

Fritcham cum Appleton Parish Council

Minutes of Council Meeting held on 13th September 2011 in the Community Centre, Fritcham.

Present: Mr Richard Gray – Chairman
Mr Roger Glazebrook
Mr Geoff Kilham
Miss Toni Kavanagh
Mr Mike Tilbury (Borough Councillor)

Apologies: John Dobson (County Council)

Election Of Vice Chairman:

Proposed by Geof Kilham and seconded by Richard Gray, Roger Glazebrook was elected as Vice Chairman.

Minutes of Previous meeting:

Agreed.

Public Question Time:

Terry Allen had a question in relation to co-opting members onto the Council to fill vacancies on the council. He stated that if ten people write to the returning officer then an election should be held to elect persons to fill the vacancies. If not persons can be co-opted onto the Council. He referred to the Braintree Council website and page 86 of the Good Councillors Guide. It was agreed that we would notify the returning officer that 3 vacancies exist.

Matters arising From Previous Meeting:

Discussion ensued around the fact that the Council previously paid for grasscutting in the childrens' playground had shown interest in cash rather than by cheque. This resulted in a non-open method of payment by the cheque being made out to someone other than the recipient of the payment. It was stressed that such payments were properly made and had previously been authorised by the Council but that it was bad practice to do it in that way. It was agreed that all future payments should be made in such a way that it was clear to whom the payment is being made. Geoff Kilham has spoken to the person who does the grasscutting and she is happy to be paid by cheque

Richard Gray stated that he had written letters to those who had shown an interest in applying for the post of Parish Clerk. It was agreed that they should be invited to interviews to be held in the Community Centre at 7pm on Tuesday 20th September.

Previous cheque signatories had now left the Council and it was agreed that the Chairman, Vice Chairman and new Parish Clerk, when elected, should be the new signatories with any 2 out of the 3 being required to sign all cheques on behalf of the Council.

Auditor:

It was asked if we should have a properly accredited Auditor to check the council's accounts yearly instead of the practice we now have. It was noted that the Audit Commission appoint Mazars. Mike Tilbury stated that the practice that we have now is suitable because it is meant as a first independent check.

The Parish:

The Parish does not only cover Flitcham and is described variously as 'Flitcham Parish Council', 'Flitcham with Appleton Parish Council' and 'Flitcham cum Appleton Parish Council'. It includes Appleton and Harpley Dams. It was agreed that we, as a council, would be consistent and use the 'Flitcham cum Appleton Parish Council' name. Arrangements were being made to ensure that the monthly newsletter would be delivered to both Appleton and Harpley Downs.

Mike Tilbury was asked if we could get a copy of the electoral roll for the Council members. He stated that it is difficult because the Appleton electors vote at West Newton and appear on the West Newton list, He would try to obtain copies,

Report of Borough Council Member:

Mike Tilbury reported that Norfolk County Council are relying on PFI to finance the proposed incinerator. To do that they have to show that there is strong support in the community for the project. To overcome the overwhelming vote in the Borough against it the County Council had written to Parish Councils all over Norfolk for their (expected supportive) views. The majority were not in favour of the idea. The Government will have to make a decision whether to support the project or not. If they decline to do so then the County Council could still go ahead using loans and own funds.

The anti - incinerator groups are going for a judicial review and the Judge is setting a date for that in September.

In relation to planning permission for the project, NCC are inviting comments but has not determined the issue yet. If it does grant planning permission there is likely to be another Judicial review.

We are likely to get very soon the Local Development Framework which is out for consultation. We need to have a view on it by our next meeting. There are no proposals for development in Fritcham.

Briefholders Reports:

Nothing to report except Toni Kavanagh is to write 'Green' articles for the newsletter and Roger Glazebrook reports that the Emergency Plan is in the early stages.

Any other business:

Toni Kavanagh asked how the newsletter was paid for. She was informed that Andrew gives his time freely to produce it and that his son Callum normally delivers it. We just provide the paper. We have a few adverts as 'fillers' but we do not encourage adverts because we wanted to keep it to one A4 sheet of paper.

There was a general view that rubbish and recycling bins should not be left on the footpath except when collection due because of the obstruction caused.

Geoff Kilham reported that the childrens' playground is due for inspection and that he would expect the report and bill to be available at next meeting.

It was proposed by Geoff Kilham and supported by all present that the chairman should write to Buffy Ross and Sue Allen thanking the all the work they had done on the Parish Council.

It was agreed that the next clerk should have a proper contract and Toni Kavanagh volunteered to contact NALC to obtain a specimen contract.

Next Meeting:

Tuesday 8th November at 7.45pm.

There being no other business, the meeting was closed.