

**Minutes of Fulmer Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 9th January 2024
at the Cricket Pavilion, King George V Fields, Fulmer Common Road SL3 6JN at
8.00pm**

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

- 1. Declarations of interest:** There were no declarations of interest.
- 2. Apologies:** There were apologies from Buckinghamshire Cllr Mr Jaspal Chhokar and Fulmer Cllr Mrs Katherine Robinson.
- 3. Police Update:** There had been no updates from the Police. It was noted that the new Police Sergeant with responsibility for Fulmer would be starting this month, the Council awaited contact from him.
- 4. Public Quarter Hour:** The resident present reported that their caravan had been stolen, but had been found by the Rural Crime team in someone else's garden. The Chairman noted that this added to other recent reports of crimes in the same area. The resident also reported the overgrown hedges and bushes at the corner of Alderbourne Lane and Fulmer Common Road on what was already a difficult junction to see oncoming traffic. The Chairman committed to reporting it to the LAT as the resident at the property was currently not living there due building works. Parking on the mound at the bottom of Seven Hills Road was happening again particularly at the weekends when other parking around Black Park was full, despite the No Parking notices in place. This was leading to an increase in litter and dog excrement in the area. It was also reported that there had been no liaison from Pinewood Studios with the residents at Springfield Cottages. There had been fly tipping on the closed entrance to Pinewood Studios which was on Pinewood's land. The residents of Springfield Cottages had tried to inform Pinewood Studios but to no avail.

ACTION:

- *Inform Pinewood Studios about the fly tipping.*

Action: DB



5. **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held 5th December 2023:** The Minutes having been previously circulated prior to the Meeting were reviewed and 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 following the revised submission of the request for funding from the Community Board for improvements to the access at the King George's Fields was being worked on by the Community Board manager. She would give her feedback to Cllr Du Toit and then go back to the Bucks internal committee for support. Cllr Chhokar was meeting with the Community Board manager the following day to catch up on progress.

Cllr Chhokar asked if the Council would be commenting on the planning appeal at The Birches? The Council had not commented on the original application and decided to maintain that position. Because the site was uninhabited the foliage at the junction of Stoke Common Road and Windmill Road was blocking the view up Windmill Road when looking for oncoming traffic.

ACTION:

- *Report to the LAT.*

Action: DB

The Council informed Cllr Chhokar that the fallen tree in Windmill Road had in the end been cleared by volunteers because Bucks didn't have the capacity to attend and clear it. Several vehicles had driven into it overnight. The tree belonged to the Mosque. This was the second tree that had fallen from their property. It was suggested that they have the trees bordering Windmill Road inspected.

The potholes in the road by the Church had been reported on FixMyStreet but were apparently not yet large enough to be repaired.

Cllr Chhokar reported that there was an ongoing review of the Community Boards with a view to reducing the number of Boards, the decision was expected by the end of March 2024.

Cllr Chhokar reminded the Council of the Bucks Council flooding hot line for flooded roads etc. 01296 382406 during office hours and 01296 486630 out of hours.

Cllr Chhokar reported that he had been in touch regarding Broadband for Fulmer. He also informed the Council of the £200,000 available in grants from the Police & Crime Commissioner's Fund new round of funding.

Buckinghamshire Council would be publishing its finance plan and consequent effect on the services it provided soon.

7. **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.

The Chairman informed the Council that he had put himself forward as a candidate to become a Bucks Unitary Councillor for the Farnhams and Stoke Poges Ward at the next Local Council elections.

8. **Finance & Governance:**

The proposed increase in the Parish Precept had previously been circulated.

The Council RESOLVED to approve a 3% increase in the Parish Precept for 2023-24.

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

DB

December which were accepted by the Parish Council. Copies of the Bank Reconciliation reports for each account are appended to these Minutes.

January Payments

FPC		Budgeted
Mailchimp subs	14.94	Y
Street light maintenance (January)	33.60	Y
Clerk's salary, allowances & expenses	2047.89	Y
HMRC tax & NI	556.54	Y
Employers Pension contribution	51.23	Y
Payroll services	15.00	Y
Weekly Briefing	145.00	Y
Councils Direct subscription	120.00	Y
TOTAL	2984.20	

FSCA

Water rates the Studio	51.72
eDF electricity The Studio	307.72
The Studio rates	76.00
Pitch maintenance	428.71
Aggregate car park repair	360.00
TOTAL	1172.43

TOTAL 4156.63

The Clerk reported that a new Model Contract of Employment for local government officers including Clerks and RFOs had been issued by the National Association of Local Councils. The changes to the document brought the contract in line with changes in employment law and best practices within the local government sector.

ACTION:

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

Action: PV

9. Highways Maintenance & Environment:

The main issue affecting residents was still potholes which were being reported on FixMyStreet.

