

Minutes of the Fyfield and Tubney Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 18th November 2015.

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

Five members of the general public.

Apologies

Apologies had been received from Mrs Melinda Tilley.

Minutes of the Last Meeting:

These were signed as a true record by the Chair.

Matters Arising.

The following items had been carried over from the September meeting.

- Vegetation around the road signs in general and the A415 northern approach sign to the A420 in particular.
- The requirement of a 'Box Junction' at the A415/A420 roundabout to ease egress from the northern approach of the A415.
- A request for a 'Quiet' road surface when the A420 was resurfaced through the parish.
- Extension of the bridleway from the A420 underpass along the south side of the A420 to Digging Lane near the Chapel.

In the absence of Mrs Tilley there was no progress to report.

Mr Burley reported to the meeting that he had attempted to speak to Dr. Winchester (PhamaGenesis) and to Prof. McDonald (WildCRU) concerning the possibility of a footpath south of the A420 between PahmaGenesis and the Tubney bus stop. He would try and contact them again during the coming week.

Planning.

One application, P15/V2577/HH for 9 Abingdon Road, Tubney, was examined during the meeting. No objections were raised.

Mr Baker briefed the council on a recent conversation he had had with Savills concerning the possibility of a further development on the triangle of land within the parish between the A420 and the old A420. It appeared that Kingston Bagpuize would be offered a bypass to the A415 as a 'sweetner' for this development. He believed that the development would provide about 200 houses and it was possible that Mr Lay, as tenant farmer, was in possession of more detailed information. Given the City of Oxford's problems with expansion into the Green Belt, if they could not meet their housing needs then the surrounding district councils, if asked, were obliged by law to assist. Consequently, Mr Baker believed that this development was a distinct possibility.

The Clerk to contact Mr Lay and Savills to see if further information was available.

Mrs Burley wished the council to be aware of a rumour circulating that some 200 houses might also be built on land in Tubney Woods south of Oxford Instruments.

Finance.

The Clerk reported that no financial transactions had taken place since the last meeting:

- Balance carried forward £2,734.89

Two requests for grant aid had been received.

The Parochial Church Council had requested assistance with the repair of the roof to St. Nicholas Church, Fyfield. The Council was unsure of the shortfall in funds and requested that the Clerk seek further information from the PCC.

South Oxfordshire and Vale Citizens Advice had also requested support. It was resolved to grant them £50.00 (fifty).

Village War Memorial.

The Clerk confirmed that the planning application for the Kingston Bagpuize Sports Ground had been resubmitted. Given the recent parish boundary changes, he was unsure if this funding would ever become available. It was felt that alternative funding should be sought if this project was ever to proceed. A number of potential grant giving organisations had been identified but in the first instance, the immediate issue was land ownership and planning permission. The land did not appear to be part of the surrounding properties but was not actively claimed by OCC Highways. There was no immediate evidence of wayleaves for access to the surrounding properties.

The Clerk to seek clarification from Savills if the land was still owned by St. Johns College, failing that, information might be obtained from the Land Registry.

Fly Tipping on Digging Lane

The Clerk informed Council that he had reported two occurrences of fly tipping in Digging Lane over the last month. This seemed to be on the increase and he asked Councillors to be vigilant and report any activity.

AOB.

Mrs Collins made a general query of the council concerning potential unplanned redevelopment. If such existed, this should be reported to the District Planning Enforcement service.

Mrs Maher raised the following matters:

- The white lines in the Fyfield ghost island were indistinct and needed repainting.
- The village street lights were not working following the recent electricity blackout.
- The Fyfield bus shelter was in need of repair to some of the side panelling.

She would contact OCC Highways to determine what could be done to remedy the situation.

Arising from this discussion, members of the public expressed deep concern over the safety of using the No 66 bus stop on the south side of the A420. Crossing the road at this point is difficult at any time and positively dangerous at peak traffic times. It is not helped by the road being wider because of the ghost island and the lack of lights. The current OCC review of subsidised bus services could well result in the termination of the No 63 service which runs through the village. If this happens, school children at Matthew Arnold School will have to use the No 66 to return home resulting in crossing the A420 in twilight at peak times.

Three of the children had written to the council expressing their concern over using the bus service.

The Clerk to send copies of the letters to Mrs Tilley and explore whether safety can be improved for bus passengers. A possible solution being a central refuge at the start of the ghost island with lighting.

Mr Watts reported that the recent Town and Council Forum had discussed Community led Plans and surmised that this might be appropriate to the parish. The Clerk to distribute Vale of White Horse documentation on this matter to councillors.

Mr Watts also reported that the quarry in Tubney Woods had now been in-filled and the remaining work involved some tree planting and landscaping of the entrance.

Mr Mellor wished that it be noted that the council should take no further action over concerns of PharmaGenesis over the Vodafone mobile signal. It was anticipated that the upgrade of the Tubney Woods mast would improve signal strength.

A member of the public also commented on the recent felling of a tree in St Johns Close. The trunk had been left and no replacement planted. The Clerk to pursue with OCC.

The Clerk proposed the following dates for meetings in 2016.

- 20th January
- 16th March
- 18th May Annual Parish meeting and Annual Parish Council Meeting
- 21st September
- 9th November

The Clerk to confirm dates with The White Hart.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8:40pm.

Next Meeting Wednesday 20th January 2016.