

Minutes of the Annual General meeting of the PC held at the Village Hall on Tuesday 29th January, 2019 at 7.30pm.

Present were Nicky Brooks, Mark Walker, Alan Wilson, Eileen Mawle, Martin Wilson & Simon Stace plus Charles Matthew & eleven members of the public.

Apologies for absence received from Carl Rylett, West Oxfordshire District Councillor.

Declarations of Interest: Declarations of Interest were made by Alan Wilson and Mark Walker as landowners in the parish. Eileen Mawle stated that she no longer has a declarable interest.

The public had come to discuss the contents of the leaked draft minutes for the December meeting. This related to overflow parking for the Village Hall required for larger events and the Parish Council's wish to explore alternatives to parking on the road. One alternative (thought to be favoured by the hall committee) is to use land within hall grounds in the vicinity of the chestnut tree. However, at the previous Parish Council meeting and as part of the parish's general investigations, the clerk was asked to write to the WODC planning dept. to ask their advice as to the possibility of using part of the village green for this purpose. The Parish Council had been alerted to this issue by the Village Hall Committee and therefore felt it was their duty to investigate all options, whether they turned out to be suitable or not, in as much detail as possible to be able to make a full report for consideration. Subsequently, it was realised that the village green was both common land and was further protected by our recently adopted Neighbourhood Plan as an Local Green Space.

A member of the public asked that the letter be withdrawn on the basis that it was flawed and went against the Neighbourhood Plan (NP). The chair said the letter could not be withdrawn but she would write stating that we no longer wished to carry this matter forward.

The same member of the public then made a lengthy criticism of the Council's procedures and lack of proper conduct. Councillor Stace left the meeting offering his resignation.

Points raised were answered.

Another member of the public was critical of the Parish Council not being sufficiently open in its procedures. It was pointed out that agendas and minutes of each meeting are displayed on the parish notice board by the pub and the minutes, once ratified, are always published on the website.

As a result of this input from the public, dates for the forthcoming 2019 meetings will be separately shown on the website as well as being available on the website calendar. The agendas will also be shown on the website.

Reference was made to the recent referendum when 92.4% of votes cast were in favour of the Neighbourhood Plan and which must be considered in future planning applications. The Neighbourhood Plan will be reviewed annually. The current Neighbourhood Plan is shown openly on the website and all the background information has been archived through the website.

The public then departed.

Minutes for the December meeting were signed as being a true record of proceedings.

MATTERS ARISING

Bus shelter. Will be moved from Northmoor to Shores Green today.

Flooding. Much work has already been completed but the following are still outstanding. The Parish Council will monitor that works completed dispel the flooding issues.

Ditch at High Cogges. OCC to be reminded they said they would return to jet the pipe.

Ditch in vicinity of level crossing. Work has been done and hopefully drainage will be improved. Clerk to write to David Brown, who raised the matter.

Lease of football field. Martin Wilson is still in contact with Savills.

PLANNING APPLICATION

Erection of first floor link at 76 Station Rd. Regarded as being over development of a prominent site. Incongruous and would change the character of the property.

AOB

Letterbox collection. Suggestion made that the large letter box in Station Road near the level crossing should be emptied at 4:00pm instead of the one at the Old Post Office unless Royal Mail is prepared to empty both.

Audit. The external auditor has concluded the audit and sent an invoice for £306.25 + VAT. This includes £106.25 for extra work which seems excessive. A cheque will be sent with a note about the extra charge.