

**Minutes of the Meeting of Fringford Parish Council, held on
Monday 19 August 2013, in the Chinnery Room of Fringford Village Hall at 7.45pm**

Present: Mick Cowland, John Fargin (Chairman), Les Harris, David McCullagh,
John Reader, Adrian Thwaites
In attendance: One resident, Jane Olds (Parish Clerk)
Apologies: Roger Williams

1. Apologies

Roger Williams' apologies were accepted.

2. Declarations of Interests

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Public Participation

A resident attended to update the Parish Council with the results of the research he had made into the war memorial. He had completed the pre-application for the grant with the War Memorials Trust, but needs three quotations for the grant. All the stonemasons need to be on the WMT recommended list. On enquiry, even the most local of these stonemasons will charge for a preliminary visit as it is over 10 miles from their base.

In order to obtain a grant, the work must cost over £3,000; on further inspection, it is thought that this might not be the case. The Councillors **RESOLVED** to ask the resident to ask local stonemasons for quotations to find out if the work would be below the threshold.

It is recommended that the memorial is cleaned once a year using soap and a brush.

The resident left the meeting at 8pm.

4. Minutes of the Meeting held on 15 July 2013 and the Planning Committee meeting on 5 August

It was **RESOLVED** that these minutes be accepted as true copies and signed by the Chairman.

5. Matters Arising from the Minutes

a. Bancroft / Bull Field Stile

The Clerk had taken advice from Footpaths and the NFU. The NFU representative had never heard of the stipulation that the Parish Council insure the stile and would make further enquiries.

The Councillors **RESOLVED** to ask the Clerk to contact the Diocesan representative and OCC Footpaths rejecting the terms regarding insurance and requesting that the stile is repaired adequately as there have been a number of complaints about the state of repair.

b. Broadband

OCC has announced that the supplier for the rural broadband project would be BT. According to the map supplied, Fringford will be covered in the fibre rollout. The Clerk will be keeping a close watch on the project.

c. Clerks’ Pay Scales 2013/14

Confidential item.

d. Salt Order

The Clerk has ordered the salt.

e. Community Emergency Planning Survey

The Clerk has completed the survey and has added the School to the list of the Village Hall and Pub.

f. Glebe Court

The Clerk understood that a representative of CDC Planning and the ASB Manager were to be meeting with the District’s solicitor to discuss the disturbances, but she had not received yet a report.

6. Report from District and County Councillors

No Councillors attended the meeting. However, Cllr Wood has indicated that there may be some financial assistance available from CDC for the repair of war memorials.

7. Finance

a. To Receive the Financial Report

The current balances stand at

Barclays Community Account	£884.44
Business Saver Account	£6,157.99
Co-op Current Account	£4,827.57
Co-op Savings Account	£6,288.75

There were no unpresented cheques. The Co-op Current account had received £0.54 in interest.

The Clerk had not had an opportunity to find alternative storage of the deeds.

b. To consider invoices for payment

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

Payment to	Cheque Number	Amount
Playsafety Limited for Annual Inspection	400013	£78.00
Green Scythe Ltd for grass cutting	400014	£126.60

8. Parish Matters

a. Pony on the Green

The Clerk reported that the pony is still being tethered on the verge and the cars are still being parked there. The Councillors **RESOLVED** to ask the Clerk to write to the resident outlining the legislation and warning that if the pony was still being grazed on the verge by the next Parish Council meeting, the Parish would have no alternative but to refer the matter to the Magistrate.

b. Road across the Green.

No progress has been made on this.

c. War Memorial

The Clerk reported that the Church has given permission for Mr Tobin to look into the costs of restoration. Once these costs are known, the PCC will need to apply to the Diocesan Advisory Committee for a faculty to do the work.

d. Application to park cars on the Green for an event

The Clerk had received an application from a resident to park cars on the Green for her wedding in October. The Councillors **RESOLVED** to agree to the application, and asked the Clerk to remind the applicant that any damage to the Green caused by the parking would need to be repaired, and that owners park at their own risk.

e. Insurance for events on the Village Green

The Baroness had informed the Clerk that she had just had the annual review of insurances and the question of public liability on the village Green was raised.

Should third parties (PCC's, village fairs, Parish Councils etc) wish to hold events on the Green, they should first seek the Baroness's agreement and she should make the following stipulations:

1. The organising body should have their own Public Liability cover and this should be extended to include fund raising events.
2. Any party providing a service to the organising body (caterers, amusements etc, including volunteers making sandwiches or directing car parking) should also have their own Public Liability cover.
3. It should be a condition of use that the 'organiser' is responsible for checking the insurance details of any third parties.

The Clerk has asked for clarification on whether this means that any event that the Parish Council has agreed to now also needs to be approved by the Baroness, or whether she can delegate the authority to the Clerk. The Clerk has also asked about the implications for the car parking.

f. New Parish Council Noticeboard

The Councillors considered the suggestion for a new noticeboard specifically for Parish Council items. The Clerk had obtained a price for a noticeboard to match the current public board (a Standard Plus, 1070mm x 810mm, finished in green, side hinged and locks) supplied by Metrosigns who had quoted £594 plus £35 postage exclusive of VAT. The Councillors **RESOLVED** to agree to the suggestion of a noticeboard and would look into sourcing a wooden one locally to cost no more than £300 to be erected on the 'old' part of the Village Hall.

