

FIMBER PARISH COUNCIL
Parish Council Meeting -7th February 2005

Present

R Lambert, J Megginson, M Walker, G Thompson, P Leese. Apologies; A Baxter and M Patterson.

Peter Leese in the Chair and J French –Clerk/ minute taker

Minutes of the previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved and signed as a true record.

Open Meeting

Tribute to Ted Wilkinson

PL opened the meeting and paid tribute to the late Ted Wilkinson who passed away at Christmas after a long fight against illness. Ted was an interesting man, a secretary for the Farmers Union and the driving force in establishing the village Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. He will be sadly missed. PL led a minute's silence in memory of Ted.

Residents Q&A session

R Smith – asked whether the PC was aware of progress in the distribution of recycling 'blue bins'. It was understood that parts of the Parish had already received their bins. The Parish Clerk to contact ERYC to request an update for a date.

G Milburn – observed that the efforts of the PC appear (in the main) to focus on the 'central' village and alerted Councillors to parts of the surrounding area that are not being maintained, specifically citing concerns about the upkeep of land adjoining the Fimber Picnic Site. GL noted that there was a large amount of rubbish accumulating. GM and PL volunteered to remove the rubbish from the site; RL also volunteered his sons to assist. However, a longer term solution needs to be found. It was suggested that as the Picnic Site is owned by ERYC that they should be approached with a view to establishing an ongoing maintenance arrangement.

R Smith asked whether the PC has any contingency plans if land in the village or surrounding parish was to be occupied by Travelers. JF offered to have an informal discussion with a contact at ERYC who manages this type of issue.

Matters arising

ERYC Street Scene (works outstanding)

PL updated the meeting on Street Scene. It would appear that most of the works have now been completed, with the exception of some road signs; road markings, mainly Highways work that appeared to have been either overlooked or omitted. It was also pointed out that there had been an intention to introduce some form of drainage outside of the Lucas's cottage, diverting water in to the pond.

PL confirmed that he had responded to a Questionnaire on behalf of the PC that had been forwarded by ERYC that sought views on the works completed under the Street scene initiative. PL confirmed that he had also identified outstanding works and would contact PL to contact David England at ERYC with the additional items identified this evening.

Overall it was felt that the initiative had been beneficial and had delivered what it had promised.

It was commented that some of the shrubs and bushes from the Potts' property had grown and were now encroaching on the footpath. In this connection PL agreed to contact Adrian.

Speed Monitoring/traffic problems

PL updated the PC on a follow up meeting held on 14th January, attended by Ray Lambert, Ian Smith, and Mary Walker with Paul Copeland (ERYC Highways) Inspector David Frost. The purpose of the meeting was to review speed monitoring data obtained from an exercise carried out 14th to 21st December. It was accepted that December was likely to be the least representative month for speeding and traffic noise; however the data was sufficiently interesting to suggest the value of a follow up survey being conducted in the spring. Other key points arising out of the meeting;

- Acceptance of the problem by Insp. Frost and Paul Copeland and need to maintain momentum
- Commitment to a follow up survey in May which should capture more pronounced motor bike activity
- Further consideration to be given to impact of HGV traffic in village and value of additional signage
- Insp. Frost to liaise with newly formed roads policing unit on more speed checks in Fimber
- Further review meeting to be arranged after May.

There was a feeling amongst PC that some good progress was now being made.

Village and Church Yard Tidy up

For various reasons the Village and Church Yard Tidy up that was planned in the autumn did not go ahead. However, some activities had taken place, including the cutting back of the Yew trees in the Church yards- JM was thanked for his assistance.

It was suggested that a list be prepared out lining any outstanding works, which included identification of grave stones which appear to be becoming unstable. This prompted questions to be asked concerning who is responsible for such maintenance works and who has liability for incidents/accidents if the PC was to undertake any works itself? It was agreed that in the first instance JM should check with John Chapman and report back.

It was also suggested that the 'den' in the chestnut tree should be cleared out as a combination of disrepair and high winds have made it a hazard.

It was also identified that the hedge laying along Church Lane remains outstanding. Despite missing December, it was suggested that it might still be possible to do the work during February (weather permitting).

It was felt that a further village tidy up day should be arranged to coincide with tidying the Picnic Site. This will now take place on **Saturday 19th February at 10am**. Volunteers would be most welcome.

BT Telephone -proposal to decommission.

PL updated the meeting and confirmed that to date no further correspondence had been received. Some concern was expressed as to whether BT might just remove the box but it was felt that it was a case of waiting and seeing what transpired. There continues to be wide spread support favouring the retention of the telephone box.

Neighbourhood Watch -review of communication plan

The communication plan has now been put into action on two occasions. The current structure is known to councilors and is dependent on PL getting an email and passing to MW for onward communication. It is

rather onerous on PL and MW and is very reliant on the availability of key contacts, thus it was felt that it has the potential to be 'hit and miss'

JF confirmed that a letter had been received from YEDL asking for an emergency contact for major incidents. It was suggested that M Patterson might wish to be that contact. JF to contact MP.

MW attended a recent NHW meeting and updated the PC; concluding that the biggest issue in Drifffield is that of Drug abuse/crime at the current time. MW also advised of the new central number for reporting crime incidents - 0845- 6060222.

Some additional Neighbourhood Watch Stickers now available –any resident requiring any should contact Mary Walker.

Fimber Village Website

Steady progress has been made on the development of our village web site, led by Ian Smith and cumulating in the PC previewing of the web site a couple of weeks ago. It is understood that the initiative introduced by ERYC has been taken up by approximately 6 Parish Councils to date. A further meeting with a representative from ERYC is due to take place tomorrow for the final sign off before 'go live date'. IS has kindly agreed to manage the web site with the support of others who will take responsibility for updating various sections. It is the intention that the Web site is accessible to all residents and it was suggested that a demonstration be arranged as an introduction to the Web site for interested residents in the near future.

Countryside Rights of Way Act – Open Access

PL updated the meeting on the progress with the Act; Stage 3- publication of the conclusive map of the land accessible to the public with a 'go live' date in May 2005. In our locality, there have been 90 cases brought forward of which quite a high proportion (70) have gone to appeal. It was felt that the legislation is likely to be good for ramblers but not necessarily for Farmers. It was suggested that this item remain on the Agenda as a re-occurring item

Correspondence

*Extension to Elm Tree Farm has been approved
Xxxxxx Towthorpe Manor has been approved*

Payments

Setting the level of precept proved difficult and it was felt that this matter was best progressed at a sub committee meeting (involving JF, PL and JM) to be held at 3pm on 12th February Saturday at The Gables. In the meantime, JF to contact Colin O'Connor to advise of the delay.

JF confirmed that payment had been made against invoices in respect of street lighting and Insurance renewal

Any other Business

The Flexibus service now operating in the village was highlighted and praised by those who had used it. Further details, including a timetable is displayed at the 'bus stop' and will also be available on the ERYC link from the village Web site.

Dates of future meetings

Dates have already been agreed for 2005 and will be re-published on the village notice Board.