

**Minutes of Fulmer Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 6th February 2024
at the Cricket Pavilion, King George V Fields, Fulmer Common Road SL3 6JN at
8.00pm**

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|----------------|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| PRESENT: | Mr D Brackin (DB) | Chairman |
| | Mrs S Simkins (SS) | Deputy Chairman |
| | Mr I Bocock (IB) | Councillor |
| | Mrs L Du Toit (LdT) | Councillor |
| | Mrs F Hall-Drinkwater (FH-D) | Councillor |
| | Mr P Khanghura (PK) | Councillor |
| | Mrs K Robinson (KR) | Councillor |
| | Mrs P Vahey (PV) | Parish Council Clerk |
| IN ATTENDANCE: | Mr S Chhokar (SC) | Buckinghamshire Council Councillor |
| POLICE: | Not present. | |
| PRESS: | Not present. | |
| PUBLIC: | There was one member of the public present. | |

- 1. Declarations of interest:** There were no declarations of interest.
- 2. Apologies:** There were apologies from Buckinghamshire Cllr Mr Jaspal Chhokar.
- 3. Police Update:** The Chairman had received an update from the PCSO who had two dates in mind to come to Fulmer for an event.
A notification of a spike in tool theft in the TV area had been received together with good advice on how to prevent theft and protect work tools.
- 4. Public Quarter Hour:** The resident present wanted to discuss their retrospective planning application that was to be submitted shortly. The resident explained the new plans and answered questions from the Council. He asked for the Parish Council to support the application which the Council was prepared to do subject to the satisfaction of the Ecology Officer being given and suggested the resident forward photographs of the site to assist with this approval. The Council considered its response which can be found in full in these Minutes at Agenda item 9 Planning and Enforcement.
- 5. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held 9th January 2024:** The Minutes having been previously circulated prior to the Meeting were reviewed and with some minor amendments requested by Cllr Du Toit in paragraph 11 were accepted as an accurate record of the business conducted at that Meeting and were recommended for signature by the Chairman of that meeting.
- 6. Buckinghamshire Councillors Report:** Cllr S Chhokar reported that he had been informed by Highways that work was to start on refreshing the white road signage, in particular the 'SLOW' signs. The leak/spring in Windmill Road was also to be investigated. Cllr J Chhokar had responded regarding requests from the Chairman re. Bucks Council's Gritting Policy earlier. Cllr Hall-Drinkwater had reported ice on the road and the absence of any gritting on FixMyStreet and

received a response that there was no ice when there patently was. Cllr J Chhokar had communicated with the Fulmer Parish Clerk and Gerrards Cross (GX) Town Council re the Clerk attending a meeting of GX Council on Monday 26th February to answer questions about the arrangements between Fulmer and GX Councils and the leasing of Fulmer's Allotments to GX residents. The Clerk has requested the questions be forwarded before the meeting in time to research the information required.

Cllr S Chhokar reported that the proposed scheme for improvements to the access at KGFF had gone through to the next stage. Cllr Du Toit asked about the involvement of Bucks highways team for the highways part of the project. Cllr S Chhokar said he would talk to the Community Board manager to find out and the also the Community Board Highways Action Group who should give this activity its support.

Trees blown down during the recent storms were still being cleared by Bucks Council across the county. A planning application for a new Denham Film Studios in Hollybush Lane had been received. Cllr S Chhokar recommended Fulmer take part in the consultation PL/23/3252/OA. Cllr S Chhokar finished by asking for more attendance at Community Board meetings.

7. Finance & Governance:

The Clerk reported the Parish Precept as approved by the Council had been submitted. The Clerk had previously circulated the Financial Summaries, Budget Reports and Bank Reconciliation Reports for all the Fulmer Parish Council Accounts for the periods ending January 2024 which were accepted by the Parish Council. Copies of the Bank Reconciliation reports for each account are appended to these Minutes.