9. Community Led Plans

John Fargin presented the invitation to meeting to introduce the concept of a Community Led Plan to all villagers on Tuesday 27 August at 8pm at the Village Hall. The invitation would be distributed to all villagers shortly.

The Councillors **RESOLVED** to agree to funding the refreshments for the meeting if required.

10. Village Hall Extension Proposals

Mick Cowland reported that three architects had been approached to quote for the redevelopment work and that Andrew Banks had been appointed. As the owner of the Village Hall, the Council supported the Village Hall Committee in their project and **RESOLVED** to agree with the concept of the redevelopment and underwrite the first £5,000 of costs, including planning and architect fees, to enable the project to go ahead.

However, the Councillors would like the VHC to start to consider how to make best use of the building once the work has been done to make the redevelopment worthwhile.

11. Planning Applications

a. To consider recent Applications

No applications had been received.

b. To note Notices of Decision

13/00451/F, Fringford Cricket Club; Replace and extend existing tool shed. Permission for development.

c. To receive an update on 13/00718/F – Mr & Mrs R Ward, Former Rosemary, Main Street, Variation of Condition 2 of 11/01160/F – Re-submission of 13/00097/F

The Clerk reported that she had enquired to CDC about the appeal. There are two appeals that have been lodged, firstly the appeal against the enforcement notice served by CDC, validated by the Planning Inspectorate on 15 August 2013 and secondly the planning appeal against the refusal of 13/00718/F which is not a valid appeal as yet. CDC's Planning Officer anticipates that the Planning Inspectorate will link the two appeals together and they should follow the same timetable.

John Fargin reported that the developer had elected to have a hearing. The Councillors **RESOLVED** (with one member against) that unless asked, no further comments were necessary.

Following the Planning Meeting on 5 August, the Clerk has started to go through CDC's website documentation.

12. Correspondence Received

a. Playground Report.

The report raised three things of concern - the damage which had been caused by the strimming of the grass too close to the wooden posts, the depth of the bark and a small piece of damage to the edging which has already been rectified.

The Councillors **RESOLVED** to ask Green Scythe to spray directly around the posts using a non-selective weed spray, for a small additional charge, which would prevent the

grass from growing close to the bottom of the play equipment and to order a further 40 bags of bark next spring, topping it up annually thereafter.

- b. **Broadband** email received from OCC (see item 5b).
- c. **Village Hall Survey**. The Clerk had completed the survey and returned it.
- d. **Invitation to the launch of the Community Land Trust** on 10 September. Circulated by email.
- e. **OCC re Oxfordshire Community Network**. To launch the Network to help older, frail and vulnerable people to provide them with easy access to a wide range of information and support services.
- f. **Photographs of the pony on the Green**.
- g. **Accident on footpath**. The Clerk had received a report from a resident about a fall which resulted in a broken wrist when out walking on one of the public footpaths in the village. The Clerk had reported it to OCC Footpaths.

13. Reports from meetings

a. **Boundary Commission Review of Cherwell District Council**

The Clerk attended the meeting. The Boundary Commission is an independent organisation reporting to Parliament, responsible for reviewing local authority electoral arrangements, administrative boundaries and structure.

An electoral review commences when 30% of wards have an electoral variance of more than 10% from average and / or one ward has an electoral variance more than 30% from the average. In Cherwell, 36% of wards have a variance of more than 10% and in Grimsbury & Castle ward in Banbury there are 25% more electors than average.

The review will decide the pattern of wards for the entire district, not just the wards where there are levels of electoral inequality. The Commission will decide the total number of Councillors at District level, the number of wards, the names of the wards and the boundaries of the wards. As the DC elects Councillors by thirds, there is a presumption that there will be a uniform pattern of three-member wards (although this may not be practicable in the rural wards such as Fringford).

The review process. Cherwell are in the process of discussing their needs and suggestions internally and have to make their submission to the Commission by 21 October. Once this has been submitted, there will be a 'Council size consultation' open to the public between 7 January and 17 February 2014. Next will be a further 10 week information gathering exercise from 29 April – 7 July 2014 where the Commission will invite comments on warding patterns from all concerned parties including Parishes and will tour the area.

The Commission will then publish their draft recommendations and open consultation on these recommendations from 16 September – 8 December 2014.

Following the consultation, the Commission will publish their final recommendations in the Spring of 2015 and it will be laid before Parliament for 40 sitting days before the order can be made.

It is a long procedure and Parish Councils will be brought up to date with it all at the Parishes Liaison Meeting in November.

14. Any Other Business

- a. The Clerk was reminded to arrange for the leaves under the Chestnut trees to be cleared.

15. Date of next meeting

Monday 16 September 2013 at 7.45pm.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm

Signed Dated