

**Minutes of the Fyfield and Tubney Parish Meeting
held on Thursday 12th September 2024.**

1. Present.

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

Three member of the general public.

2. Apologies.

Apologies had been received from

Mr. Mark Coleman – VofWH Councillor.

3. Minutes of the Last Meeting.

These were signed as a true record by the Chair.

4. Matters Arising.

1. Parish Web Site & Facebook.

The Clerk informed the meeting that he was still in the process of updating the web site format. He had created a new Facebook Profile and a private group to form the basis of a means of communicating with the parish community. Once satisfied with the content, he would first invite councillors to become Moderators and then invite the community.

2. Fyfield Bus Stop Lighting.

Mrs Budgen informed the meeting that the light had now been installed and was working. She had ensured that it was positioned so that it would illuminate passengers waiting for a bus being visible from the road.

3. Audit.

The Clerk stated that the audit had been completed and the statutory period for examination by residents had now passed.

4. Comet Bus Grant.

Mary Carey had informed the clerk that she had misplaced the cheque for this grant and requested that it be reissued. This had been done on the understanding that if the original was subsequently found it would not be banked.

5. Village Deep Clean.

The village Deep Clean had been performed but the contractors had ignored the Clerk's priority list and concentrated on St. John's Close. Whilst this was appreciated by the residents, it did not address the severe issues along Main Road and the footpath to the church. Following complaints, the contractor stated that they would schedule an additional day to address these areas.

5. Proposed Hills Quarry & Tubney Action Group.

Mr Richard Willden gave the council a situation report on the proposed Hill's Quarry and TAG progress.

179 objections were registered by the public by the deadline of 12th May and these had been published in redacted form on the OCC web site. The Public Body consultations were also available on the site. Both Hydrology and Ecology reports were critical of the site.

The group had commissioned Edgars as planning consultants who were in the process of developing group objections covering six areas. Most of these were in draft form with TAG. Following feedback with Edgars it was expected that these would be delivered to OCC soon.

Mary Hudson, the OCC case officer, had submitted a Regulation 25 order to Hills requesting further information. No timetable for a response had been set and further Regulation 25 orders could follow. This impacts the work of Edgars as they require a static situation in order to avoid repetitive work.

It was noted that Highways had requested further work from Hills and suggested that only a Left Turn be permitted from the site.

6. Underpass.

1. Bridleway Application.

The Clerk confirmed that the application had been submitted to OCC for the track to become a Restricted Bridleway. This would permit walkers, horse riders and unpowered vehicles such as bicycles.

2. Recent Vegetation Clearance.

The Clerk confirmed that the recent clearance of vegetation was not authorised by the Parish Council. A group from Abingdon Cycling Club had approached the Clerk with a view to making this, the only safe route from Tubney to Fyfield, more accessible for their use. The Clerk informed them that this was not a public right of way and that the Parish Council was not able to condone any activity. Having been warned, a group of 16 individuals cleared the encroaching vegetation one Saturday morning. The Clerk stated that he had joined them as a private individual.

3. Himalayan Balsam infestation.

Mr Baker had noted that there were a number of Himalayan Balsam plants along the underpass route. This was an invasive species and he requested, through the council, if a working party could be set up to remove the plant. Given that seed is spread explosively once set, it was probably too late to do anything this year. By either pulling up the roots or cutting the plant down below the first node, individual plants can be destroyed. Mr Woodward stated that he would be willing to help Mr Baker.

It was also noted that there was substantial infestation at Rainbow Bridge on the Thames.

7. Tree Safety on Fyfield Green.

The trees by the war memorial had been inspected by Climbing High Tree Care and subsequently one tree had been removed and crown activity taken place on the others. This had resulted in two financial transactions as stated in the Financial Report.

8. Flooding Issues.

1. Digging Lane.

Following a considerable amount of work by Mrs Budgen involving OCC Highways, Oxford Direct Services and Mr. Lay, the tenant of the adjoining fields, OCC had agreed that it was their responsibility to connect the ditch and the culvert via a concrete chamber and to organise traffic management whilst the work was in progress.

2. Power Station, Netherton Road.

Access to the culvert here was difficult due to the collapsed headwall. Mr. Lay had cleared this enabling OCC to inspect. It was found that the culvert itself had collapsed and OCC would undertake the remedial work.

9. Actions from Neighbourhood Priorities Statement..

1. Designation of Neighbourhood Area.

The public consultation was complete and the parish, with the exception of the small area permitted to be included in Kingston Bagpuize's area, was approved and recorded by District. Whilst this arose from the pilot Neighbourhood Priorities Statement being produced with District under recent legislation, it was not clear how this would proceed under the new government as further secondary legislation was required to fully enact the Statements.

District had emphasised that this process would have been required should the parish wish to develop a full Neighbourhood Plan in the future.