February Payments

| FPC | | Budgeted |
|--------------------------------------|---------|-----------------|
| Mailchimp subs | 14.94 | Y |
| Street light maintenance (January) | 33.60 | Y |
| Clerks salary, allowances & expenses | 2224.84 | Y |
| HMRC tax & NI | 561.79 | Y |
| Employers Pension contribution | 51.59 | Y |
| Payroll services | 15.00 | Y |
| Weekly Briefing | 145.00 | Y |
| Tractor Insurance | 348.91 | Y |
| Tree Surgery Allotments | 1464.00 | N |

TOTAL 4859.67

FSCA

| | |
|----------------------------|--------|
| Water rates the Studio | 51.72 |
| eDF electricity The Studio | 364.25 |
| The Studio rates | 76.00 |

TOTAL 440.25

TOTAL 5299.92

ACTION carried forward from 5th December:

Compare the new contract to the Clerk's existing contract and submit the review to the Chairman for his review.

Action: PV

8. Highways Maintenance & Environment:

Cllr Bocock reported he was still investigating the capacity of the bridge over the Alderbourne in relation to the weight and volume of the heavy goods vehicles travelling over it.

He had also visited the Rowley Lane site to look at the where the heavy traffic was coming from and going to.

The Chairman had met with the LAT and had an update about the ditches at the bottom of Cherry Tree Lane. The electrical cable in the culvert had been removed and was no longer connected making it now safe to clear the ditch and drain which had been completed, only to have it become blocked again but it had been cleared again. It was safe now to drive through the watersplash however the road itself was what is called 'failed.' Both this and the pothole outside in Windmill Road opposite the Mosque had been reported on FixMyStreet. The LAT was to be encouraged to ensure the ditches at the bottom of Cherry Tree Lane remained clear even if this required legal action on behalf of BC. A large number of number plates had also been found in the Watersplash and had been given to the Police. The Chairman had spoken to the resident at Fulmer Wood Farm re dredging his ditches, however it was still too wet for the machinery. The culvert at gate 2 of Fulmer Rise Estate ran under the road to the ditch at Fulmer Wood Farm. Cherry Tree Lane was going to get a culvert across Red Lodge then water from Black Park Road should drain into Cherry Tree Lane and eventually to the Alderbourne.

Following the earlier discussion on gritting it was decided to investigate the number and location of grit bins in the village.

ACTION:

- *Forward list of locations of grit bins to Cllr Bocock.*

Action: All

Cllr Du Toit reported she contacted the previous contractor of the footpath in Fulmer Rise, Irvine Grenson Ltd, to enquire as to whether they would be able to give a quote for further works on the footpath. They were not keen to give any further quotation and she suggested that the Council looks to other alternatives to get this work done, with Roots possibly quoting for the cutting back of the hedging. If carried out then the adjacent property West Hill should be asked to fund the removal. It was also suggested that wood chippings, freely available from Bucks Council may be a solution for the footpath surface. Cllr Robinson knew builders who might be interested in quoting for the work too.

ACTION carried forward from 5th December:

- *Forward details of the Speedwatch signs and purchase costs to the Clerk.*

Action: IB

Cllr Bocock had reported the footpath at Fulmer Chase Farm on FixMyStreet.

ACTION:

- *Report on FixMyStreet which directed the reporter to the Bucks Footpaths team.*

Action: IB

- *Once contractor in place liaise with Fulmer Rise Estate for the repair.*

Action: PV

9. Planning and Enforcement:

Three new Planning Applications for Fulmer had been registered since the last Council Meeting.

PL/24/0034/FA **Glen Erica, Cherry Tree Lane SL3 6JE**

Demolition of existing dwelling house and associated outbuildings and construction of a single dwelling with attached garage, with associated hard and soft landscaping.

The Council RESOLVED not to object.

PL/23/4164/SA **1 Church Row Cottages, Hay Lane SL3 6HW**

Certificate of Lawfulness for proposed log cabin following the demolition of two outbuildings.

The Council RESOLVED not to object.

PL/23/4147/FA **Larkwood, Alderbourne Lane SL0 0NS**

Extension to existing garage (part retrospective).

The Council RESOLVED to support the application. The council's understanding is that at 4.0m height this is a new planning application which has a valid existing fall-back permission with a ridge at 4.8m and – whilst this is not clear from the application seen by the council – that the applicant therefore has a claim to very special circumstances as the lower roof line would have a lesser impact on the Green Belt than the existent permission, all other things being equal. If the planning officer can determine that there is a valid higher fall-back permission and that all other things being equal the things council had no objection to this this new application and once implemented – for it to be a suitable disposal of the enforcement.

