

**Minutes of a Meeting of Fringford Parish Council, held on
Monday 18 July 2016, in the Chinnery Room of Fringford Village Hall at 7.45pm**

Present: John Fargin, Les Harris, Jan Maciejewski, David McCullagh (Chairman),
John Reader, Adrian Thwaites
In attendance: 2 members of the public (departed 7.50pm), Jane Olds (Parish Clerk)
Apologies: Mick Cowland

1. Apologies

The Councillors **RESOLVED** to accept Mick Cowland's apologies.

2. Requests for Dispensations and Declarations of Interest

There were no requests for dispensations or declarations of interest.

3. Public Participation

a. Planning Application reference 16/01138/F

The Councillors **RESOLVED** to discuss planning application reference 16/01138/F at the beginning of the meeting with the members of the public. Two members of the public attended the meeting to represent the applicants. The Councillors had no comments or objections. The members of the public then departed.

4. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 20 June 2016

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes be accepted as a true record and were signed by the Chairman.

5. Update on progress from the Minutes

a. OCC Emergency Planning Survey

The Clerk had sent off the completed survey with the proviso that the new figures for accommodation in the Village Hall would be submitted. David McCullagh confirmed at the meeting that he had received the figure of 240 from the insurer. The Clerk would inform the Emergency Planning team.

b. Cutting the Verges

The Clerk had sent off the map which David McCullagh had provided to two contractors and was awaiting a response.

c. NALC Transparency Grant – the Clerk had not yet had an opportunity to complete the paperwork.

d. Playground Bark – this had been ordered and received by John Reader who had kindly spread it out.

e. Planning Application Procedure – the Clerk had updated the procedure and published it on the website.

6. Report from District and County Councillors

Cllr Fulljames sent her apologies. No reports had been received. The Councillors requested that the Clerk ask Cllr Fulljames to attend the next meeting to explain OCC's budgets and in particular the current grass cutting position.

7. Finance

a. To receive the monthly financial report – for information

As at 7 July the Accounts stood at

Co-op Current Account	£2,931.13
Co-op Savings Account	£15,540.25

The Current Account had received a total of £30 in donations to the *Village Voice* and £4 for four years’ rent from the Village Hall Committee. The Savings Account had received the £400 Queen’s Birthday grant.

There were three outstanding cheques totalling £199.64.

The Standing Order of £110.25 to pay the Clerk for the period of 1 to 30 June cleared on 1 July.

The Clerk presented the meeting with printouts of the spreadsheets from the Current Account, the Savings Account and the overview budget spend by month. The clerk would produce a forecast of all the anticipated outgoings for the rest of the year.

b. To agree to transfer £2,000 from the Savings Account to the Current Account for the next three months’ payments

The Councillors **RESOLVED** to agree to the transfer of £2,000.

c. To consider invoices for payment itemised on the payment schedule

The Councillors **RESOLVED** to approve the following invoices for payment:

Cheque no:	Payee and reason	Budget	Amount
400133	M J Giddings Farm Produce Ltd	Play Area Maintenance	£302.90
400134	Green Scythe Ltd Invoice no 6976 – Grass Cutting 6 June to 21 June	Grass Cutting	£273.39
400135	JMC Olds, Clerk Admin Expenses March – July 16 (printing £85.33, postage £23.69, telephone £0.71)	Admin costs	£109.73
	JMC Olds, A3 laminated signs for the Green	Village upkeep	£39.60
	JMC Olds, Mileage Expenses	Mileage expenses	£59.67
	Total		£209.00
400136	J Thwaites for Neighbourly Support Group expenses	Community Action Fund	£15.26

d. To receive a verbal report from the Councillor responsible for Internal Control

Jan Maciejewski reported that he had inspected the accounts on 7 July and had completed the spot checks to his satisfaction.

e. To agree to change the name of the Community Led Plan budget to the Community Action Fund

The Councillors **RESOLVED** to agree to change the name of the Community Led Plan budget to the Community Action Fund.

f. To agree to place £500 of the Village Voice income in the Reserve, put the remainder in the Community Action Fund and note the full balance

The Clerk reported that donations to the Village Voice over the previous two years (2014/15 and 2015/16) amounted to £1,347.03; the Community Led Plan budget closed at £617.31 which gave a total of £1,964.34.

The Councillors **RESOLVED** to agree to put £500 of the total into the Reserve and to transfer the sum of £1,464.34 to the Community Action Fund.

8. Standing Orders – to receive a report from David McCullagh

David McCullagh had looked at the Standing Orders in detail and had spoken to OALC. OALC confirmed that the Standing Orders previously adopted were the most up-to-date, but that the ones available from NALC still had not been updated to take into account the new photographing / social media legislation which was currently included as a Legal Topic Note.

9. Grants Policy – to consider and agree a Grants Policy for administration of the Community Action Fund

The Clerk had drafted and circulated a Grants Policy which the Councillors **RESOLVED** to agree with the addition of an application form.

10. Parish Matters – to discuss where necessary

a. Village Groups – to receive an update

- i. **History Group.** The costings had not been received for the printing of the History Trail and would be discussed at the next meeting.

b. War Memorial

Unfortunately, the representative from Underwood and Weston was not prepared to come to meet the Councillors indicating that he had already inspected the work and it was satisfactory; he also demanded payment forthwith.

The Clerk had been in contact with Hancock's, the Funeral Directors, and they had inspected the work and submitted a quotation for the remedial work.

