

**Minutes of the Fyfield Parish Council Meeting held on the 28th of May
2024 in St. Nicholas Church, Fyfield at 6.30pm.**

Present: Cllr P Boyes – Chairman
Cllr V Philips – Vice Chairman
Cllr M Hinds
Richard Waterman – Parish Clerk
Borough Councillor Mr P Lashbrook
County Councillor Mr C Donnelly
Members of the Public – 9

AGM AGENDA.

WELCOME.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST.

Cllr Mr P Boyes declared an interest in Planning Application 24/01056/PIP.N.

PARISH COUNCIL VACANCIES.

The Parish Council still have two vacancies.

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN.

Chairman – Cllr V Phillips proposed Cllr P Boyes as Chairman. This was seconded by Cllr M Hinds. There were no other nominations. Cllr P Boyes was elected Chairman.

Vice Chairman – Cllr P Boyes proposed Cllr V Phillips as Voice Chairman. This was seconded by Cllr M Hinds. There were no other nominations. Cllr V Phillips was elected Vice Chairman.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT.

A word of thanks to my fellow parish Councilors for their valuable contributions, the clerk for keeping us informed and in check, borough and county councilors for their updates and attendance, and of course the members of the public that attend, playing an active part in our community and village life.

Special note of thanks to Beryl who has kindly maintained a presence at the Pan Parish Forum (PPF) ensuring the views of the Parish are conveyed in relation to the southern water infrastructure upgrades along with the other local parishes. Without the continued efforts of the PPF we may still have tankers today and Southern Water may not have made the investments they have to resolve the issues- glad to report the Fyfield element of the works have completed successfully.

Over the last 12 months, we have re-established the website which we look forward to populating further to become a hub of local information; we have reviewed planning applications and completed further footpath upgrades making them more accessible; additionally, we provided a valuable contribution to the local church to extend community usage, a local environmental project and the village Christmas tree.

Finally, we have secured the small piece of land, which we've committed to upgrade, populate with further equipment, and maintain going forward, along with benches to provide an additional amenity. I also look forward to seeing the village planters being installed in due course along with village signs.

END OF YEAR FINANCIAL REPORT.

Fyfield Parish Council - End of Year Financial Report 1st of April 2023 to the 31st of March 2024

Income.

TVBC Precept = £9,000.00

TVBC Grant = £1,000.00

£10,000.00

Expenditure

£

Clerk 3180.00

Village Maintenance 1313.00

Street Lighting 431.18

F.S.S. Maint 2023 258.90

FPCC Grant 500.00

Administration 551.00

Audit Fee 195.00

Storage 60.00

Bank Charges 135.00

Village Green 1861.69

Dog Bin Emptying 212.62

Defib/Cabinet/Fitting 2853.75

Church Footpath 890.00

Insurance 682.65

Kings Coronation 782.35

Village Signs 324.50

3 Village Sports trust 250.00

VAT 716.39

£15,198.03

Opening Balance 1/4/2023 = £11,078.43

Plus Income = £10,000.00

= £21,078.43

Less Expenditure = 15,198.03

Money in Bank **= £ 5,880.40**

The Clerk explained each item.

CERTIFICATE OF EXEMPTION – AGAR 2023/2024

The Parish Council agreed to submit a Certificate of Exemption as the turnover was below £25,000.

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2023/2024

The Clerk read out the Annual Governance Statement 2023/2024 ensuring that there is a sound system of internal control, including arrangements for the preparation of the Accounting Statement.

The Annual Governance Statement was approved by the Parish Council.

ANNUAL ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS 2023/2024

The Annual Accounting Statement 2023/2024 was approved by the Parish Council.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST WITH BDO LLP.

There were no conflicts of interest recorded with BDO LLP the external Auditor.

BOROUGH COUNCILLOR MR P LASHBROOK.

Cllr Mr P Lashbrook thanked the Parish Council for all the work they do for the village. Cllr Mr P Lashbrook was pleased to report that the new Police Commissioner has reduced crime in Hampshire by 10%. Test Valley Borough Council have come third in the country for sound financial management and seventh for good practice.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR MR C DONNELLY.

