

**Minutes of the Meeting of Fringford Parish Council, held on  
Monday 17 November 2014, in the Chinnery Room of Fringford Village Hall at 7.45pm**

**Present:** Mick Cowland, John Fargin (Chairman), Jan Macijewski, David McCullagh,  
John Reader  
**In attendance:** Two members of the public, Jane Olds (Parish Clerk)  
**Apologies:** Les Harris, Adrian Thwaites

**1. Apologies**

The Councillors **RESOLVED** to accept Les Harris and Adrian Thwaite's apologies.

**2. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**3. Public Participation**

Two members of the public observed the meeting but made no comments.

**4. Minutes of the Meeting held on 20 October 2014**

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

**5. Update on progress from the Minutes**

**a. Speedwatch**

The Clerk had written an article for the *Village Voice* asking for volunteers.

**b. Letter to Sue Smith regarding the letter from Mr Bryan Seamour**

The Clerk received a response from Mrs Smith which outlined the procedure regarding District Council staff and extracurricular work and had forwarded it to the Councillors,

**6. Report from District and County Councillors**

There were no reports. However, the Clerk reported that Cllr Fulljames had asked that anyone wishing to raise County issues should let the Clerk know so that the information could be passed on to Cllr Fulljames.

**7. Finance**

**a. To receive the financial report**

As at 11 November the Accounts stood at:

Co-op Current Account	£3,210.45
Co-op Savings Account	£20,841.09

There was one outstanding cheque totalling £100.

The Current Account had received £105 in income from the Village Voice / Community Led Plan donations, £50 for the hire of the Green in the summer from the fair and £0.46 in interest.

The Clerk had transferred £2,000 from the savings account to the current account which would clear on 25 November, but she warned the Councillors that she may need to do another transfer before the December meeting if the War Memorial work is completed.

**b. To consider the draft budget for 2015/16**

The Clerk provided the Councillors with a draft budget and notes for consideration. The Councillors **RESOLVED** to take away the Clerk’s notes and discuss it more fully at the December meeting.

**c. To consider the financial threshold for delegated decisions**

The Clerk informed the meeting that this was provided for in the new Financial Regulations which were adopted on 15 September in section 4.1. The Councillors **RESOLVED** to maintain regulation 4.1.

**d. To consider invoices for payment**

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

Payment to	Budget	Cheque Number	Amount
Richard Wise for repair to the village Green verge	Road Repair	400063	£1,452.00
Green Scythe Invoice no: 5037 for October mowing	Grass Cutting	400064	£131.40
Information Commissioner annual fee	Information Commissioner	400065	£35.00
Tree Solutions for Crosslands work	Trees/landscaping	400066	£378.00
Jane Olds, Stakes for road notices	Road Repair	400067	£8.94
Jane Olds, Clerk’s expenses: printing £73.99, postage £26.44	Admin costs	400067	£100.43
Jane Olds, Clerk’s mileage expenses	Mileage expenses	400067	£29.66

The standing order to pay the Clerk is now active and £107.88 was debited from the current account on 6 November, in the future it will be taken on the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month.

**8. Parish Matters**

**a. Road across the Green**

The verge has now been repaired and the Clerk has again written to school asking them to request that parents do not park on the grass. The Clerk would draft a further letter to all parents of children at school and playgroup.

The Councillors were asked to note that a number of villagers have commented on the disregard which some parents have for the appearance of the village.

The Councillors **RESOLVED** to ask the Clerk to investigate the costs of small signs. The Clerk would construct some more temporary signs in the meantime.

**b. War Memorial**

The Clerk has placed the order for ‘Phase 1’ of the work with Underwood and Weston and is waiting for confirmation of dates. A new source of water will need to be obtained.

John Fargin and Mr Tobin have finalised the bid to the National Heritage Lottery Fund for 'Phase 2' – the straightening of the memorial and the war exhibit in the village hall.

**c. Village Pump**

The Clerk had received quotations from two contractors which vary greatly. The Clerk was awaiting the details of a further contractor.

**d. Snow Clearance**

The Councillors **RESOLVED** to agree to continue with the arrangement with Richard Wise to clear the snow, when and if it is necessary in consultation with the Clerk. The Clerk would write to confirm.

**9. Community Led Plans**

John Fargin reported that the CLP Committee was currently finalising the questionnaire. It is being typeset and it is hoped to be able to hand deliver it to every household in the village by the end of November. There will be a prize draw incentive to complete the form. These will then also be collected by hand.

