

Fifehead Magdalen Parish Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on

Thursday 26th November at 2015 at 7.00pm

Chair: David Redwood (DR)

In attendance

Chris Vallance (CV), Karin Valence, Jeannie Lakeman, Andrew Lakeman (AL), Pat Hopkinson (PH), Neil Hopkinson, Rosie Belsham (RB), Rose Figgins (RF), Pete Figgins, Robin Longland (RL), Rosemary Redwood (RR), Mary Sturgess, Geoff Merrick, Thomas Trevor (TT), Dee Trevor (DT), Patsy Merrick scribe

Agenda item 1: Apologies

Helen and Peter Mera, Jaqueline and Andrew Duncan, Valerie Burnham, Roger and Jo Trevor, Sally Waters, Angela Stevens

Agenda item 2: Declaration of Interests

DR declared that he had no pecuniary interests.

Agenda Item 3: Minutes of the previous meeting of 19th May 2015

RL stated that Sally Waters requested that two changes be made to these minutes:

Pg 3 Para 2 SW did not request the contents of the letter to DR to be read to the meeting. DR asked SW if she had any objections to him reading it out to the meeting.

Pg 3 Para 4 This para is incomplete. The reason for SW's non reply was that DR had already stated in his letter to her that ; *"I shall henceforth not spend my time, effort and money mowing your precious piece of grass."*

AL proposed that, with these changes, the minutes be accepted as true, record of the meeting. TT seconded and the assembled voted unanimously that the minutes were true. (Please note that these changes to the May meeting have been made by the scribe.)

Agenda Item 4: Matters arising

There were no further matters arising.

Agenda Item 5: Approval of audited accounts as accepted by the external auditor BDO LLP

RH proposed, AL seconded, all voted in favour.

Agenda Item 6: Budget for 2015-16

DR showed the cashbook and all supported it with a forecast for the following year..

Agenda Item 7: Precept for 2015/16

DR suggested that the precept should remain the same, namely £1300. Proposed by AL and seconded by PH. Agreement was unanimous.

Agenda Item 8: Report on parish matters

Finger Post: DR has repaired the finger post, which had two arms rotting, for a total cost of £43.01p

Village Signs: John Witcome in speaking with DR a short while ago, has volunteered to keep clean the village sign on Trill Lane and DR has volunteered to clean the sign opposite Jane Grimes' chapel.

Road sweeper: at DR's request, a council road sweeper has cleaned the gutters throughout the village.

Drain clearance: the road drain outside Peter Custard's house has been cleared out as have the other problematic drains in the village.

Footpath next to The Old School House: Following a request from DR, Mr Graham Stanley, Senior Ranger with Dorset Countryside met with DR, AL and GM to inspect the footpath N61/N from the lane by the Old School House and down through the kissing gate and onwards through Roger Trevor's Centenary copse. Mr Stanley thought he stood a fair chance of securing agreement and funding to repair this part of the Stour Valley Way by laying a thick path of scalplings with ditches to channel the water away from the path. He also pointed out that the land owner (Roger Trevor)/tenant is responsible for maintaining the hedgerow and that the top strand of barbed wire on the field side of the footpath be replaced by plain wire thus eliminate the risk of walkers damaging their hands in the event of falls and stumbles. He has also suggested that he will seek funding to replace the kissing gate, with a latched gate – keeping the plaque with Joy Gorman's name. (She originally paid for the kissing gate.) DR will talk to RT about this when RT is in better health. TT agreed with the suggestions and will talk to the tenant farmer using that field.

Previous to the meeting, GM had floated the idea of siting a bench in the copse. Naturally this would depend on the outcome of the footpath remediation. The meeting was in agreement that this was indeed a good suggestion given available funding through donations, fund raising and parish funds.

Signage on village roads: Several signs have been requested by parishioners (old people walking in road, sign for sharp corner by church and further speed restriction signs.) However, it is now the County Council's policy to reduce sign clutter in rural settings therefore these will not happen.

Henstridge: DR has lodged an appeal with SSDC against the latest application from the airfield to expand airfield activities including raising the weight restriction on aircraft from 3,500Kg to 5,000Kg and again seek to perform practice aerobatics above the airfield for 40 minutes a day for a significant part of the year. DR's appeal can be viewed here:

<http://cip.southsomerset.gov.uk/Planning/lg/GFPlanningViewDocumentInDialog.page?DocNo=7643943>

DR also gave a summary of his attendance at the annual Henstridge Airfield Meeting. DR disagrees with the way in which complaints are dealt with re flights over the villages. Villagers who see planes overflying can lodge their complaints with Mr Jarvis at : mail@gp-services.net Refer to the pilots' permitted routes here:

<http://www.henstridgeairfield.com/flyingtohenstridge.htm>

Dogs on farmland: RL is very concerned and upset because dog walkers, who have not kept their dogs on leads, are guilty of driving five of his sheep into the river, only two of whom survived. Dogs have also torn out the throats of several sheep over the years, killing them. RL thinks that Fifehead villagers are not guilty of this crime and that people from West Stour may be culpable of this, in addition to illegally cutting through his barbed wire fences. He asks that we are all vigilant, stop any of these acts if we see people with dogs off leads, or wire cutters, and let him know about these acts, particularly if we can name these people. If he has names he can take action against them and would prefer to do this rather than shooting dogs running free – which is his right as a farmer with livestock. The assembled were in full support.

Agenda Item 9: Any other business

RR proposed that £600 from the Precept be donated to the church for garden maintenance of the small Cemetery on Village Road. PM seconded. The move was passed unanimously.

DT informed the village that she had just attended a Church Wardens meeting and been told that our current Vicar will be leaving. This will make life for church-goers, the PCC and supporters of the church awkward for some time, as it takes two years before a new Vicar can be appointed.

Agenda Item 10: Date of next meeting

To be decided upon.

As there was no further business, the meeting closed at 7.45pm

Page 2 of 2