The Chairman reported that Cllr Mr C Donnelly reported that the County Councils budget for 2024/2025 is £2.3 Billion. There is still a deficit of over £80 Million due to the high Social Care Costs that the County Council has to fund. Hampshire County Council is on hold until after the Elections. Cllr Mr C Donnelly answered a question from the public on Re-Cycling.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

Items raised included:

- Mrs B Vickers spoke about the flooding and erosion of Rose Lane. This is the responsibility of Highways and has been reported by residents of Rose Lane. The Parish Council will also report this to Highways.
- Mrs B Vickers reported that she has been taking regular samples from the stream after being provided with water monitoring equipment from the Pillhill Pan Parish Forum. Mrs Vickers was pleased to report that the water quality is good. It was noted that the Pillhill Brook has been awarded Scientific Importance Nature Conservation status.
- Potholes and the poor condition of the road through the village. Potholes are constantly being reported and on the whole repaired. It was noted that the 'Honch' has gone in several places through the village and the verges are being eroded. Cllr Mr C Donnelly asked to be copied in on the list of repairs needed and he will liaise with the Highways Engineer to escalate repairs.
- Mr M Pearson raised the issue of dogs not being kept under control around livestock noting that the Country Code is not being followed by some dog owners. It was suggested that the Country Code is displayed around the village. The Parish Council will look into put up a few discreet notices.

CLOSE OF THE AGM.

The Chairman closed the AGM.

MAY MEETING AGENDA.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING.

The Chairman signed the March 2024 Minutes as a true record.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THOSE MINUTES.

WEBSITE – The website has been up-dated and it is planned to add more content and pictures.

VILLAGE SIGNS: The Chairman reported that positions for the signs and planters have been agreed. A landowner needs to be contacted to confirm the position of one of the signs.

PLAY AREA - The Chairman reported that he has again contacted the Farm for information they wish to be included in the lease so that the Parish Council's Solicitor can draw up a draft lease.

The Clerk confirmed that he has received a quote of £1,068.00 for the fencing and a gate.

BENCH – The Clerk reported that the bench for the Village Green has been ordered and should be delivered with the next few weeks.

PLANTERS – Cllr V Philips reported that the Planters are in hand.

PLANNING.

24/01056/PIPN – Permission in Principle for erection of a single dwelling, Land Rear of Bracondale, Fyfield Andover.

Cllr Mr P Boyes declared an interest

The Parish Council and Members of the Public discussed this planning application at length and agree to Object. The letter below was submitted to Test Valley Borough Council:

Please accept this as a response from the Fyfield Parish Council in respect of the above Permission in Principle application.

03 August 2024, the owner and resident of Bracondale submitted '23/02003/CLEN | Application for a lawful development certificate for an existing change of use of land to residential garden.' The supporting evidence referred consistently to family usage, and the benefits of having the paddock converted to a garden suggesting enduring usage of this green space. This application was discussed at the Parish Council meeting where at this time it was suggested this would be to facilitate development opportunities. Noting speculation and hearsay of future use, or intent of the applicant cannot be considered, the Parish Council did not formalise any objection.

The original Planning Statement asserted the land '*as being residential curtilage from 2010 to present through visual and written documentation*'. Mr Waite's own testimony substantiated '*the continuous residential use of this land, solely for the enjoyment of the occupiers and their guests*'.

This most recent application is of a concern, as discussed during the most recent Parish Council meeting 28 May 2024 on multiple grounds.

The proposed development would reside within the Conservation Area, within 150m a safeguarded Site of Importance for Nature Conservation, Pillhill Brook, and an area of open space separating the village dwellings from the countryside. Due to the elevation changes from the bottom of the village near Saddlers Mews when compared to further up Fyfield Road towards the grade II listed buildings the development is immediately visible to adjacent and nearby properties (~8), in addition to other properties (~10) set back from the main road where gardens converge, eroding existing privacy whichever orientation the property may take.

