

Minutes of Fulmer Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 5th December 2023 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 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 using the Zoom videoconferencing platform.	

- 1. Declarations of interest:** The Chairman declared an interest as the proprietor of a company supplying administrative services to the Council. There were no other declarations of interest.
- 2. Apologies:** There were apologies from Buckinghamshire Cllr Mr Jaspal Chhokar.
- 3. Police Update:** The following three notifications had been received from Thames Valley Police:
 - Details of Operation Grotto.
 - A consultation on Police Budgeting
 - A consultation on Cybercrime.The Chairman reported that a new Police Sergeant had been appointed to start in January, Hedley Gabriel.
- 4. Public Quarter Hour:** There were no questions or issues raised for the PQH.
- 5. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held 10th October 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 J Chhokar had circulated his report prior to the meeting.
 - He had met with Cllr Du Toit and Community Board Manager to discuss possible car parking schemes for King George's Fields (Fulmer).
 - At the recent Community Board meeting there had been a discussion of getting high speed broadband and 5G connectivity to those areas currently not well served, including Fulmer.

- He had been in touch with a Stoke Poges Unitary Councillor regarding the issue of the HGVs from Rowley Lane passing through Fulmer. The Councillor is planning to take it to a higher level.
- There is a consultation open on Bucks Housing Strategy. Cllr Chhokar urged everyone to have their say.
- Following the capital projects meeting in October Hawkswood lane has been added to the failed roads programme for the repairs to the damaged stretch. The Common Road requires discussion with the Stoke Poges Unitary councillor due to it being in both Parishes.
- An enforcement notice had been issued for a property in Fulmer.

Cllr Du Toit questioned Cllr S Chhokar about the information required by the Community Board for the car parking project. She was very concerned that a proposal could be finalised in the timescales given by the Community Board. Cllr Chhokar explained that process. The timescales were tight owing to it being near the end of the financial year and the monies allocation could not be rolled forward to the next financial year. He also explained there was some flexibility but the detail was needed by January or February at the latest, Community Board Manager would work with Fulmer to help produce the proposal, following which it would be fast tracked through the due diligence process. Concerns were also expressed about the amount of money that would be required versus that available.

Cllr Simkins asked Cllr Chhokar about the progress on the Broadband project. He reported that at the recent Community Board meeting it had been agreed to hold a workshop. The provider needed Fulmer's information; he would obtain the contact detail and pass to Cllr Simkins. Cllr Khanghura asked the question as to whether the project would be better served by a top-down approach? He also asked how the important areas were going to be prioritised?

Cllr Chhokar also reported that prioritising funding for capital projects for Highways was under way.

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

Cllr Simkins reported the Village Newsletter had been published and distributed.

The Clerk reported the Village Noticeboard had been refurbished and suggested a plaque of the new Fulmer Crest be affixed to it.

ACTION carried forward from October 10th:

- Investigate plaque options.

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

- 8. 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 reported that Bucks Council Senior Policy officer, Simon Garwood was leaving to become a Town Clerk in Oxfordshire. The Chairman referenced the support that Simon had given to Fulmer in his time at Bucks.

The Chairman had attended a meeting of SBALC, also attended by Bucks Cabinet Member for Communities, Arif Hussain. The Chairman commented that direct relationships built with Bucks Council Officers worked well.

9. Finance & Governance:

The Chairman left the meeting and Cllr Simkins assumed the Chair. The potential conflict of interest regarding the supply of Pandora's services to the Council was discussed by the Council. It was agreed to continue to use the services Pandora provided to the Council and no conflict of interest existed, there being no financial benefit to the Chairman.

Following the return of the Chairman the use of Pandora's services to further help with those in the village who contributed hours of work voluntarily organising village events was discussed. It was agreed to investigate having Pandora provide some low level of support to the 'super volunteers.'

