

**Minutes of the Fyfield and Tubney Parish Council Meeting
held on Tuesday 29th November 2011.**

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

Three members of the general public.

Apologies: Mr Ben Lay.

Minutes of the Last Meeting:

These were signed as a true record by the Chair.

Matters Arising:

Mr Iain Brown, the County Councillor, had confirmed that the highways budget did extend to the parish. Mr Brown had been invited to attend this meeting but had to decline due to a prior engagement. An open invitation had been made giving the dates of next years meetings.

There had been no progress on the road subsidence on the Fyfield – Appleton road apart from the erection of 'uneven road' signs. Mrs Maher would contact highways again.

There was still no progress on the Tubney Litter Bin. The District Council was apparently looking at designs.

The parish had been offered two free salt bags because we were considered two separate villages.

Planning:

The following applications had been circulated and responded 'No Objections':

2 North Cottages, Fyfield Wick (11/01977/COU) Change of use of public highway to residential Garden.

Overton House, Fyfield (11/02562/FUL) Proposed single storey front/side extension. Remove existing roof and raise the ridge height with new roof to include roof conversion with associated alterations.

Fyfield House, Fyfield (11/02496/LBC) Replacement of ground floor window.

12 Abingdon Road, Tubney (11/02544/FUL) Proposed first floor extension to existing rear ground floor kitchen extension. Replace enclosed porch with internal boiler room and lobby to side.

The following applications had been circulated and responded 'Fully Supported':

The Village Stores, Fyfield (11/01985/FUL) Change of use of former Fyfield Post Office and shop to ancillary residential accommodation in association with Lane House to the rear.

Permitted notification had been received for:

The Village Stores, Fyfield (11/01985/FUL) Change of use of former Fyfield Post Office and shop to ancillary residential accommodation in association with Lane House to the rear

2 North Cottages, Fyfield Wick (11/01977/COU) Change of use of public highway to residential Garden.

Mrs Burley enquired whether planning permission should have been obtained prior to felling the trees at the eastern end of Abingdon Road, Tubney. The consensus opinion was that no planning permission was required and that Natural England were involved in ensuring the area returned to wetland.

The Clerk had written in October to Mr William Donger of Savills inviting him to a small meeting of residents and councillors to discuss the future plans for 'The Elms' once 'The White Hart' staff had moved to Lane House. No reply had been received to date. Mr Mark Baker said he was in contact with Mr Donger on another matter and would raise the issue.

Mr Watts reported on the Town and Parish Council Forum which he had attended with the Clerk. The principal issue for discussion was the 'Localism Bill' and its impact on planning. The ability of Parish Councils and local groups to influence planning policy appeared very attractive until it was pointed out that the bureaucracy of the system would incur costs of between £17,000 and £63,000.

Mr Mark Baker pointed out to the council that the recent Interim Housing Supply Policy could leave the parish vulnerable to a relatively large scale development in the next year. His concerns were noted but there appeared little the council could do apart from monitor the situation and contest any inappropriate development as it occurred. Mr Watts stated that the Policy should not undermine the 'spacial strategy' of smaller villages.

Finance:

The current bank balance stood at £1,040.70.

The Clerk submitted expenses to cover postage, stationary and computer consumables to the value of £50.00. This was accepted and it was resolved to reimburse the Clerk this amount.

In setting the precept for 2012/13 the Council took into consideration the following likely expenditure for the following year:

Web Site & Email	approx £35.00
Clerk's Expenses	approx £50.00
Fyfield Cherry Tree Surgery	approx £250.00
Jubilee Tree	no provisional costing

It was resolved to set the precept at £500.00.

Requests for charity donations had been received from:

- Oxfordshire Repatriation Memorial Bell Appeal
- Oxfordshire Association for the Blind
- South and Vale Carers Centre
- Abingdon and District Citizens Advice Bureau.

It was resolved to send £50.00 to the Oxfordshire Repatriation Memorial Bell Appeal.

Tubney Tree to mark the Diamond Jubilee:

Mr John Hadland informed the Council that he would donate a tree to mark the Diamond Jubilee. He suggested a relatively small growing red barked prunus. This could be planted close to the Millennium Stone but far enough away from the Millennium Chestnut. This latter tree was diseased and thus had a limited life expectancy. He suggested that a suitable engraving be added to the Millennium Stone which could be surrounded by some shingle on a porous membrane. The Council gratefully accepted Mr Hadland's offer.

It was felt that February 2012, subject to weather conditions, would be the most appropriate planting time. It was hoped that a number of local people would volunteer to water the tree during its first season.

The Clerk to contact Mr Ben Lay to see if he would provide the machinery to dig a hole for the tree and back fill with topsoil and manure.

The Parochial Church Council were exploring marking the Diamond Jubilee with a village event and invited the Parish Council's involvement. Mrs Maher would represent the council at future joint meetings.

Neighbourhood Watch Scheme:

The Clerk had been in contact with Carol Rudd at Abingdon Police Station. She stated that there were two active schemes in Fyfield. Mr Gerald Cox was coordinator for St Johns Close and Mr John Driver in Netherton. However, Mr Driver, although he received the alerts, was not passing these on to any members. Mr Mellor confirmed that his scheme was active. It was unknown if any progress had been made in setting up a scheme in Abingdon Road, Tubney.

The setting up of a new scheme was a three part process. Firstly, a proforma letter was circulated to gather details of likely members. Once this had been done, coordinators could be selected and these would be vetted by the police. Finally, the scheme would be registered and made active.

It was resolved to circulate the proforma letter to those non active households with a newsletter in January.

Correspondence:

The County Council review of local subsidised bus services had resulted in no change affecting residents.

A request for help with volunteer drivers had been received from Mr David Dymock who coordinated the Appleton Volunteer Transport Scheme. This service provided transport to residents of Appleton, Eaton, Fyfield and Tubney requiring assistance in getting to appointments for doctors, dentists and hospital. Drivers would receive 40p per mile towards petrol costs. A request had been placed on the web site and on the notice boards. It was resolved to issue a further request for help in the January newsletter.

A request had been received from Mrs Tian Davidson, Clerk of Appleton & Eaton PC, to support the erection of a bicycle rack on Oaksmere near the A420. Whilst no funding could be provided direct, it was resolved to support this project via a joint application to the Vale Stewardship Fund. Concern, however, was expressed that the proposed site did not open up the old road hard standing to illegal caravan parking.

The Clerk outlined the long correspondence he had carried out with the Vale over the Fyfield Dog Bin. After some six months this was now being emptied most weeks and the catch had been repaired only for the collector to hammer out the catch as he had the wrong tools to open it.

AOB:

Mr Mellor enquired if there was anything that could be done to reduce traffic speed at the Fyfield intersection. Traffic emerging from the dual carriageway frequently appeared to be travelling at more than 50mph. The Clerk would contact Mr Iain Brown and Mr Mellor would check with the County Council as to possible remedies given the recent accident involving a cyclist.

Mr Mellor also reported that some granite sets on the A420 at Tubney had been removed. It was unclear if this was official.

The Rev. David Pickering had enquired if it was possible to reach Tubney Church from Fyfield without using the A420. Mr Mellor would enquire about access through the fields beside the A420.

Mrs Burley stated that Japanese knotweed was growing in Oaksmere. It was suspected that this was a notifiable weed. The Clerk to investigate.

Concern was also expressed about cars backing into Digging Lane from the front of the new houses on the old garage site. It was believed that these were workmen and the issue would not recur.

The meeting closed at 9:30pm.