting a contractor to schedule the work.

iii. Coach Road.

No response to date from OCC.

iv. Path Wardens.

The Clerk had contacted Mr Peter Day and a report was promised for the next meeting.

v. First Aid Course.

It was noted that the defibrillator had been used over Christmas. Unfortunately, the patient had not survived. The Clerk had replaced the Starter Pack and marked the device as operational. Replacement pads had been ordered and were expected soon.

Mr David Macelvogue had made enquiries of the Red Cross, St. Johns Ambulance and South Central Ambulance Service. As we wished to include use of the defibrillator in the course, this would be best served by SCAS. A contribution would be expected to cover costs. Given the current strain on the service, no date could be arranged at the moment. **Mr Macelvogue would seek a date at their convenience.**

Mr Macelvogue also informed the meeting that the Midland Ambulance Service was encouraging people to add a Bleed Kit to their defibrillator cabinet. It was agreed that this would be a valuable asset and it was **resolved** that the parish would purchase the kit. **Mr Macelvogue would pass details to the Clerk.**

vi. Recycling Talk.

The Clerk had arranged for a member of the District Waste Team to give a talk in Fyfield Church on January 25th at 7:30pm. They would require access to a table and power. As the event clashed with the Lioncourt Planning Meeting, **the Clerk to obtain a key to the church and to publicise the meeting by means of the parish email list.**

vii. Cheque Signatories.

Given the time this took last time, the Clerk had yet to set the process in motion as he was concerned that a number of large cheques needing two signature were required in the near future during which time, Mr Hatzis had indicated that he would be away. To ease the problem, he proposed that he would add Mrs Budgen without removing Mr Mellor. The latter task being done once Mrs Budgen was confirmed as a signatory.

viii. Marcham Neighbourhood Plan.

The Clerk had written to Marcham indicating that the parish was concerned about traffic from Abingdon Road, Tubney feeding into the Gozzards Ford lane. He had also urged them to make representation at the upcoming Lioncourt Planning Application. He had not received a response to his correspondence.

5. Lioncourt.

Mrs Budgen stated that the Frilford Lights application would go before the planning committee on the 25th January and the full Lioncourt application on the 14th February. Mrs Budgen would attend both meetings and had prepared, with the assistance of Dr Hatzis, a statement of objection to be presented at the full hearing.

Mr Avery had been in contact with the chair of the planning committee, Mr Max Thompson, and stressed that the application demanded a site visit. He also raised concerns about basic infrastructure deficiencies, school places and work travel. Mrs Budgen emphasised that all these points would be covered in her three minute slot at the hearing. She would also emphasise that the development was no longer needed to support Oxford's unmet housing needs.

6. Finance.

i. Account Statement.

The Clerk reported that following the last meeting, some precept payments had been re-allocated to the CIL account. As a consequence, the Brought Forward balances had been restated.

The following transactions had occurred since the last meeting.

• Precept Account brought forward.	£9,000.32
• Record payment of the following:	
• Insurance Premium	£433.68
• Cherry Tree Removal Costs	£400.00
• War Memorial Wreaths	£39.98
• Available Precept	£8,126.66
• CIL Account brought forward.	£18,526.91
• Record Payment of the following:	
• War Memorial Groundworks	£391.42
• Tubney Bus Stop Lights	£9,265.87
• The Oxford Engraver	£81.60
• Available CIL	£8,788.02

ii. 2023-2024 Budget.

The Clerk reported that he anticipated minimal spend for the rest of this financial year of £86.60 from the Precept Account. The start of year balance of this account would be £8,040.06.

Committed expenditure for 2023-2024 was summarised as follows:

05/23	Election Fees	£100.00
05/23	Comet Bus Subsidy	£500.00
11/23	Insurance	£440.00
03/24	Web Fees – Two years	£97.76
03/24	Domain Fees – 1 year	£36.60
03/24	Clerk's Expenses	£50.00
	Total Minimum Spend	£1,224.36

Potential one-off expenditure for the year was discussed but the Clerk pointed out that most of the items suggested could come from the CIL account which had a healthy balance.

iii. 2023-2024 Precept.

As regards setting the precept, the Clerk indicated that he had been admonished by the Auditors in the past by having reserves that exceeded the current precept.

After discussion, it was **resolved** to keep the precept at its current level of £5,000. The Precept Request form was completed by the Chair for submission to the District Council.

7. Planning.

The following applications have been returned with No Objection.

- P22/V2564/HH 1 South Cottages, Fyfield Wick
- P22/V2873/HH Corfe Cottage, Tubney

The following application had been returned with Objections.