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

December Payments

FPC		Budgeted
Mailchimp subs	14.94	Y
Street light maintenance (December)	33.60	Y
Clerks salary, allowances & expenses	2307.85	Y
HMRC tax & NI	842.83	Y
Employers Pension contribution	68.43	Y
Payroll services	15.00	Y
Weekly Briefing	145.00	Y
SLCC subscription	238.00	Y
Newsletter	440.00	Y
Haslams Padel Court advice	450.00	N
Swarco MVAS fixing kit	92.50	Y
Grit Bin Allotments and Scouts land	185.42	N
TOTAL	4105.65	
FSCA		
Water rates the Studio	51.72	
eDF electricity The Studio	113.63	
The Studio rates	76.00	
Haslams Padel Court advice	450.00	
GX&FFC overpayment	101.60	
CEF Floodlights x 2	573.48	
Grit Bin KGFF with grit and spreader etc.	185.42	
TOTAL	1500.13	
TOTAL	5605.78	

DB

The Clerk had previously circulated the proposed budget for the Municipal year 2024-25 following the meeting of the Finance Committee. The Chairman explained the budget and that the Council would be using reserves in order not to increase the Precept for the year despite increases in prices from suppliers to the Council in order to slow the impact of rising process on residents. In addition, the Council agreed to increase the King George's Fields grant from £3000 to £5000. The Chairman reminded the Council of the budget process, following approval of the budget the Council had to assess expenditure proposals against the budget and then approve subject to recurring expenditure.

The Council RESOLVED to approve the proposed budget.

The Chairman asked for approval to purchase the badges, cufflinks and lapel pins as discussed at the last council meeting.

The Council RESOLVED to approve the expenditure on the Council Insignia of £793.70.

The Chairman suggested that the next Annual Parish meeting format be changed to encourage more attendance and engagement from the residents. It was proposed the date be moved to Friday 17th May 2024 and be combined with a community event. The Council approved the proposal.

Cllr Du Toit has asked the Parish Council to approve payment of half of the cost of the invoice by Haslams lawyers who were engaged in the discussion regarding the padel Lease as they were engaged on behalf of both KGFF and the Council acting in its capacity as the Custodian Trustee.

The Council RESOLVED to pay £375 towards the cost.

10. Highways Maintenance & Environment:

- A resident had written to the Council suggesting that a 20mph speed limit be introduced to Fulmer village.
- The MVAS was awaiting installation.
- The Chairman reported that news had got back to him from neighbouring parishes about the success of the recent Speedwatch sessions in Fulmer.

Cllr Bocock wanted to install Community Speedwatch signs in the village.

ACTION:

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

Action: IB

Cllr Bocock also suggested that many of the white lines throughout the village needed repainting.

ACTION:

- *Forward details of the white lines and markings to the LAT.*

Action: PV

Residents in Fulmer Rise had been asked to resolve the issue with flooding from their properties and the LAT was helping particularly with the flooding in Cherry Tree Lane. The Chairman was also in conversation with another resident re the flooding and ditching at Redoak house. There had been reports of road signs obscured by vegetation which need to be reported on FixMyStreet. Also, a letter regarding the hedge cutting in Fulmer Road which had not been very good should be forwarded to the LAT.

11. Planning and Enforcement:

Six new Planning Applications for Fulmer had been registered since the last Council Meeting of which two were still active.

PL/23/3216/AGN Land North and East of Gatehouse Small Acres Farm, Stoke Common Road SL3 6HB

Notification of agricultural or forestry development under Schedule 2, Part 6 of the Town and Country Planning (General permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 for: pole barn.

Before making a decision the Council wanted a site visit.

ACTION:

- Site visit to Small Acres.

Action: KR, PV

PL/23/3224/KA St James Church, Windmill Road SL3 6HD

G1 western red cedar – reduce height by approximately 3.5-4m, crown lift lower branches off shed roof on Black Horse pub side up to 1m above shed roof, trim back lower branches where physically accessible and match in where possible to prevent 'ledge' shape appearance, crown lift lower branches/canopy off gravestones up to 3m from ground level and trim back match in lower branches to avoid 'ledge shape' appearance. (Conservation Area: Fulmer). Erection of a 2.4m perimeter fence around residential estate.

The Council RESOLVED not to object.