There was still concern re the heavy traffic coming through the village, both its weight and volume. It was suggested that the strength of the bridge over the Alderbourne be investigated and a condition report carried out. Also, the top surface needed repair.

ACTION:

- Forward list of discussion topics for the Chairman's meeting with the LAT. To include overgrown hedges at road junctions, pot holes, the bridge over the Alderbourne, flooding of roads and the renewal of white lines and other road markings.

Action: DB

The chairman suggested further Speedwatch sessions and encouraging more people to do the training. He also asked if any data had been downloaded from the MVAS yet? The answer was not yet.

DB

ACTION carried forward from 5th December:

- Forward details of the Speedwatch signs and purchase costs to the Clerk. **Action: IB**
The footpath at Fulmer Chase Farm was overgrown. The Clerk had written but had been informed that the ownership of the property had changed and no-one was living there.

ACTION:

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

Action: IB

Cllr Du Toit reported the Beeches Way footpath in the Fulmer Rise Estate section was showing signs of needing repair and the shrubbery, mostly rhododendron on the West Hill side was growing over the path. She informed the Council that monies had been set aside for this eventuality that could be used for more aggregate. The Clerk commented that she had written to the residents at West Hill regarding the overgrowth but had received no reply.

ACTION:

- Contact the previous contractors to repair the footpath. **Action: LdT**
- Liaise with Fulmer Rise Estate for the repair. **Action: PV**
- Forward previous communication with West Hill to the Chairman **Action: PV**
The Clerk had written to the resident at Fulmer Wood Farm requesting assistance with the clearance of the ditches surrounding KGF and the allotments together with pictures but had received no reply.

ACTION:

- Write again to the resident asking for assistance. **Action: PV**

10. Planning and Enforcement:

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

PL/23/4124/FA

Holly Cottage, Fulmer Common Road SL3 6JN

Demolition of existing house and erection of a new house.

The Council RESOLVED not to object.

ACTION carried forward from 5th December:

- Site visit to Small Acre. **Action: KR, PV**

The Chairman reported that the West London Model Aeroplane Club had been in touch to report that their temporary permission to operate at The Pickeridge for three years was to be renewed.

It was noted that nothing was happening at The Pickeridge Farm or Fulmer Hall. It was also suggested that the building regulations and planning permission granted for Kingsmead be checked.

The owner of Larkwood had asked that the Council support a retrospective planning application for a revised garage.

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.chilternandsouthbucks.gov.uk/online-applications/>

or email: planning@chilternandsouthbucks.gov.uk

11. Community Matters:

- **FSCA & KGFF:** Cllr Du Toit had previously circulated a report on the progress of the developments at KGFF and the FSCA including an outline proposal to improve the access to King George's Fields. Cllr Du Toit explained that a double gate to widen the access had been considered but had proven impractical and very expensive and would not be able to open and close electronically. She had been advised by Arkwright who had installed the new gate at the Village Hall. She was still waiting to find out if the Community Board were going to consider the proposal. Since a two way exit and entry was not possible the Clerk suggested that like an entrance to a garden centre priority was given to traffic coming in from the main road. Cllr Du Toit was hoping for informal approval of the ballpark costs so that they could then move forward to obtain detailed numbers and approval. They were waiting for all parties indicative to move to all parties detailed then delegation to the FSCA.

Quotes had been obtained by the Clerk to change the retail water supplier at both the Clubhouse and Studio as well as the Allotments. These had previously been circulated to the Council. The decision to be delegated to the FSCA as they were the main user.

The tree works for the allotments were to start on 10th January, a quote was being asked for work on the allotment hedges.

Progress was being made on the Cess Pit problems and a new footpath had been laid today.

ACTION:

- *Forward pictures of the entrance to the garden centre to Cllr Du Toit.* **Action: PV**
- **Allotments:** The Clerk reported Gerrards Cross Town Council had been invoiced for their share of the maintenance of the Allotments.

ACTION carried forward from 18th July:

- *Hold a meeting of the Allotments holders.* **Action: PV**

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

Cllr Hall-Drinkwater reported that cars had been locked in the Village Hall car park and no-one knew the code to open the gate to get to them. Consequently, several people, old and with mobility issues had been unable to drive their own cars home late at night. It had happened twice now in a six-week period.

It was noted that the Village Hall management committee was looking for a new Treasurer.

ACTION:

- *Write to Village Hall committee and Trustees.* **Action: DB**

ACTION carried forward from October 10th:

- *Investigate plaque options for the refurbished Parish Noticeboard.* **Action: PV**

ACTION carried forward from June 13th:

- *Contact Stoke Poges Clerk to investigate the availability of the distribution list and to volunteer to included Stoke Poges, the Farnhams and Wexham, following the new Ward Boundary changes.* **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**

13. Date of next Meeting:

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

There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman closed the Meeting at 22:29 hrs.

Signed.....
D Brackin Chairman

Dated 5th Feb 2024.....