Once the data has been received and analysed, it was important to manage expectations and to emphasise to villagers that aspirations will need to be funded. To that end, the recommendation is that the CLP group will meet with the Parish Council and other village groups to discuss the feedback and define ways to take the results forward.

The November edition of the Village Voice has just been published. The Councillors **RESOLVED** to ask the Clerk to write to the Editors and to Webmart to thank them for their valuable contributions and efforts in making such a successful newsletter.

**10. Village Hall Extension**

John Fargin reported that the application for £110,000 to Viridor, which had been made in the name of Fringford Village Hall Committee (VHC), had been successful. However, in view of the advice received from Andrew Marsden (the VAT Advisor) and HMRC, which meant that the Parish Council would not be able to reclaim the VAT on this element of the work, the Committee had shared the advice with Viridor and asked them to consider a further application to cover the VAT element of the work. This application would be considered at the December meeting.

The VHC would be informing WREN of the Viridor decisions.

A number of other funders have been approached including Doris Field Fund which had just sent £1,000 which will go towards a new front door, the Finmere Quarry and to Cllr Catherine Fulljames for Big Society funding.

The VHC has been contacted by TOE2 (The Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment) with some queries on its grant application. The application, which was based largely on TOE2 recommendations, requires a small amendment following further research. This is now under being re-submitted.

A further quotation for the work is currently being sought.

### **11. Openness of Parish Councils**

The Councillors considered how to implement the new Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, section 40. Following discussion, the Councillors **RESOLVED** not to record meetings using an electronic recording device taking the advice that the legal record of the meeting is the signed Minutes. However, the decision may be reviewed in the future.

### **12. Planning Applications**

No applications or Notices of Decision had been received.

### **13. Correspondence Received**

The Councillors noted the correspondence received and discussed where necessary.

- a. **Rural Oxfordshire Action Rally** – circulated by email
- b. **OCC** – Better Broadband for Oxfordshire report (circulated by email)
- c. **Clerks and Councils Direct**

### **14. Reports from meetings**

#### **a. CDC Parishes Liaison Meeting**

John Fargin and the Clerk attended the meeting.

Barry Wood spoke on a number of topics:

- the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) project where CDC works with a number of other organisations including the Police, OALC, businesses, charities and many others to work out the priorities for the area;
- finance where he highlighted the fact that the DC had managed to maintain frontline services by making large savings on staffing, particularly with the merger of South Northamptonshire and Cherwell and moving forward, anticipating that there will be more of a squeeze from central government after the next election, the potential closer relationship with Stratford DC;
- the issue of planning because of the recently changed rules and in relation to the Local Plan;
- Eco Bicester which is now commencing and highlighting that the £30m which the government awarded Cherwell for the project will be put into projects on the site such as ‘seed funding’ for the school as OCC has very little money available;
- HS2 which will impact on not just the villages with the line going through them, but on the surrounding area, as, for two years the construction traffic will be blocking up the roundabouts at Baynards Green and Barley Mow together with the motorway junction. The suggestion had, yet again, been requested for a ‘mid point’ station in the area, otherwise it was felt that the line is of no economic benefit to the area.

David Peckford, the Senior Planning Policy Officer outlined the progress on the Local Plan which has now been re-submitted to the Planning Inspector for the continuation of the Inspection in December. One thing which has just been noticed is that Fringford has been re-categorised as a Category A ‘Service Village’ because of the school and pub (Category B villages are now classed as ‘satellite villages’); the type of development allowed is now Minor Development, infilling and conversions which adds the topic of ‘minor development’. John Fargin had contacted Cllr Wood following the meeting asking what the implications of this will be for the village.

Bob Duxbury outlined the planning procedure and what PCs can and can't make comments on.

A representative of the Better Broadband for Oxfordshire team made a presentation on the progress of the scheme. Cherwell has agreed to put in a further £500,000 with a further £500,000 match funded from central government to raise the coverage from 90% to 95% in some of the hard to reach areas. There is still the 5% of areas which will need a great deal more assistance.

Two further very short presentations were made about the Register of Local Heritage Assets and the Cherwell Community Bank.

**16. 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 December
- b. **Green Scythe** – had cleared the chestnut leaves.
- c. **Standing Orders** – the Clerk had worked on the Standing Orders, but following a meeting with James Doble at CDC had received an Urgency Procedure which the NALC standard document does not have, but which he recommends incorporating into the document. The Clerk would provide the revised Standing Orders for the December meeting.

**17. Date of next meeting**

The Councillors **RESOLVED** to agree the date of Monday 15 December 2014 at 7.45pm.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm

Signed ..... Dated .....