

**Minutes of the Meeting of Fringford Parish Council, held on
Monday 16 December 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, Roger Williams
In attendance: Three Members of the Public, Steve Jackson (Stanlake Broadband) and
Jane Olds (Parish Clerk)
Apologies: None

1. Apologies

There were no apologies for absence.

2. Declarations of Interests

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Public Participation

Three members of the public attended to brief the Councillors on their planning applications. Mr Steve Jackson had been invited to discuss the broadband options available.

4. Minutes of the Meeting held on 18 November 2013

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 written to the Diocesan Rural Surveyor informing her that the Parish Council's insurance would not cover the kissing gate, but that the Parish Council would be in a position to help with the funding of a gate. As requested by the Councillors, she pointed out that the current stile was in need of repair.

b. Deeds

The Clerk has scanned the Deeds and drafted a letter for the Chairman to sign so that she can deposit them with Brethertons Neasham Lloyd in Bicester.

c. Letter from Villager regarding the fireworks

The Clerk has acknowledged the comments but has not received further correspondence.

d. Noticeboard

The Clerk thanked John Reader for installing the new noticeboard on the Village Hall. Whilst two keys had been supplied, both were needed to open the board. The Councillors **RESOLVED** to ask the Clerk to order a further pair of keys at a cost of £5 plus postage plus VAT, to be kept in the village.

e. Letter to parents at school

The Clerk received the school logo for sending out the letter to parents. The Councillors **RESOLVED** to ask the Clerk to send out the letter at the start of the new term in January.

6. Report from District and County Councillors

No Councillors attended the meeting.

7. Finance

a. To Receive the Financial Report

The current balances stand at	
Barclays Community Account	£37.20
Business Saver Account	£0.00
Co-op Current Account	£10,449.30
Co-op Savings Account	£10,934.14

The Councillors **RESOLVED** to transfer £6,000 from the Co-op Current Account to the Co-op Savings Account.

The Clerk had been given letters about an account for the Play Area which is held with the Nationwide. It was set up in the early 1990s to help with the funding of the Play Area and there is a small amount of money left in the account. Unfortunately, because the Clerk is not a named signatory on the account she is unable to make progress. The Councillors gave the Clerk the name of a former villager who may have been involved in the project so that the Clerk could make further investigations.

b. To consider the budget and precept for 2014 / 15

The Clerk presented the Councillors with a full budget proposal for the forthcoming year.

The Councillors reviewed the key areas of the budget and reduced expenditure where possible; including the amount spent on the upkeep of the village, deferring the replacement of the benches and putting aside a small amount to fund the replacement of the thatch on the pump in due course.

However, there were areas which will need significant additional expenditure next year including the repair of the road across the Green caused by the parking at drop-off and collection at school, the assistance with the fees for the Village Hall project which is owned by the Parish Council and leased to the Village Hall Committee and support to the Community Led Plan group.

The Councillors **RESOLVED** to ask the Clerk to re-work the figures to include the reductions suggested and to ask Cherwell District Council for a Precept of £10,490 excluding the Council Tax Reduction Grant of £617.07. This will cost a Band D property approximately £41.30 for the year, an increase of £3.87.

The Clerk had also received a report from SLCC regarding Clerk's hours and pay. The Councillors **RESOLVED** that Adrian Thwaites would join John Fargin and Roger Williams to discuss the issue.

c. To consider invoices for payment

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

Payment to	Cheque Number	Amount
Tree Solutions for shrub maintenance in Crosslands	400024	£300.00
Green Scythe Ltd for Chestnut Leaf Clearance	400025	£234.00
Oxfordshire County Council for additional 1 tonne of salt (2 tonnes delivered)	400026	£100.00
Metrosigns 2000 for Parish Council Noticeboard	400027	£754.80

8. Parish Matters

a. Road across the Green.

The Councillors **RESOLVED** to ask the Clerk to ensure that the letter to the school and playgroup parents was sent out in the New Year and to ask the Highways Area Steward for details of contractors who might be able to quote for the work.

The Clerk had arranged for the white and yellow road markings to be repainted.

b. War Memorial

No further progress had been made.

9. Community Led Plans

John Fargin reported that the group had met with Alan Foulkes from ORCC on 25 November and had submitted a budget and project plan to ORCC to apply for funding for running the group and to assist with communication and consultation, which had been received positively. The group will be meeting again on 19 December to discuss the village newsletter project.

10. Village Hall Extension Proposals

The Village Hall Committee had invited the Parish Councillors to a meeting on 9 December to view the proposed plans and these plans were welcomed by the Councillors. The Councillors raised several small queries which Mick Cowland would take back to the Village Hall Committee for discussion.

Andrew Banks is now working on the detailed plans which it was hoped would be received shortly.

11. Broadband

The Councillors **RESOLVED** to bring the topic to the beginning of the meeting following the planning applications.

Steve Jackson from Standlake attended the meeting to explain to the Councillors about the broadband project in Standlake.