- PP22/V0248/O Land East of Kingston Bagpuize

8. Speed Limits – Abingdon Road & Netherton Lane.

In order to apply for 20mph speed limits the written support of the County Councillor was required. This had been requested several times but was not yet forthcoming. Mark Francis had indicated that Highways would have no problem with the request for Netherton Lane but that Abingdon Road was more problematical. It appeared that Ms Ash was withholding support unless Highways endorsed the application. This seemed to be the wrong approach to the meeting as it was felt that the councillor should support our wishes irrespective of any final decision by Highways. **Mrs Budgen would emphasize our stance with Ms Ash and attempt to get a personal meeting.**

The Clerk would attempt to move the SIDs currently on Abingdon Road over the weekend. One would be transferred to Fyfield. The data from both would be available to support the need for speed control in Abingdon Road.

Mrs Budgen presented a paper by Mark Francis on possible mechanisms for reducing speed on Netherton Lane during the morning rush hour where it was used as a rat run to avoid the A420/A415 roundabout. As this mainly affected Netherton residents, Mr Macelvogue had surveyed the proposals around residents. Whilst mainly in favour, there was a definite objection to the installation of chevron signs at all the bends and a preference for the new SID pole to be nearer the Appleton Road junction with no name on any verge gates. Some road signs currently buried in the hedges should also be made visible.

Mr Macelvogue also drew the meetings attention to Twenty's Plenty green signs that could be legally mounted under 30mph limit signs. It was felt that the OCC proposals should be activated first before pursuing this initiative.

Mrs Budgen to communicate residents preferences to Mark Francis.

9. Purchase of an additional SID.

In anticipation of this item, the Clerk had obtained a quotation from Evolis for an additional solar powered SID that could be mounted on the new pole at the entrance to Netherton.

It was **resolved** to purchase the SID at a cost of £2,700.00. There would be minor additional costs for mounting clips and a lock.

10. Speed Limits – A420 at Tubney.

Mrs Budgen reported that OCC had performed a traffic survey at the site which was the first step in considering a change in speed limit. Informal feedback implied that traffic was mainly obeying the current speed limit but the meeting considered that the closeness of heavy traffic to the narrow pavement was a major safety concern and must be emphasised to OCC.

Mrs Budgen to seek feedback from OCC.

11. Neighbourhood Planning Pilot.

As yet no one had been found to take a lead in this project. Mr Bradley and Dr Hattzis had regretfully declined. At the moment there was a reluctance to withdraw from the project and the search would continue.

It was emphasised that the scope of any document should be limited to one or two major topics and certainly would be much more concise than a full Neighbourhood Plan.

The next meeting on the topic was scheduled for Friday 27th January.

12. Wheelchair Access to Tubney Church..

Mr Woodward had been asked to clear weeds from the steps leading into Tubney Churchyard from the pavement. These steps were wholly contained on the verge side of the gate and it was felt that these could be converted into a ramp to allow wheelchair access to the church.

Mrs Budgen to send a photograph to OCC Highways who were scheduling the work on the footpath for consideration as part of this work.

13. AOB.

i. Coronation Celebration Grant.

The Clerk had received notification of a grant of £150 towards the cost of a celebration for the forthcoming coronation of Charles III. **The Clerk to complete the application form and submit to Ms Ash for authorisation.**

ii. OCC Tree Planting.

Following consultation of the committee by email, the Clerk had nominated two possible positions for OCC to plant trees this winter. These were in St Johns Close opposite number 24 and number 14.

iii. Deep Clean.

The Clerk had been informed that there would be a Deep Clean of the parish from the 28th February until 2nd March. This would involve litter picking, sweeping and the removal of weeds and moss on pavements. The following had been suggested:

- Litter pick at entrance to Fyfield and the eastern bus stop. Clearance of weeds on pavement leading to crossroads.
- Clearance of pavement at west end of Abingdon Road, Tubney and the path to the western bus stop.
- Litter pick on Abingdon Road.
- Clearance of weeds at Tubney Church bus stop - excluding pavement towards Oxford as OCC will be re-instating.

The Clerk to notify the Waste Team of priority.

iv. Citizens Advice Grant Request.

The Clerk had received a grant request from Oxfordshire South and Vale Citizens Advice. It was **resolved** to make a donation of £250.00.

v. Registration of Village Green

Following the installation of the war memorial and the replacement of the cherry tree, concerns had been raised about the protection of the green space. Enquiries had led to the conclusion that it was not owned by any of the adjacent properties nor was it regarded as part of the highway verge. Not being registered at the Land Registry lead to the conclusion that it must have been gifted to the parish at some time in the past.

The Clerk had sought details of how this might be registered as a Village Green and the process seemed relatively straight forward but did require the application to the County Council to be witnessed by a solicitor.

The status of the green at Netherton was also raised. Mr Macelvogue volunteered to look into ownership. If, as thought, there was none registered, it made sense to then submit a request for both spaces to be registered at the same time.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9:40pm.

Next Meeting Thursday 9th March 2023.