

FINCHINGFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD TUESDAY 27 NOVEMBER 2012

Present: Cllrs Tobbell (Chair), Jervis (Vice Chair), Powdrill, Koster, James, Goodfellow, Bradford

In attendance: Mrs Jackie Jervis,

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Jervis declared a DPI under Finance; Cllr Bradford declared a non PI under Planning (Brambles); Cllr Tobbell a non PI under Planning (Mildmay).

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr Brown (holiday) and Cllr Wyatt (illness)

3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 30 OCTOBER 2012

These were approved and signed as a true record of the meeting; proposed Cllr Jervis seconded Cllr Bradford.

4. CLERK' REPORT

Broadband: An email was sent to all Members on 1st November regarding progress. However to re-cap, I met with Philip Wilson and Navin Sankersingh on Thursday 1st November to discuss the Broadband programme outlined at the October meeting. Mr Wilson, who lives in a rural area, took up a Buzzcom option some while ago paying £140 initially and then £140 per year; he is pleased with the service. He was aware of the company's problems with a mast at High Garrett and will get back to me with an update on that. He confirmed that the 90% coverage mentioned in Ed Vaizey MP's letter does refer to premises, not area. The remaining 10% was achievable but could take until 2015 – relying on funding. However, it was suggested that the more people who register on line – new website link to be advised – the better for the area to attract funding.

The fact that CHE had carried out a survey was helpful as they could use this as evidence to direct funding there – together with registration on website. They were talking about having Broadband Champions who they could interview to highlight good and bad cases. I mentioned that it even effected people selling houses in our parish so would be a good example of a bad scenario. Also, those people like Mr Les Brown who had a shared line. **Cllr Brown has responded to say that he would be happy to take on the role.** At the moment we are awaiting an update from ECC.

Housing at Stephen Marshall Avenue – There had been confirmation at the October meeting that Greenfields were now treating the situation with more concern but the delay was now caused by not being able to contact the tenant while away from the property.

Parking on the Green: Further to the report at the October meeting, additional visits have been made and tickets issued in both Finchingfield and Great Bardfield.

Dog Poo Signs: The Village Handyman has now handed these signs to Cllr Jervis who confirmed he would erect these in suitable locations. There was a report of an offending dog owner who, having been spoken to, seems now to remove any dog mess. The Clerk would advise the dog warden accordingly so that he could monitor the situation when he visited the village.

Guildhall: Cllr Goodfellow passed on the concerns regarding the traffic light sequence and Will Bargman confirmed that *“the sensors have been swapped for timers. Hopefully, this will alleviate the problems caused by vehicles failing to trigger the sensor on the bridge side of the controls. I should point out that any vehicles jumping the lights will still cause them to go into the re-set sequence which then leads to a short delay at both ends.”* Since this statement a letter had been received from a resident complaining about the problem, to which the Clerk had given an appropriate response; Members confirmed that the situation had improved since the changes mentioned above.

Highways – Damaged Fence/Wall: Cllr Jervis met with Cllr Walters regarding concerns of the owner of Oak Cottage, Duck End, but it would appear there is nothing that can be done in respect of traffic management to assist. There are already 30mph signs in place and a 30mph roundel on the carriageway. The Chairman felt it likely, given the narrowness of the road at this point, that two commercial vehicles may have been passing each other and one has touched the wooden fence with its bumper. **Causeway Access:** Cllr Jervis confirmed he had spoken with Cllr Walters about the difficulty caused when vehicles parked across the point where the path exited on to the road. It was suggested that photographs are taken to illustrate the problem and write to Cllr Walters accordingly. The Clerk would deal with this.

5. PLANNING

12/01377/FUL Dove House, Upper Howe Street - proposed alterations to out building. This report is to advise that following the October meeting the applicant had, via the Clerk, requested a site meeting to discuss the Council’s objections. However, it was felt that this would not be productive and to avoid any confrontation, Planning Committee members declined the invitation. Following a discussion with the applicant, the Clerk did advise the relevant Planning Officer that an invitation to a site visit had been received and considered.

12/00267/TPOCON Post Office Stores - to fell one Christmas tree and 1 Spruce. No objection from the Tree Warden.

12/00288/TPO Prospect House, The Green – to reduce five lime trees by 30% all over. No objection from the Tree Warden.

12/00296/TPOCON Mildmay, Church Hil - to trim back growth from adjacent property and remove roots of suckering trees. No objection from the Tree Warden.

12/01511/FUL Park Farm House, Toppesfield Road - erection of extension to annexe for leisure purposes. The plans were many and complex and difficult to view on line; printed versions could only be seen in A4 format making annotations and descriptions difficult to read. The scale of the leisure purposes planned appeared out of line with a domestic dwelling and not in keeping with policy in a rural location. The Clerk would respond accordingly. It may well be advisable for BDC to recommend to architects submitting complex plans that they send a hard copy to the relevant parish council.

12/01522/FUL Brambles Cottage, Spains Hall Road - change of use to equestrian facilities, to include additional stabling etc. Plans were not yet available on line therefore this application will be discussed by the Planning Committee at their next meeting and will respond to the Clerk prior to the deadline of 24 December.

