

**Minutes of the Fyfield and Tubney Annual Parish Meeting
and Annual Parish Council Meeting
held on Wednesday 16th May 2012.**

Present: Mr John Watts – Chair.
Mrs Jean Burley.
Mrs Shirley Collins.
Mrs Valerie Maher.
Mr Julian Mellor.
Dr Stephen Fraser – Clerk.

Mr Iain Brown, Oxford County Councillor

Two members of the general public.

Annual Parish Meeting.

The chairman welcomed the members of the public and opened the meeting to them at 7:30pm.

Mr Mark Baker expressed his gratitude for the progress that the Council and Clerk were making within the parish.

There being no other topics of discussion, the Chairman closed the meeting.

Annual Parish Meeting

Election of Chairman

Mrs Maher proposed, seconded by Mrs Collins, that Mr Watts be elected as chairman. No other nominations were received and the vote was carried nem. con.

Apologies

No apologies for absence had been received.

Minutes of the Last Meeting:

These were signed as a true record by the Chair.

Matters arising.

There had been no progress on the Appleton Road repair. Mr Brown explained that there had been considerable cuts in Council budgets but he would pursue the matter with Gordon Hunt. Mrs Maher supplied him with the OCC reference for the defect.

Mrs Burley reported that the defect in Appleton Road opposite Corfe Cottage had been repaired promptly.

Weed control in the gutters and gully clearance was also raised. Mr Brown expressed surprise that the County had stated in a newsletter that weed spraying was being undertaken. The Clerk to forward the newsletter so that he could explore the options.

The Clerk reported that he had been in contact with Biffa and there seemed to have been progress. The Appleton Road appeared to have been cleared and the A420 was much better.

Mr Mellor reported that there had been no further response on the A420 Speed Control from County. Mr Brown explained the rationale behind some of the options and indicated that probably the best solution was a Vehicle Activated Sign. He would see if this was possible using the Stewardship Fund.

Mr Baker asked if anything could be done to control the speed of motorbikes who seemed to use the A420 as a race track at weekends. After discussion, it was decided that Mr Baker and Mr Brown would contact Mr Ed Vaisey MP to persuade the police to monitor the situation.

The Clerk reported that he had ordered the Diamond Jubilee Tree Plaque from The Slate Workshop to the wording agreed via email and that the finished plaque had been dispatched. Mr Hadland asked if the area around the Millennium Stone could be tidied. It was resolved that a weed membrane covered with bark chips would be purchased. Mr Watts would solicit help from a builder with access to a small digger to prepare the ground. Mr Mellor would seek to source the bark from Mr Jolly.

The Clerk had spoken to Mr Russ Gooding, a tree surgeon from Stanford in the Vale, concerning the Cherry Tree by the church. Mr George Reade from District had recommended removing about 20% of the canopy. Mr Gooding had made a verbal quotation upon inspecting the tree of £110 provided that the Council arranged the removal of the cut branches. It was resolved to accept that quotation and ask that the work be carried out after the Jubilee celebrations. Mr Lay would be asked to dispose of the offcuts.

Planning.

Following the publication of the Vale Interim Housing Supply Policy and the Site Screening for The Elms and The White Hart garden, the Clerk had written expressing the Council's objections. A similar letter had been written by Mr Baker as an adjacent property owner. The letters had been acknowledged. Since then, the Vale had issued a Press Release indicating that the ISHP could not be adopted as formal policy because of governmental changes to the National Planning Policy Framework. Planning proposals would be considered on their merit and be subject to the local and national framework. As such, the objections raised concerning this possible development were still valid.

The Clerk had enquired about the village Water Pillars and found that these were not protected. He would make representation to English Heritage to attempt to get them listed. It was unclear who actually owned the pillars as it depended on the accuracy of registered land boundaries.

A planning application on behalf of Heron Homes had been received that day asking for an timescale extension for the development of the Pig Improvement site. There were no objections to the extension.

Finance.

The Clerk reported that the first instalment of Precept had been banked and that the bank balance was currently £1,190.70.

The Clerk had previously circulated a statement of accounts for the year 2011 – 2012. There being no objections, it was resolved to sign off this statement. A copy is attached to these minutes.

The above statement being in agreement with the External Audit Return accounting statement, that statement was duly signed by the Chairman.

The Clerk read out the Annual Governance statements which were agreed by Council and duly signed by the Chairman and Clerk.

The Clerk requested reimbursement for the following expenditure:

Domain fees for web site	£22.28
Diamond Jubilee Plaque	£117.90

It was resolved to pay the Clerk £140.18.

The Charitable Donations Policy of the Council was discussed with reference to the following agenda item and to requests to support village Jubilee activities. It was resolved to not change the policy which normally resulted in one donation per accounting year.

The Clerk reported that he had received an email request to support the Tubney Church Organ Appeal but a signed letter had not reached him. However, it was resolved to support the appeal with a donation of £100.00.

Neighbourhood Watch Scheme

The Clerk reported that following an exercise with the PCSO's calling door to door, some 78 households had expressed interest in participating in the scheme. A number of local coordinators had been identified and progress was being made in getting them vetted by the police. Once this was done, the members would be asked to fill in a registration form and the scheme could be activated.

Appleton Fibre Optic Broadband

Mr Watts and the Clerk had attended a meeting with Gigaclear, a company active in taking fibre optic broadband into Appleton. They had offered to include Tubney, Fyfield and Netherton if sufficient interest could be obtained. The Clerk had emailed all those responders to the Neighbourhood Watch scheme and some others and was awaiting replies.

AOB.

Mr Collins asked about flooding in the underpass after the recent heavy rain. It was decided that this resulted from the low level of the underpass compared with the level of Pilling Brook. Once the brook level fell, the flood cleared. There was nothing further that could be done to prevent flooding.

Mr Brown informed the meeting that in the forthcoming County Division changes, the Hanney Division would be split and that we would come into the Kingston – Cumnor Division.

The meeting closed at 9:10pm.

Next Meeting – Tuesday 18th September 2012.

Fyfield & Tubney Parish Council

Accounts for the Year Ended 31st March 2012

Income		
4 April 2011	Precept	£250.00
5 September 2011	Precept	£250.00
Total Income		£500.00
Expenditure		
18 May 2011	Web Site Creation	£64.30
19 September 2011	Election Expenses	£100.00
20 September 2011	Notice Boards	£245.47
29 November 2011	Clerk's Expenses	£50.00
30 November 2011	Donation – Oxfordshire Repatriation Memorial Bell Appeal	£50.00
Total Expenditure		£509.77
Balance Brought Forward from 1st April 2011		£950.47
Income		£500.00
Expenditure		£509.77
Balance at 31st March 2012		£940.70

