

**Minutes of the Fringford Annual Parish Meeting  
Monday 21 May at 7.45pm  
The Chinnery Room, Fringford Village Hall**

**Present**

**Chairman:** David McCullagh

**Clerk:** Jane Olds

**Thames Valley Police:** WPC Caroline Brown

**Fringford Residents:** Mick Cowland, John Fargin, Linda Mustill, Tim Mustill,  
John Reader, Sally Smith, Adrian Thwaites, Roger Williams

**Apologies:** Cllr Mrs Catherine Fulljames (OCC) , Cllr Barry Wood (CDC)

1. David McCullagh welcomed everyone to the Annual Parish Meeting of Fringford and thanked them for coming.

**2. Minutes**

The Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on 16 May 2011 were **RESOLVED** to be a true record with one amendment of the spelling of stile rather than style in point 4. They were signed by the Chair.

**3. Matters Arising**

The stiles had been removed from between Crosslands and the Paddocks and between Manor Road and Main Street. The worry about bicycles speeding through the gaps has not materialised.

**4. Chairman's Report**

I would like to begin by thanking Helen Lashbrook who has recently retired from the Parish Council after a long period of service as both member and chair. We are very grateful for the time that she has given to the Parish.

After a short, but active, period as Parish Clerk, Lorraine Cheney is retiring to work full time in her own business. We have secured the services of Jane Olds as the new Parish Clerk. This is a post she already holds for Stratton Audley and Caversfield so we will be benefiting from her knowledge of managing local government bodies.

Throughout the year the Council has continued to provide the routine services in the village which include the management of the play area, cutting the grass, securing new salt stores and managing the dog waste bins. Where planning requests have been made, those parishioners in the immediate vicinity have been made aware of the applications. In addition this year we made our own arrangements for snow clearance which proved timely when needed. The Council

took steps to ensure that the roads to the village were reinstated following the damage due to the diversion on the A421.

While not immediately affecting us we have kept abreast of the HS2 plan in relation as to how it might impact on the parish.

The Parish Council have endeavoured to facilitate the best route forward following the Chinnery Trust's decision to sell the cricket ground.

In closing I would like to thank my fellow Councillors for their support and time. We look forward to serving the best interests of the village.

## **5. Financial Report**

The Clerk presented a brief outline of the status of the accounts at the end of the year. The accounts will be available for inspection once they are completed and the notice stating the dates will be posted on the Village Hall noticeboard.

## **6. Village Hall Committee Report – on behalf of Christina McCullagh**

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.

We have continued to work on making the hall as comfortable and attractive as possible. There have been two major projects this year. The first was a bid to Viridor for funding to update the heating system. We now have a smart new boiler and radiators which allows us to control temperature and usage more closely. The second was a bid to the Big Society Fund to purchase a film projector and screen. Thanks to the expertise of Peter Silver, ably assisted by Chris Underwood, we have now established a monthly cinema showing which has been very well received. We plan to vary the choice of film and would welcome any suggestions for future events.

As every year, our main fundraising event is Bonfire Night. Last year November 5<sup>th</sup> fell on a Saturday and the weather was fine. We had the most amazing turnout, the police estimated over 1000. The firework display was phenomenal and the atmosphere superb. It did, however, make us think more about the potential hazards of so many people arriving at once in our small village. We have reviewed the whole event with the help of professional event organisers and now look forward to more happy Bonfire Nights with less trepidation.

The Seniors' Lunch in January was another well-attended and much appreciated occasion. It was fitting to be able to present the Peggy Hutton Cup to our dear caretaker, Ann Blake this year. She has struggled with health issues but, with the

constant help and support of her daughter Jo and son-in-law Ant, has not once let go of the reins.

We owe a huge debt of thanks to the committee for their tireless work behind the scenes: Paul Applegate, Jean Brolly, Joff Cheney, Lorraine Harwood, Jenny Krailing, Carol Reader, Monty Smith and Lynne Whyles.

