

# **FIFEHEAD MAGDALEN PARISH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2019 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall**

**Present:** Chair: David Redwood, Guest: Jane Westbrook,

Peter Custard, Andrew Lakeman, Jeanne Lakeman, Adrian Exton, Anita Exton, Angela Stevens, Mac LaFosse, Valerie LaFosse, Roger Trevor, Dee Trevor, Thomas Trevor, Jason Trevor, Dylan Trevor, Geoff Merrick, Rosemary Redwood, Alix Brooke, Helen Mera, Peter Mera, Chris Vallance, Karen Vallance, Bill Bryson, Bob Shirley, Allison Shirley, Jane Grimes

Scrivener: Patsy Merrick

## **1. Election of Chairman**

David Redwood asked if anyone other than himself wished to stand for Chair of Parish. No one else came forward. DR was proposed by Helen Mera and seconded by Patsy Merrick. A vote was held and DR was unanimously voted in as Chair.

## **2. Apologies for absence**

Peter and Rose Figgins, Ian and Katherine Massey, Andrew and Jaqueline Duncan

## **3. Declaration of interests**

DR assured the meeting that he had no pecuniary interests to declare.

## **4. Minutes of the previous meeting**

The minutes of the meeting of November 2018 were proposed, seconded and unanimously voted to be a correct and accurate record.

## **5. Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising from the floor.

As a follow up to the matter of signage, DR reported that an additional sign for pedestrians with children walking in road had been added on the hill leading down to Middle Farm. Also extra signage before the "S" bends warning that traffic may be in the centre of the road.

Trill Bridge has been repaired but since then somebody has knocked a stone out of the bridge and in a separate fly tipping incident, a mass of bricks, and other debris has been duped in the river. The incidents have been reported.

## **6. Presentation of the Annual Accounts for 2017-18**

### **Acceptance and approval of the Accounts**

DR presented the accounts. The precept remains the same as last year. DR has replaced the light and fitting in the phone box and will be recompensed for that. (Approx. £10)

Andrew Lakeman proposed, Thomas Trevor seconded and all unanimously approved the accounts.

## **7. Governance Statement**

### **Acceptance and approval of the statement.**

DR presented the statement, which remains unchanged since last year:

In my roles as both Chairman of Fifehead Magdalen Parish Meeting and the Responsible Financial Officer I am required to ensure that there is a transparent and effective system of internal controls that meet the needs of the Parish whilst safeguarding public funds in accordance with the relevant statutory financial regulations.

The controls are:

- The Parish accounts are available for inspection, with prior notice, at any reasonable time throughout the year.
- All payments are endorsed by an authorised counter signatory.
- Accounts will be posted onto the Parish website.
- Estimated annual spending requirements (the Precept) will be agreed each year.
- The Annual Governance Statement required by the external auditors will be presented for approval at the annual Parish Meeting.

Signed and dated.....

Helen Mera proposed and Karen Vallance seconded. All unanimously approved the statement.

## **8. Cheque signatories and internal auditor**

DR informed the meeting that Peter Mera, and Bill Bryson are current counter-signatories and Geoff Merrick is the internal auditor. All are prepared to continue in these roles. Dee Trevor proposed, Thomas Trevor seconded and all were unanimously voted in to continue in these roles.

## **9. Village Matters**

**Solar Farm:** To date approximately 160 objections and 3 supports have been logged onto the DCC planning portal. The comment date has been extended to May 17<sup>th</sup>. DR gave a summary of meetings with neighbouring parishes that he'd attended and of the planning process that will follow the planning officer's decision.

Surveys of the road coming into the village from the A30 to the entrance of the proposed development have been undertaken, including measuring of ingresses, notes of large trees and hedges. It is unknown who these have been done for. It is possible that a traffic movement assessment may be required by the Highways Agency, as the volume of traffic is heavy and fast for a C Road.

There has been press coverage of this matter in the Blackmore Vale, The Shaftesbury and Gillingham News, The Times and a forthcoming article may appear in the Daily Mail.

Andrew Lakeman proposed that our Parish might make a financial contribution to the Stour Provost fighting fund which will pay for environmental, heritage and visual impact assessments to challenge those produced by the applicant. Jason Trevor stated that the Solar Farm is the biggest threat to the village that has occurred in his lifetime. A sum of £1,000 from the precept was proposed by Andrew Lakeman, seconded by Anita Exton and carried unanimously.

Jane Westbrook thought that a letter from the Chair of the Parish opposing the Solar Farm on the Council website might be helpful. This was proposed by Karen Vallance, seconded by Dee Trevor and carried unanimously.

## **10. Any other Business**

**Highways:** David Redwood has reported to the Council that there is a long, deep trench at the edge of the road on the north side of the bend opposite the Barn conversions, coming into the village from the A30.

**Cemetery Maintenance:** A request for £600 from the precept was made by Rosemary Redwood for cemetery maintenance. Andrew Lakeman proposed and Helen Mera seconded. This was unanimously agreed on.

**Fifehead Record update:** Rosemary Redwood asked everyone to get their replies to Luca and Sarah Wallis by the end of the month.

**Travellers:** Jane Westbrook continues her good work and reports that within a year the blocking of travellers to the layby at Five Bridges may be complete. This may require donations from the precepts of several Parishes.

A vote of thanks, from the meeting, is given to Peter and Helen Mera for financing the cutting of the cemetery hedge, grubbing out old roots and reseeding bare earth and to Andrew Lakeman for grass mowing and hedge trimming in the churchyard and cemetery.

## **11. Date of next meeting**

Sometime in November.

Thanks were given to Jane Westbrook for attending and to DR for his ongoing work.

DR acknowledges the fine scribing by PM.

The meeting closed at 8.10pm.