PL/23/3360/CONDA Land Adjacent to Alderbourne House, Fulmer Lane SL9 7BL

Approval of condition 1 (Contamination) of planning permission PL/20/3534/PNAD – Prior Notification under Class Q of Part 3, Schedule 2 of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 for conversion of existing agricultural building into a single dwellinghouse.

The Council RESOLVED not to object.

PL/23/3566/PNE Rhode Cottage, Windsor Road SL9 8SW

Notification under the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015, Part 1 of Schedule 2 Class A for: single storey rear extension (depth extending from the original rear wall of 6.00 metres, maximum height 3.80 metres, eaves height 5.53 metres).

The Council RESOLVED not to object.

The Enforcements list, having been circulated by Cllr Robinson, was discussed in detail. It was noted a retrospective planning application had been submitted at a property recently subject to Enforcement and another property recently subject to enforcement had been sold at auction. [Post meeting note: sold by Savills on November 1st for £355,000]. It was decided to write to the concrete company in Rowley Lane regarding the HGVs driving recklessly through the village.

ACTION:

- Write to concrete company

Action: KR, IB

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

12. Community Matters:

- **Speedwatch:** A session planned for 26th November had to be cancelled due to lack of available volunteers. Previous sessions had been held on 3rd and 12th October. However, the heavy rain in subsequent weeks had meant no additional sessions took place. Cllr

Bocock reported he expected two additional speed watch sessions to be approved in December, to be located in Fulmer Common Road, close to the King George's Fields. Cllr Bocock asked for approval to purchase Speedwatch signs for the display in the village and approach roads at a cost of £13 each, about 20 initially. They would be affixed to the speed roundel posts for each speed limit, whether 30 or 40 m.p.h. He also enquired about the cost of painting dragons teeth on the road surface adjacent to the boundary gate in Fulmer Common Road, repainting the slow down and 30 roundels on the same road and repainting the stop line at the end of Fulmer Common Road. Where the above signs existed, they were faded or missing and needed to be refreshed as motorists were clearly ignoring them.

Following a discussion, it was decided to install the MVAS in Fulmer Common Road on a repeater sign 150 yards from the recreation ground.

- **FSCA & KGFF:** Cllr Du Toit had previously circulated a report on the progress of the developments at KGFF and the FSCA including a thorough report on the successful Fireworks event written by volunteer Linda McKenzie.

The Council decided to write to Linda McKenzie thanking her for the detailed report and all her hard work this year in organising community events at KGFF.

Cllr Du Toit asked that future community events be underwritten financially by the Parish Council. The Council said it was minded to do so if it was provided with details of the events.

ACTION:

- *Forward details of the events at KGFF to the Council.*

Action: LdT

Cllr Du Toit asked for details of the contractor for the electric gates supplied to the Village Hall recently as the FSCA was investigating electronic gates to KGFF. The Clerk sent these details to her. It was also suggested that somewhat belated KGFF should have gate posts and a plaque with its KGFF status at its entrance.

The cost of the car parking project was discussed and Cllr Du Toit asked if the Council would be willing to support the new project on the same basis as agreed for the original project, still committing to match 35% of the monies received from the Community Biard. The financial contribution, as compared with the Studio was discussed. Other elements of the discussion included the capacity of the entrance to withstand public service vehicles including the entrance from Windmill Road. The request was for support up to £20,000 payable back over ten years. Cllr Hall-Drinkwater expressed concerns about using reserves the Council was trying to build up and Cllr Simkins suggested fund raising for the monies. Cllr Du Toit was also going to get quote for work on the hedge which had been neglected for too many years. The Council required more information. However, it voted to indicate its support to the FSCA to continue to obtain more options.

ACTION carried forward from 18th July:

- *Hold a meeting of the Allotments holders.*

Action: PV

13. Date of next Meeting:

The next Parish Council meeting to be held Tuesday 9th January 2024 at 20.00hrs.

There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman closed the Meeting at 22:51 hrs.

Signed.....

D Brackin

Chairman

Dated..... 9 Jan 2024