2. Public Space/Play Area

Mr MacElvogue had produced a working paper setting out the requirements for making a village Play Area and Public Space which had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was proposed to use this document as a basis for discussion with Savills and Mr Lay. It was suggested that some of the 'Set Aside' land next to the allotments be a suitable site subject to negotiation on Set Aside Grants and Land Rents. A member of the public felt that this piece of land was too close to the A420 and thus subject to excessive air pollution for young children. Pollution monitoring on the A420 at the Fyfield turn had not found excessive levels of noxious air borne chemicals.

3. Circular Walking Route.

To date, no viable route had been identified which was acceptable to the farming tenant. Discussions were ongoing.

10. Highways Issues.

1. 20mph Speed Limits.

Application for 20mph limits had been submitted for both Fyfield/Netherton and Abingdon Road, Tubney. Both had received initial support from OCC who had grouped both applications in to a single reference.

Subsequently, it was stated that Fyfield/Netherton would proceed under Phase 3 of the scheme but Abingdon Road was deemed unsuitable. This was not acceptable to the residents who gathered objections from the vast majority of households along the road. These were submitted by the Clerk to OCC, copied to Juliette Ash, appealing the decision. No further acknowledgement had been received.

A further request for Digging Lane South with specific emphasis on the sharp bends near Woodhouse Farm had received little support from the County Councillor, without whom an application could not be made.

2. Potholes on Abingdon Road.

Mrs Budgen reported that these had been fixed in rapid time following a telephone call to OCC.

3. Kerb/Pavement at entrance to Manor Farm.

Already reported on Fix My Street. Mr Lay had hoped for a fix before the heavy harvest traffic, but still not done.

4. A420 40mph through Tubney.

No progress to report. This may be scheduled in the next financial year subject to relative importance with other outstanding work.

5. Highways Engagement Meeting.

A new group designed to act as a first port of call for parish councils regarding highways issues. A meeting had been arranged for the 16th September. Mrs Budgen, Dr Hatzis, Mr Woodward and the Clerk would attend.

11. Community Area in Fyfield Church.

1. Update.

A progress update document from Mr MacElvogue had been circulated prior to the meeting.

2. Tarmacadam for the Church Path for wheelchairs.

Access to the church has proved difficult over the partially relaid stone chippings for wheelchairs and those residents with mobility issues. Mrs Budgen suggested that a tarmacadam surface would be required. It was noted that this should be brought before the PCC to determine if a faculty was required before obtaining a quotation and a decision on funding.

12. Memorial Garden.

Work had yet to resume on this project, the community space taking precedent. It was hoped that the garden would be complete before Remembrance Sunday.

13. Planning.

The following applications have been returned with No Objection.

- P24/V0853/LB The Old School House, Tubney
- P24/V0846/HH The Old School House, Tubney
- P24/V1122/LB The Old School House, Tubney
- P24/V1123/HH The Old School House, Tubney
- P24/V1326/FUL Woodland Lodge, Frilford Heath
- P24/V1743/HH The Glass House, Tubney
- P24/V1749/S19 Old School House, Tubney
- P24/V1326/FUL-MAR Woodland Lodge, Frilford Heath
- P24/V1829/FUL White Hart, Fyfield

The Clerk requested that councillors responding to planning applications in a timely manner.

14. Finance.

The Clerk reported the following transactions since the last meeting.

• Precept Account brought forward.	£6,695.43
• Mrs Budgen – Climbing High Tree Care	£180.00
• Comet Bus Grant	£600.00
• Climbing High Tree Care	£1,380.00
• The Oxford Cow Dairy Ltd. - Ice Cream for Fete	£160.00
• Precept 2 nd Instalment received.	£2,500.00
• Available Precept	£7,325.43

As reported above, the grant cheque for the Comet Bus had been reissued on the understanding that the original cheque, if subsequently found, would not be presented.

• CIL Account brought forward.	£27,861.57
• OCC – Fyfield Bus Stop Light	£3,060.00
• Available CIL	£24,801.57

The Clerk stated that it was unlikely there would be any more CIL payments.

15. AOB.

Dr Stanhope reported that there had been instances of flash flooding at the entrance to St. John's Close which had been reported on Fix My Street. Following the Deep Clean there were holes in the pavement where weeds had been removed which did not help the flooding issue. She would add this problem to Fix My Street.

Dr Stanhope also suspected that a car she had seen frequently in the old bus stop layby was being used for drug dealing. The only way to combat this was a police report but it needed details of the car and its registration.

Mr Woodward voiced his dismay at the recent government decision to permit Thames Water to build a reservoir south of Abingdon. However, it is not clear how the council can influence this decision.

There being no other items, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9:00pm.

Next Meeting Thursday 12^h September 2024.