

**DRAFT AND UNAPPROVED Minutes of the Fringford Annual Parish Meeting
Monday 20 May 2013 at 7.45pm
The Chinnery Room, Fringford Village Hall**

Present:

Chairman: David McCullagh
Clerk: Jane Olds
Cherwell District Council: Cllr Barry Wood
Ten Fringford Residents

Apologies: WPC Caroline Brown and Cllr Mrs Catherine Fulljames (OCC)

1. Welcome and Apologies

David McCullagh welcomed everyone to the Annual Parish Meeting of Fringford and thanked them for coming. The apologies for absence were noted.

2. Minutes

The Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on 21 May 2012, copies of which had been circulated and were on the Parish Website, were signed by the Chair as a true record of proceedings.

3. Matters Arising

The Cricket ground sale and purchase has been resolved to everyone's satisfaction.

The verge across the green is an on-going issue which the Parish Council is working on.

4. Chairman's Report

The Parish Council met 13 times between April last year and March 2013 with a wide variety of discussion taking place as can be seen from the Minutes which are displayed on the Parish Website.

The Council has had a stable year this year, with no resignations or co-options.

Points from the minutes include:

- The Cricket Pitch and Fringford Village Trust (disbanded in August)
- Planning procedure – writing to the applicant to say that the PC will discuss the application and contacting the neighbours to ask for comments
- Rosemary
- The verges on the Green and the road across the green
- Additional bark for the playground and replacement of the swing seats
- Village Hall – theft of Lead in August / September and break-in on 6 February damaging the oil tank, three windows and the locked cupboard in the kitchen
- Tree work in Crosslands and Ghost Alley
- Snow plan
- Changing of the banking arrangements from Barclays to Co-op

The Parish Council has helped the Clerk to undertake a qualification – the Certificate in Local Council Administration – and through the work for this course the Council has now adopted a number of 'housekeeping' documents including Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, a

Communications Policy, a Complaints Procedure and a Freedom of Information Policy. The Chairman thanked the Clerk for all her work.

Planning. The Council has received 11 Planning Applications, the majority of which have been for small for building work. However, the development at Rosemary has taken up quite a lot of Parish Council time, although CDC have recently reported that it is hoped that this may be resolved.

All villagers are entitled to attend Parish Council meetings and either speak at the beginning if there is something they wish to raise, or observe the whole meeting. Meetings are in the Chinnery Room of the Village Hall on the third Monday of every month at 7.45pm. Any villagers who would like to receive the agenda and minutes by email should contact the Clerk know.

The Chairman thanked his fellow Councillors who give up a great deal of their time to look after the village.

5. Financial Report

The Clerk presented the Statement of Accounts to the Meeting.

The Parish Council Books have been audited and the Statement of Accounts has been published which explain the Parish Finances.

The majority of the Council's expenditure has been spent on keeping the village clean and tidy, assisting in keeping the Village Hall watertight and general administration.

Around the village, a significant amount has been spent on tidying up the trees, both in Crosslands and the Leylandii in Ghost Alley.

The snow clearance section has both this year and last year's expenditure and the Parish Council is very grateful to Richard Wise for all his help in keeping the village moving in the bad weather.

The largest amount spent by the Parish Council has been towards the Village Hall repairs.

With regard to grants, the Council was pleased to be able to help the Church with the clock maintenance – the only Church item the Parish Council is able to contribute to.

The other grants were the donation to the poppy wreath for Remembrance Day and a contribution to the Holiday Club Week for the hire of the village hall.

A question about the donation for the Holiday Club Week was raised and Chairman of the Village Hall Committee will look into this and give an answer in due course.

The Statement also has the S137 expenditure allowance. This per capita allowance is published by Government and gives Parish Councils the power to 'to incur expenditure for certain purposes not otherwise authorised'. Last year it was £6.80 per elector and this year it will be £6.98. It means Parish Councils can spend some of the Precept/ Council money on things such as grants (ie for the poppy wreath) which wouldn't otherwise be possible.

The Clerk informed the meeting that the books will be available for inspection until 11 June.

6. Village Hall Committee Report

The Chairman of the Village Hall Committee reported.

This has been another eventful and successful year for the Village Hall. It continues to be well used on a regular basis as well as catering for plenty of occasional bookings.

