

## **Minutes of the Fyfield and Tubney Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2023.**

### **1. Present:**

Mrs Penny Budgen – Chair.  
 Mrs Claire Cable-Alexander.  
 Mr Nicholas Keene.  
 Dr. Sarah Stanhope.  
 Dr Stephen Fraser – Clerk.  
 Mr Mark Coleman, District Councillor  
 5 members of the general public.

### **2. Apologies.**

Apologies had been received from Dr Dimitrios Hatzis.

### **3. Minutes of the last meeting.**

These were signed as a true record by the Chairman.

### **4. Matters arising.**

- i. Coach Road.**
- ii. A420 Pavement Extension.**
- iii. A420 Speed Limit in Tubney.**

These three items are inter-related and are awaiting scheduling by OCC Highways.

- iv. Copse Cottage Drains.**

Work has been put back but should be done next month.

- v. Tubney Church Steps.**

These have been resurfaced.

- vi. Verge Cutting.**

The areas of concern were now on OCC's rota and would be included in future cutting activities.

- vii. Litter Bin at Fyfield West Bus Stop.**

This had now been installed.

- viii. Defibrillator Course.**

The course was held on the 12<sup>th</sup> September and attended by 17 people. A donation of £200 was made by the Parish Council, as agreed verbally by councillors prior to the course, to cover SCAS costs.

There was some discussion as to whether people who had been on the course should volunteer to help in any future incident that needed the defibrillator. Whilst this may be useful, it was emphasised on the course that use of the device was fully guided by voice prompts and that the user would be on the telephone to SCAS to provide full guidance and reassurance in its use. No decision on this point was made.

A further query was raised as to whether a device could be obtained for Tubney. Whilst the church would provide a suitable location, it was separated from most of the residents by the A420. Current costs of a device is £1,741.20 and £624.00 for a cabinet which would require power. If the church was to be used, a faculty would be required. It was noted that there is a device at PharmaGenesis

but this is only available during office hours. **The clerk to enquire if a device was held at WildCru.**

#### ix. Registration of Village Greens.

The Clerk was progressing this action.

### 5. Receive District Councillor's Report.

Mr Coleman's report had been circulated prior to the meeting. He summarised the main points as follows:

Though the planning meeting had apparently approved the Lioncourt application, this was subject to a number of conditions being met before full approval would be granted. At the moment, the one remaining task was to settle the S106 agreement.

The Vale was contesting the government proposal of designation which would mean all planning applications would be decided by the government. A government response was awaited.

At the next parliamentary election, some boundary changes would come into force. Thames district would then fall under the West Oxfordshire constituency rather than Wantage.

Mr Coleman wanted to set up a Councillor Surgery in the parish. It was decided to hold this half an hour before Parish Council meetings. **The clerk to publicise along with notification of each meeting.**

### 6. Planning.

The following applications have been returned with No Objection.

- P23/V0894/HH Thatch House, Tubney

### 7. Finance.

The Clerk reported that the second instalment of precept payment had been received.

The financial statement was as follows:

• Precept Account brought forward.	£9,908.71
Payment made:	
• Fete Ice Cream.	£140.00
• Planning Survey Leaflet Printing	£118.00
• Community SpeedWatch Letters	£110.00
• Defibrillator Course	£200.00
Receipts:	
• 2 <sup>nd</sup> Installment of Precept	£2,500.00
• Available Precept	£10,823.31
• CIL Account brought forward.	£16,850.59

There were no CIL transactions.

The Clerk anticipated that a further CIL payment would be received by the end of October.

### 8. Memorial Garden.

Mr MacElvogue presented details of a proposed memorial Garden to be created beside the War Memorial in memory of John Lay. Costings were presented for the construction and planting of the garden totalling £1,872.45. It was **resolved** that the Parish Council would fund this garden based upon this costing.

## **9. Neighbourhood Priorities Survey.**

Following on from the parish survey, the responses had been collated and the five most important requirements identified. These were circulated at the meeting. A draft Planning Priorities Statement was in preparation based upon these items.