ACTION carried forward from 5th December:

- *Site visit to Small Acre.*

Action: KR, PV

Cllr Robinson had visited the Rowley Lane site with an environmentalist and a Cllr from Wexham Parish Council. Some soil had been gathered and tested which showed that cement dust was leeching into the environment. Also, the water course on site was green and needed testing. It was decided that the environmentalist should write in the first instance to Buck Council's Environment Officer expressing his concern about the pollution and the actions taken, together with the result. They should also ask for Bucks Council's help in having Bucks run their own tests and bring it to the attention of the Ward Cllr for Wexham.

Cllr Khanghura had previously circulated an update on all planning applications received, outstanding applications still requiring a decision and the progress of other applications. Details of these can be found at:

<https://pa-csb.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/online-applications/>
or email: planning.csb@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

10. Community Matters:

FSCA & KGFF: Cllr Du Toit had previously circulated a report on the progress of the developments at KGFF and the FSCA including the outline proposal to improve the access to King George's Fields which had now been submitted to the Community Board. Cllr Du Toit asked that the Council approve committing to investment in this project on the same terms as the previous arrangement made for the Fulmer Common Road verge car park. The opportunity represented a one-off time limited chance to secure nearly £30,000 of funding from Buckinghamshire council (the largest grant made by the Community Board) to make a material improvement to the access arrangements at the King George V Fields

DB

(Fulmer). It was noted that previously this would have been funded by donations but the timescale made this impossible to organise and there would be other projects to raise funding for. The FSCA agreed to repay the Fulmer Parish Council (FPC) contribution so there would be no net cost to the residents. A concern was raised about affordability. Cllr Du Toit confirmed that it was affordable and noted that the annual commitment was less than the current FPC grant. It was also noted that it was not ideal that the cost of the aborted plan's investigation fell in the budget but on balance the Council felt the benefit outweighed the cost. FPC will be the Community Board applicant and FSCA would manage the project. FSCA would consider whether an earlier repayment would be possible. A question was asked to confirm it was legal to commit to this level of funds and it was confirmed it was.

The Council RESOLVED, with one abstention, to invest 33% of the cost of the proposed scheme up to a maximum of £20,360.65 repayable by FSCA at £169.67 per calendar month starting on the 1st drawdown, at no interest until paid. The sums to be deducted from the FSCA grant if in arrears.

A request for funding of £3276.00 to carry out work to the hedging around the Allotments was deferred until the Autumn.

ACTION:

- Look into using volunteers for the Allotments hedging work.

Action: DB

ACTION carried forward from January 9th:

- Forward pictures of the entrance to local garden centre re signage to Cllr Du Toit.

Action: PV

ACTION carried forward from 18th July:

- Hold a meeting of the Allotments holders.

Action: PV

Speedwatch: Further Speedwatch sessions had been held. There were now seven volunteers. It was suggested a weekly score be published.

ACTION:

- Publicise Speedwatch activities.

Action: DB

11. Communications: There had been no communications from residents requiring a response from the Council which had not already been dealt with.

ACTION carried forward from October 10th:

- Investigate plaque options for the refurbished Parish Noticeboard.

Action: PV

ACTION carried forward from February 8th:

- Investigate which houses in Fulmer were not in the MailChimp database to find out whether they would like to be.

Action: PV

12. News & Activity from Local Government & other Community Partners: The Chairman and Clerk had continued to attend Local Government and Community meetings, details of which were available in the Council Dropbox.

Pinewood Studios had circulated their Year in Review of 2023. The support of Pinewood for Fulmer Fireworks featured. It was noted that a screening had been held at Pinewood for the residents of Iver. It was suggested that perhaps this year Fulmer might like to do the same.

ACTION:

- Discuss with Pinewood Studios for a screening in the Autumn.

Action: DB

The Chairman reported that attendance at the next BMKALC meeting was being encouraged in addition to Community Board meetings.

13. Date of next Meeting:

The next Parish Council meeting to be held Tuesday 5th March 2024 at 20.00hrs.

There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman closed the Meeting at 22:25 hrs.

Signed.....
D Brackin Chairman

Dated..... 5th Mar 2024