Mr Jackson outlined the various options currently available which include

- the OCC Rural Broadband project with BT,
- using an external company such as Gigaclear to future-proof the infrastructure by connecting fibre from the green cabinets in villages to all houses,
- looking at a satellite option,
- looking at a point to point radio system.

There are pros and cons to all the systems and what is right for one village may not work in another.

The Councillors **RESOLVED** to ask the CLP group if they were interested in helping with the project and to ask two specific villagers if they would be willing to help.

The Clerk would contact OCC to ask about progress and to find out whether the fibre in the OCC project was going to go to just the exchange (in Stratton Audley) or would be routed out to the 'green cabinets' in the village.

At the conclusion of the subject, John Fargin thanked Mr Jackson and Mr Jackson then left the meeting.

12. Planning Applications

a. To consider recent Applications

The Councillors considered the following applications and had no objections or comments on either application.

- i. 13/01704/F and 13/01705/LB; Mr Gary White and Ms Julie Thomson, Green Farm, The Green, OX27 8DY. Internal and external alterations; demolition of old garage and construction of new single storey garage; installation of LPG underground tank.
- ii. 13/01794/F; Mr and Mrs O'Sullivan, 20 Crosslands, OX26 8DF. Conversion of existing garage to study / utility.

b. To note Notices of Decision

No decision notices had been received

c. Rosemary Appeal

The Clerk reported that she had received the notice of the hearing. This will take place on Thursday 30 January starting at 10am at Cherwell District Council Offices at Bodicote House. It is not necessary to register to speak as it is at the discretion of the Inspector, but anyone hoping to speak must notify the Inspector at 10am. The Councillors **RESOLVED** that John Fargin would speak. Roger Williams agreed to accompany John Fargin.

d. To review the process for neighbour consultation regarding planning applications

The Councillors discussed the process of notifying neighbours if they were unavailable when the Councillor called. The Councillors **RESOLVED** that the Clerk would write a generic letter and put three copies in the envelope with the documents so that the Councillor could leave a copy with the neighbour if necessary.

13. Correspondence Received

The Councillors noted the following correspondence

- a. **CDC re members' allowances.** The confirmed that the Parish Council does not give an allowance to the Chairman but had agreed mileage expenses.
- b. **Charlotte Harris re Children's Centres in Oxfordshire.** Circulated by email.
- c. **CLP Conference – 25 January**
- d. **ORCC Bulletin.** Circulated by email
- e. **Lendrums Amusements** – requesting the use of the Green for their fun fair from 27 July – 3 August. The Councillors **RESOLVED** to agree to the request and asked the Clerk to let the village Webmaster know.

14. Reports from meetings

a. ORCC / OCC Talking Oxfordshire meeting – 21 November

The Clerk attended this. There was an introduction and question and answer session with the Chief Executive, Joanna Simons and the Leader, Ian Hudspeth and then the attendees were allocated tables so that small groups could answer a series of questions / help give solutions and set out the priorities to rural communities with the aid of a facilitator. It was an extremely useful exercise. A full account was published in the recently circulated ORCC bulletin.

b. SLCC Meeting – 26 November

The Clerk attended the SLCC meeting which focussed on Highways issues. It was a useful day with a number of representatives from OCC Highways giving presentations.

The Clerk reported that the Local Transport Plan will be updated next year and OCC will be starting consultation on this shortly.

Highways check the roads regularly, but more than 12% of them are marked as 'red' which means that they are very poor and are likely to remain that way. It would require £167m to repair the network within Oxfordshire at today's prices, but the budget is just £10m. Road resurfacing should take place every 20 years, but at current funding levels are looking at a resurface every 150 to 200 years.

Last year there were 24,000 defects or potholes in the roads, this year it is estimated there will be more than 40,000. However, the contractors' guarantee on potholes is two years, so if they disintegrate before this they can be repaired at the contractors' expense. The Clerk asked that if any villagers noticed damaged potholes to either report them to her or direct to Highways.

During the winter, the team of gritters salt the main arterial routes around the county at a cost of £22,000 – 25,000 per run. Information about the areas to be gritted can be found <http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/winter-maintenance>. With the winter team's help, Banbury have recently trained up a number of members of the public as Snow Wardens and OCC are happy to help with training for other villages and providing equipment for a smallish charge which includes knapsacks for spraying a brine solution onto pavements.

A number of useful links were provided including an interactive Countryside access map www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/countrysideaccessmap and a definitive map of all sorts of countryside issues www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/definitivemaponline.

There was also a representative from Oxford Footpaths Society who explained about TOE2 (Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment) and the funding they can help with which includes things such as replacing stiles with kissing gates.

c. Eco town Masterplan consultation – 6 / 7 December

The Clerk attended the consultation in Bicester weekend and circulated the document collected from the event. A lot of the information can also be read online at <http://nwbicester.co.uk/masterplan/>

15. Any Other Business

- a. The Clerk was asked to find out if it was possible for Highways to clean the road signs as the main Fringford sign on the A4421 on the southbound road was very difficult to read. The Clerk would investigate.

16. Date of next meeting

Monday 20 January 2014 at 7.45pm.

The meeting closed at 9.40pm

Signed Dated