The additional noise created from the property and associated traffic would have a detrimental impact upon existing amenity levels, currently green space, encouraging wildlife enjoyed by the residents who no doubt took residence due to the surrounding tranquillity to the rear of their properties.

Concerns have also been raised in relation to highway elements, with proposed access on a narrow part of the road in addition to approaching a dangerous corner. Compared to immediate surrounding properties, Bracondale appears out of character for this part of the village noting the age of its immediate neighbours including Grade II listed buildings. The proposed development statement highlights it would be '*similar in scale to the surrounding built form*' its therefore assumed the property would be like that of Bracondale which itself underwent planning amendments prior to construction there is a concern subsequent planning would expand on the current permission being sought.

The proposed development statement states, '*The proposal would make a worthwhile contribution to the stock of houses.*' Whilst Section 69 of the Planning and Compulsory Act 2004 refers to the importance of small and medium size sites in helping meet on-going [UK] housing needs, a single, 4-bedroom dwelling residing on a 0.37-hectare site is undoubtedly going to be of significant value and unlikely to address local, affordable housing constraints.

This application, even in principle would set an unhealthy precedent for development of the countryside within a conservation area. The development would have a direct, adverse effect on the character and appearance of the conservation area itself and its residence due to locality.

Mr Tim Diplock introduced himself and explained that he has a parcel of land in the parish bordering Dauncey Lane in Weyhill and was interested to see what is going on in the in the area.

DRAFT BOROUGH PLAN.

Cllr Mr P Lashbrook and the Chairman spoke about the proposed large-scale development of up to 4500 dwellings at Faberstown (Hampshire) and Ludgershall (Wiltshire) will have a significant impact on the traffic flow on the A342.

It was noted that Hampshire Highways have stipulated that the A342 is adequate to take the increase in traffic movements.

Cllr Mr P Lashbrook reported that Wiltshire Council have been pushing for 15 years for this large-scale development in and around Ludgershall.

The Parish Council were concerned about the increase in potential traffic on the A342 and felt that the infrastructure to support the large number of houses has not been thought through.

FINANCE.

1st of April 2024 – 28th May 2024

Income.

TVBC Precept = £ 4,500.00
£ 4,500.00

Expenditure	£
Clerk	530.00
Village Maintenance	380.00
F.S.S. Maint 2023	348.00
FPCC Grant	500.00
Administration	142.00
Audit Fee	205.00
Storage	10.00
Bank Charges	10.00
Xmas Tree	75.00
Website Set-up/Fees	417.32
	<u>£2,617.32</u>

Opening Balance 1/4/2023	= £ 5,880.40
Plus Income	= £ 4,500.00
	= £ 10,380.40
Less Expenditure	= 2,617.32
Money in Bank	= <u>£ 7,763.08</u>

SOUTHERN WATER.

Southern Water have finished their planned work on sealing the sewers in Fyfield. The Surface water in the sewage system has reduced by 2/3 and there are to be no more tankers in the village. The Chairman reported that Southern Water have gifted the 'Pedestrian in the Road' Signs they used to the village. These signs will be useful on the Village Fete Day.

PARISH COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS.

CLLR MR P BOYES – Reported that the Fyfield Fate is to be held on the 28th of July 2024. There are planned road closures on the A342 for re-surfacing work. Two very large housing estates on the Wiltshire/Hampshire Border at Ludgershall and Faberstown have been included in the Wiltshire and Test Valley Borough Council Draft Local Plans. Concerns have been raised and the services and infrastructure and the increase in traffic on the A342.

Cllr Mr P Boyes reported that the Parish Council information on the TVBC Website is out of date. The Clerk will contact TVBC with the correct details.

CLOSE OF THE MEETING.

The Chairman thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting.

DATES OF THE NEXT MEETING – 30th of July 2024 at 6.30pm In Fyfield Church.

DATES FOR THE 2024 MEETINGS

24th September

26th November