Following the death of our beloved caretaker of many years, Ann Blake, her daughter Joe and son-in-law Antony have stepped into her shoes.

The hall is looking better than it has done in years but we have been plagued with criminal activity this year. Firstly lead was stolen from the flat roof, then we had a burglary which resulted in broken windows and damage to the oil tank and finally oil theft of approximately 800 litres. All the damage has been repaired and insurance claims settled.

As every year, our main fundraising event is Bonfire Night. We had conducted a major review of the whole event helped by Mary Heritage, which left us with a clear framework from which to work and an assurance that all health and safety issues had been considered. Last year November 5th fell on a Monday which made planning for numbers more interesting. We had an excellent turnout, the firework display was phenomenal and the atmosphere superb.

The Seniors' Lunch in January was another well-attended and much-appreciated occasion. It was fitting to be able to commemorate Ann Blake on this occasion. We will be mounting a photograph of her donated by the family in the hall.

The monthly Fringford Cinema has become well-established and appreciated. It again seemed fitting when Pete Silver was nominated as winner of the Peggy Hutton Cup as he was the driving force behind this new initiative and the person whose expertise we rely on totally.

We continue to review the state of the building and the quality of provision. We are actively looking into upgrading the lighting in the hall and, with a generous donation from the late Leslie Golder, want to replace the chairs. We have also begun to consider bigger plans. The discovery of damp in the floor in the Chinnery Room, continued cracking of walls, the state of the toilet block and the need to secure the oil tank have led us to think that it may be time to knock this part down and start again. An enormous job would lie ahead of us but we have the will, all we need is the way. The village and the Parish Council would need to be involved so that, if we are successful in getting the necessary funding, we can create something that more villagers approve of and benefit from.

Our AGM is on Tuesday 25th June so we look forward to seeing you there. We owe a huge debt of thanks to the committee for their tireless work behind the scenes: Paul Applegate, Jean Brolly, Helen Fargin, Jenny Krailing, Carol Reader, Pete Silver, Monty Smith and Christine Underwood.

7. County Councillor's Report

Cllr Fulljames was unable to attend the meeting.

8. District Councillor's Report

A number of important strategic points are now coming to fruition which Cllr Wood has been working on over a number of years.

The Bicester town centre development with Sainsbury's and the cinema is due to open in July. The new car parking will belong to, and be run by, Sainsbury's, who is experienced at this and the full details will be agreed very shortly. The view from the top of the car park is spectacular and shows just how flat the area around Bicester - is which is great for cycling.

The rail link to Oxford from Bicester is going to be improved to dual lines and the Bicester Town station will be re-built. The Oxford line will divide at Bicester so that it will be possible to travel from Oxford to Marylebone via Bicester Town and from Oxford to Bicester towards Milton Keynes and Bedford. The funding for the project has already been secured and it is hoped to be in service by 2017.

Whilst the east/west line is supported by Cherwell, the HS2 project is not. All the Councils along the southern part of the line will be working together to mitigate the impact on all who live near the route.

The District Council is now working on the Local Plan which will cover the next 20 years. It has been out to consultation twice and it is hoped that it will go to the Inspector for adjudication and be agreed by the end of the year.

The footings for the new hospital on the site of the current hospital are due to commence in early June and, although it will initially be a single storey building, it will be 'future-proofed' so that it will be possible to add a further storey as the town grows.

Councillor Wood has been engaged with the planning issue concerning the former Rosemary Cottage development which has taken more than a year to resolve. However, he hopes that the applicants will be putting in revised plans to take the building back to the original, agreed, building line very soon. He advised the Parish Council to be vigilant when the plans were received.

The Councillor was asked about the junction at Bucknell Road under the railway bridge. He reported that the current solution was to put an eastern bypass past Wendlebury and to encourage traffic round the eastern side of Bicester rather than the western side. However, there would be further highways improvement works at Bucknell Road in due course.

It was reported by a villager that the state of the cycle path at Neunkirchen Way/ Wretchwick Way / Charbridge Lane is in a very poor condition. Cllr Wood thanked them. The safety of cyclists riding from Fringford into Bicester was also raised.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Wood for his report.

9. Any Other Business

The Clerk apologised for the lack of school report and would ensure that one was requested next year.

The Chairman thanked everyone for coming and the meeting concluded at 8.25pm.

Signed Dated