The Councillors **RESOLVED** to agree to the Clerk writing to Underwood and Weston requesting a meeting and indicating that the standard of the lettering was not of an acceptable standard. Two options should be suggested – that they agree to a meeting to agree improvements or that the Parish takes the matter to arbitration.

c. Proposed Closure of North Bicester Surgery – to discuss the proposed closure and its effect on the community

The Clerk had been in touch with the ward Councillors where North Bicester Surgery is located. Cllr Lynn Pratt explained that the Bicester North Cllrs, Cllrs Lawrie Stratford and Barry Wood met with the partners three weeks ago. The GPs have been unable to recruit other partners to replace Dr McDonald, who had indicated his wish to retire some time ago, and Dr Gibson, who also intends to retire.

Victoria Prentice had been in touch with NHS England as one of the problems was funding and demographics the patients. GPs are paid on the types of patients, ie the more older people registered the greater the funding, but as North Bicester's population is mainly young families they do not get as much funding; unfortunately young families can be just as demanding as elderly people.

Cllr Pratt indicated that whilst she did not hold out much hope, the more pressure which could be put on NHS etc the better.

The Councillors **RESOLVED** to agree to write to Victoria Prentis MP.

11. Planning Applications

a. To consider all recent Applications received from Cherwell District Council detailed below or on the District Council website up to the date of the meeting

- i. 16//01138/F, Mr and Mrs D Spencer, 7 Manor Road; 'Alterations, erection of single storey extension to the rear; demolition of existing conservatory; external landscaping to include patio area and additional parking area at the rear'. The Councillors discussed the application at the beginning of the meeting and had no comments or objections.
- ii. 16/01137/F, K Allen, 16 Wise Crescent; 'Two storey side extension and single storey rear extension'. The Councillors considered the application and had no comments or objections.

b. To note Notices of Decision

No notices of decision had been received. However, it was understood that the Glebe Court Warden's dwelling notice had been issued, but not received by the Clerk.

c. Cherwell Local Plan Part 2

Following an earlier meeting with Chris Thom from CDC who presented update on the Local Plan Part 2, the Councillors **RESOLVED** to agree to write an updated input into the Local Plan which would be submitted to CDC in due course.

12. Correspondence Received – to note correspondence received not otherwise on the agenda where decisions are not required

The Councillors noted the correspondence received and discussed where necessary.

- a. **PRS Consultation** closing date 17 August – (circulated by email and forwarded to the Village Hall Committee)
- b. **PWC Building Control Services** – the building Certificate for the Village Hall
- c. **OCVA Newsletter Pulse** – circulated to Neighbour Support Group
- d. **OALC** – June update (circulated by email)
- e. **Cllr Ian Corkin** – re Freeview Interference with 4G network
- f. **CFO** – re Which Plan (neighbourhood or community) event 14 July at Bletchingdon Village Hall (subsequently cancelled)
- g. **Villager** – re fallen tree across footpath behind the pub / cricket ground (reported)
- h. **Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group** – consultation closes 12 August (circulated by email)
- i. **Clerks and Councils Direct**
- j. **Victoria Prentis** – re bus service cuts and OCC's response (circulated by email)

13. Reports from meetings

a. OCC Meeting- 21 June

David McCullagh reported that the Government is offering to devolve power on the basis that local Government will be more efficient. The idea is that one authority would be responsible for all local services rather the situation where the District manages Planning and Waste Collection and the County does Education and Highways. Oxfordshire has commissioned review by Grant Thornton and the four Districts a collective one by PWC which are due for completion in the next 2 months. It will be the Secretary of State's decision.

David McCullagh understood that if OCC were successful, the Parish Council in its current form would cease and be replaced by a number of Parish Groups in a similar way to what is happening in Wiltshire.

In the discussion groups there was general agreement that current Parish Councillors did not want to take on any more responsibility and that there was little interest from parishioners. However, this might change if the precept rose dramatically and people were more interested in how their money was being spent

b. OALC AGM – 4 July

David McCullagh reported that the Guest Speaker was Jonathan Owen, CEO of National Association of Local Councils who outlined the extent of the Parish Council system which totals 10,000 Parishes and 80,000 Parish Councillors.

Some 1,600 of these are or have completed a neighbourhood plan. His vision was that with the current government drive towards localism, this was the opportunity for local people to take control of their own local affairs; however, this met with considerable opposition from the floor on the basis that there were not enough skill sets in a parish of 500 to take on many of the tasks that he had suggested and there would be very little appetite for taking on the legal responsibilities involved. Further, many of these tasks would benefit from the economies of scale that are possible with a centralized system of procurement.

c. OALC Chairmanship Course – 13 July

David McCullagh attended the course which gave a good indication of the function of the chairman including acting as a figurehead and having a good relationship with the Clerk. He outlined that the Clerk has a legal responsibility to get the Parish Council to follow Process and that the Councillors can only make decisions as a collective body. He suggested that timings were added to the agenda.

14. Items for information or next Agenda only

a. **Agenda Items** – the Clerk requested that all items for the next agenda should be submitted by Thursday 4 August 2016

b. **Playground Inspection**

The clerk informed the meeting that the inspection would take place in July.

c. **Bicester Heritage**

Would like to offer the discount codes for the next Sunday Brunch Scramble on 7 August and welcome all in the OX27 and OX26 areas – the link is <https://shop.ticketscript.com/channel/web2/start-order/rid/V5NPVNQD/language/en>

d. OCC Waste Consultation

OCC have sent out a consultation on the Waste Tips which closes on 11 August see www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/waste

16. Date of next meeting

The Councillors **RESOLVED** to agree the date of Monday 15 August 2016 at 7.45pm

The meeting closed at 8.55pm

Signed Dated