6. FINANCE

(a) Financial Statement

(a) Bank balance	Current Account	9,507.05
	Saver Account	48,644.57
	Tracker Account	224.66
	Cash in Hand	<u>7.67</u>
		£ <u>58,383.95</u>

(b) Income

Details of income received since the last meeting

Received from	Details	Amount
Gt Bardfield PC	Shared telephone costs	55.97
	TOTAL £	55.97

(c) Transfers made

From Current Account to Bonus Account £ 50.00

(d) Payments

Recommended

Name	Details	Amount	Chq. no.	Powers
A & J Lighting	Street lights maint'nce A/c	31.91	SO	P C Act 1957
e-on	Monthly charge	52.27	SO	P C Act 1957
Mrs K Fox	Clerk's salary	447.45	3361	Local Gov Act '72
Mrs L Richardson	RFO's salary	138.18	3362	Local Gov Act '72
HMR & C	Clerk & RFO PAYE & NI	146.20	3363	Local Gov Act '72
Mrs J Jervis	Cleaning pavilion & toilets 5wks to 01/12/12 @ £73.57	367.85	3364	Open Space '06
Mr J Richardson	Village maint'nce – 19/11/12	262.00	3365	Open Space '06
	Cancelled		3366	

M D Landscapes	Grass cutting to 31 st October	1,370.40	3367	P C Act 1957
	cancelled		3368	
Baddow Flooring	Village hall floor reps	810.96	3369	
Lakefield Flat Roofing	Village hall roof reps	132.00	3370	
e-on	Pavilion electricity	34.87	3371	Open Space '06
Aon Uk Limited	Adjust to policy re village hall	734.69	3372	Local Gov Act '72
Ridgeons	Boiler for pavilion	1,126.72	3373	
TOTAL £		5,655.50		

Payments proposed by Cllr. Bradford

Seconded by Cllr. James

(e) AOB

Anglia Water recalculated our account and we are now in credit by £19.11 so no bill to be paid this quarter.

RFO wrote to Clarity M & E regarding the invoice for boiler service. Received a telephone response and requested that he responded in writing prior to the council meeting. Not received as @ 27/11/2012.

RFO has received from Barclays Bank papers, which have been signed in accordance with the mandate, to open an account for Village hall funds and also to upgrade one of the other Parish accounts.

Insurance for Village hall has been put onto the Parish insurance. Refund of £984.15 for the Village Hall committee will be paid direct to them and could take 90 days.

Finance meeting December: Members agreed that Finance Committee members could authorise payments for December as there would be no full Council meeting. Proposed by Cllr James seconded Cllr Goodfellow.

Precept 2013/14: Members agreed unanimously that there should be no increase in next year's precept ie there should be a zero change in the Parish Council element of the Council Tax. Parish Support Grant for 2013/14 has been confirmed as unchanged at £4,914.00. Base rate for the precept is calculated at the 30th November and will be available after 5th December.

SID Replacement Battery: It was agreed to share the cost of a replacement battery with Great Bardfield Parish Council, at a total cost of £125, as one of the existing batteries was only lasting about five days. Investigations had been made into the purchase of permanent solar powered signs and the conversion of the existing device. However the former were approximately £2,500 each and the latter in excess of £900.

7. PARISH PLAN REFRESH

Cllr Bradford said that a lot of work had been done in the last couple of months and she was still in the process of providing the narrative for the final draft document. The Steering Committee would then look at the draft document before preparing the suggested Action Plan.

8. POLICE

The next Joint Action Group meeting would take place on 4 December at Braintree Police Station and would be attended by the Chairman. Cllr Koster confirmed that there had been an attempted break in at Jesmonds and he would check whether the incident had been reported.

9. HIGHWAYS

There was nothing to report

10. PLAYINGFIELDS

CHE: Cllr Wyatt had confirmed to the Clerk that they were awaiting the price of the gallows gate, proposed for installation to protect the playingfields from vehicles currently able to access the area from the Horse and Groom car park.

Finchingfield: Confirmation that the new boiler discussed under Finance was to be commissioned on 28 November.

11. VILLAGE HALLS

CHE: Nothing to report in the absence of Cllr Wyatt.

Finchingfield: Cllr James said that at the meeting held on 19 November there had been some concern regarding the new way forward but felt he managed to address the problems raised. He would meet with the RFO to discuss the necessary actions regarding financial arrangements, invoicing, petty cash, and change in bank accounts etc. The Clerk would check that the Charity Commission website reflected the correct situation regarding trusteeship

12. CORRESPONDENCE

Parish and Town Council Summit: This would be held on 31 January 2013 7 pm at Bocking Arts Centre. The topics to be covered include the Boundary Commission Review; an update on the LDF; a briefing on the BDC budget priorities 2013-14; a review of the PSG; and Localism.

13. ITEMS OF REPORT

Sluice Gates: Cllr Jervis was concerned that the gates were being opened at inappropriate times. As primary key holder he has first responsibility for raising the gates when there is a risk of flooding. The Clerk was asked to write a general letter to all sluice gate key holders reminding them of the terms of the existing protocol.

Pond Clearance: This has become a well supported community event but there was some concern that stones and flint that protect the pipes that lay beneath the pond had been damaged in the recent pond clearance. The Chairman would have an informal conversation with the organiser.

Winter Salt: This has still not been delivered to Cllr Koster and the Clerk would contact ECC in this regard.

Transport Meeting: Cllr Powdrill confirmed that at the recent meeting information regarding a new service – 125 – was announced. This would go from Braintree Town Centre to St Michael's Hospital and the Springwood Industrial Estate.

Memorial Garden: Cllr James said the condition of the garden was both disappointing and embarrassing when he attended the Remembrance Service. There was some discussion about tasks included in the Village Handyman's yearly maintenance programme were not being undertaken. The Chair and Clerk would meet to review the situation.

Guildhall: Cllr Goodfellow advised that a means of protection for the north end of the building was being investigated. The existing very wet weather was preventing the lime plaster from drying out which adds to any delays.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

This will be held on Tuesday 29 January 2013 in Finchingfield.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.20 pm

PUBLIC FORUM

Mrs Jervis wished to report the continued problem with vehicles speeding through Kempe Road.