The Chairman wished to record his thanks to the Village Hall Committee for all their hard work.

## **7. Thames Valley Police Report**

WPC Brown reported that there had been 11 crimes in the village over the past year. These included an assault in the pub; the theft of lead from the school roof and a burglary to the school shed; the theft of a go-cart; the theft of solar panels from Shelswell Park; the theft of metal waiting for collection in a garden; the theft of a wheelie bin (minus the rubbish), the theft of heating oil; the theft of an exercise bike from a garden and items stolen from two insecure cars.

WPC Brown informed the meeting that the policing priorities had been changed recently to tackle rural crime and metal theft; this had led to crime reduction in rural areas of about 7%.

Oil theft is on the rise and there are gadgets available to monitor levels in oil tanks which notify the owner of a sudden drop. There is no recommendation to secure oil tanks as they can just be drilled into causing the owner to replace the whole tank rather than just losing the oil.

TVP will be attending the Beer Festival on 9 June.

## **8. District Councillor's Report**

Councillor Barry Wood was unable to attend the meeting but sent the following report:

Your meeting this year clashes with my Wedding Anniversary and so I am unable to attend. There are a number of things to update on, and so I thought it important I put these in writing.

First the new draft Local Plan for the District is now available and will go out for consultation on Monday next. The main impact for Fringford is that it remains a village designated to have some limited housing growth but much reduced numbers from the earlier version. This is because Eco Bicester is seen as a more sustainable location for housing growth.

My recommendation is that you think about having a one off special meeting where I and planning officers could attend and make a presentation and take questions. That way the Parish will be in a stronger position to respond to the consultation phase if it wants to. Please let me know what you think.

On Bicester Town Centre, the steel gantries are now going up and the work is progressing very well. People are living with the disruption and there have been no complaints.

The NHS are about to submit an application to build a new state of the art Community Hospital (I still call it a cottage hospital and get in to trouble) on the site of the gravel car park at the end of Coker Close in Bicester. There may yet also be an application to build a private hospital on the Kingsmere site.

Tesco and Bicester Village are submitting a large application to move the Store down to the Garden Centre area with substantive road works and a “park and ride” bus station on the Kingsmere side of the A41. This will have a lot of planning hurdles to jump as this sort of thing always does. But there is no doubt that “Eco Bicester” is definitely a boom town at the moment and I for one see that as positive.

Please let me know if there are any questions arising from your meeting.

## **9. Any Other Business**

### **Village Cricket Ground**

A question was raised about the progress of the purchase of the Cricket Ground and the idea of raising the Precept to pay for the ground. This proposal was looked into, but due to changes in the way the Precept is likely to be set in future (a possible maximum 3.5% increase) it would not be possible to do this. In relation to the current year, the precept had already been fixed before the matter arose.

The Parish Council representative on the Fringford Village Trust (FVT) informed the meeting that there was a great likelihood that the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) would be able to award the Cricket Club a grant of £36,000 to pay for it. However, FVT had also submitted a grant application to Viridor Credits so that every eventuality was covered; the outcome of this grant will be known on 22 June.

There were conditions to the ECB’s grant as follows:

- i. The club to provide evidence that they comply with ECB minimum governance standards.
- ii. That the facility cannot be sold for a use other than as a cricket ground without prior written approval from the trust (ECB).

- iii. That the club undertake the training of volunteers to manage the grounds and the maintenance equipment.
- iv. Offer the community and in particular young people access to cricket through events, school visits etc.

The public’s concern was that the management of the Cricket Pitch should be open more widely than just Cricket Club members.

**Grass Verges on the Green**

A question was raised about the cars destroying the verges on the diagonal road from school to the pond. The Parish Council will look into the matter further and will discuss solutions at a later date.

The Chairman thanked everyone for coming and the meeting concluded at 8.30pm.

Signed .....

Dated .....