A copy of the survey and its responses was passed to Mr Coleman.

## **10. Provision of Mains Water to the Allotments.**

Ms. Lauren Small, chair of the allotments association, told the council that it was possible to provide water to the allotments in a fair manner with members paying only for what they actually used. Such a system was used in Africa with the ability to pay through a meter device. Thames Water were unable to even consider such technology but Chiltern Water would perform a feasibility study using such a device for £450.00. It was **resolved** to forward this amount to Fyfield United Charities which manages the allotments to cover the cost of the study.

## **11. Access to the Countryside.**

This was one of the top five requirements arising from the Neighbourhood Priority Survey. Mrs Budgen had arranged a meeting with Savills, St Johns agents, seeking their input before contacting the local farmers.

## **12. Tubney SpeedWatch Group.**

The Tubney SpeedWatch group under Jeremy Roche now had seven members. They were awaiting final approval from the police before they could deploy.

## **13. Speeding in Abingdon Road.**

Following the formal complaint made by the Clerk concerning the apparent lack of police interest in this issue, he had received a long and helpful phone call from Detective Chief Inspector Bettington. As a consequence, the final vetting of the SpeedWatch group would be expedited and a camera van would be deployed to take some initial measurements of speed and volume of traffic at various times. Whilst no promise was made of continued deployment at this site, the very presence of the van on a few occasions would be known and have some effect.

## **14. Speeding in Main Road, Fyfield.**

Several residents had raised issue with cars speeding along Main Road, Fyfield. The main culprits were drivers from Aegis Computers and occasionally people leaving The White Hart. **Mrs Budgen to approach Aegis to request consideration for residents and their animals whilst driving in the village.**

## **15. Purchase of Additional SIDs.**

Despite OCC's emphasis on communities seeking 20mph speed limits, it was understood that the police would not prosecute motorists in these zones unless their speed exceeded 30mph. This placed even more emphasis on the deployment of the SpeedWatch group and the SIDs.

As we have five poles in the parish and only three SIDs, the Clerk proposed the purchase of two additional devices so that all the poles could be populated. The legal requirement to move devices could be satisfied by periodically disabling the display so that the devices appeared inactive whilst still recording speeds.

The Clerk had a quotation for £4,547.99 for two additional SIDs from Elan City. It was **resolved** to purchase the two SIDs.

## **16. Community Area in Fyfield Church.**

Mr. MacElvogue gave a presentation on the progress in raising funds for this initiative together with a revised costing. At the moment, nearly 50% of the monies had been raised and the professional

fund raiser had applied for numerous grants. To release money from at least one of the grant organisations, new money was required to demonstrate continued local commitment to the project.

It was **resolved** to to make a further donation to the project of £5,000.00.

### **17. Parish Council Website.**

A revue of the current web site offerings by Mr. Philip Hatzis had been circulated prior to the meeting, together with a note from the Clerk explaining the history and the legal requirements of any council site.

After some discussion regarding both the purpose and the acquisition of page content it was decided that a sub-committee of the Clerk, Mr. Hatzis and Mrs Cable-Alexander would look at how changes may be effected. Mrs Cable-Alexander had volunteered to act as site editor but this still required council to generate the content.

**The Clerk to arrange for the sub-committee to meet.**

### **18. AOB.**

The number of people walking dogs along the west part of Main Road had increased and there were concerns about animals straying onto the A420. The exit had been gated in the past but each time it had either been destroyed or removed. It was **resolved** to purchase the cheapest gate possible to fill the gap and fit a spring to ensure it was kept closed.

The sight lines between Digging Lane and the west end of Main Road had been impacted by the development at the Olde Forge. The owners had recognised the problem and suggested a mirror on the existing pole opposite. **Mrs Budgen to check with Highways if such was permitted. She would also query the lack of Dragons Teeth at the Appleton Road end of Digging lane.**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10:00pm.

**Next Meeting Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2022.**