

**Minutes of the Meeting of Fringford Parish Council, held on  
Monday 15 July 2013, in the Chinnery Room of Fringford Village Hall at 7.45pm**

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

**1. Apologies**

Mick Cowland's apologies were accepted.

**2. Declarations of Interests**

There were no declarations of interest.

**3. Public Participation**

Five residents raised further concerns about the pony which is being kept in the back garden of one of the properties on The Green. The smell from the faeces is getting worse, so much so that one of the neighbours is unable to sit out in their garden. The tether is long and the pony has strayed onto the road occasionally, unfortunately, the Police say that it is for CDC to respond and CDC say the opposite. Residents also raised concerns about the large dog which often barks loudly at the antisocial hours of 5.30am and 11.00pm.

Another resident attended with regard to the restoration of the War Memorial, particularly because of the Centenary of the Great War approaching. The Councillors agreed that this would be a fitting project to undertake.

The Chairman thanked the residents for their contribution and the residents chose to leave the meeting.

**4. Minutes of the Meeting held on 17 June 2013 and the Planning Committee meetings on 24 June and 8 July**

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

**5. Matters Arising from the Minutes**

**a. Bancroft / Bull Field Stile**

The Clerk had heard from the Diocesan Rural Surveyor who had requested that the Council confirm 'that if for any reason stock escape due to the gate not being properly installed or maintained or shut by users, the Council will be solely liable for any matters arising and that the Council is fully insured for this eventuality.'

The Councillors were concerned about the precedent that this would set with other land owners and their stiles and **RESOLVED** that unless the issue could be determined in a more satisfactory way that the project would have to be abandoned. The Clerk will take advice from Footpaths and the NFU.

**b. Broadband**

The Clerk attended the OALC Meeting on 1 July where a presentation was made by OCC about the Rural Broadband Project to assist with the funding for the infrastructure

needed to expand the broadband network into the rural areas which are not covered by the commercially viable schemes in the towns such as Oxford, Bicester and Banbury.

The National Investment Programme intends to achieve a transformation in broadband access, with everyone in the UK able to access broadband speeds of at least 2 megabits per second and 90% of the UK receiving far greater speeds (at least 24Mbps).

Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK) was set up as a team from within the Department for Culture, Media and Sport with the task of the administration of the £530million National Investment Programme fund. All County Councils were able to receive funding from this, but it had to be match funded. OCC has been awarded £4.06m to which they have added a further £9.80m to give a total of £13.86m to spend purely on infrastructure.

This project has to take coverage to 90%. There is now also a further fund set up by DEFRA (called the Rural Community Broadband Fund) which is designed to complement the larger investment and will address that final 10% not covered by the BDUK project.

OCC has been negotiating with providers and is in the final stages of producing a contract with commercial companies to install the infrastructure. The announcement will be made at the end of July or beginning of August. There will then be a six month phase of implementation planning and surveying at the end of which maps and schedules will be produced so that villages know when they are likely to be upgraded – there will be between seven and eight phases of work. Actual work will then commence in January 2014 and take approximately two years to complete.

Councillors raised the project in Islip where villagers contributed £11,000 to enable the village to have superfast broadband, but **RESOLVED** to await OCC's decision on the provider and the outcome of the feasibility study before investigating alternatives further.

**c. Guttering on Prentice's Yard**

The Clerk has written to the residents to thank them for the amendments to the guttering.

**d. Community Right to Bid**

The Clerk has not had an opportunity to look into this further. However, the Councillors **RESOLVED** to discuss the assets which might be included in a proposal at a future meeting.

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

No Councillors attended the meeting.

**7. Finance**

**a. To Receive the Financial Report**

The report from the External Auditors has been received and no issues were raised.

The Clerk sent off the VAT Reclaim for the year April 12 – March 13 on 17 June and the refund has already been paid into the Co-op Savings Account.

The £1 bank charge has been taken from the Barclays Current Account and the savings account has received £1.18 in interest.

The Co-op Current Account has received £0.62 in interest and there is one outstanding cheque for £1.51; the Savings Account has received £931.29 from the VAT Refund.

The current balances stand at	
Barclays Community Account	£885.44
Business Saver Account	£6,157.99
Co-op Current Account	£5,586.16
Co-op Savings Account	£6,228.75

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

**b. To discuss Clerk’s Salary**

Confidential Minute

**c. To consider invoices for payment**

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

Payment to	Cheque Number	Amount
Green Scythe Ltd for grass cutting	400009	£254.64
BDO LLP for External Audit	400010	£120.00
JMC Olds for Clerking Duties (1 April – 30 June)	400011	£216.93
JMC Olds for expenses 13 March – 12 July (printing £28.60, postage £21.82, travel £90.63, stationery / newsletters £25.00)	400012	£166.05

**8. Parish Matters**

**a. Pony on the Green**

The Clerk has received the certified map which clarifies the area of the Village Green and does include the verges. Following receipt of the map, the Clerk wrote to the owner of the pony requesting that the pony is not grazed on the Green, including the verges, and that cars should not be parked on the verges. Other residents have also been asked not to park cars on the verges.

If the owner of the pony does not comply with the request, the Parish Council may have to take the matter to the Magistrate’s Court. The Councillors asked the Clerk to investigate the process.

**b. Road across the Green.**

No progress has been made on this.

**c. War Memorial**

In response to an email from a member of the public, the Clerk had investigated the procedure for restoring the War Memorial which is in the Churchyard. It was erected using public funds and the Parish Council has the power to maintain, repair, protect and

adapt war memorials under the War Memorials (Local Authorities' Powers) Act 1923, s.1; as extended by Local Government Act 1948, s.133, provided permission is agreed by the Parochial Church Council and the Diocesan Advisory Committee.

The Councillors **RESOLVED** to ask the Clerk to ask the PCC via the Rector for permission to restore the War Memorial.

## 9. Community Led Plans

John Fargin reported that he had invited key stakeholders (the Church, Village Hall Committee, Cricket Club, pub, school and Baroness von Maltzhan) to an informal meeting on Tuesday 16 July to discuss the process.

## 10. Village Hall Extension Proposals

John Fargin reported that good progress had been made and three quotations have been obtained from architects. It was hoped to be able to use the CLP process to get input from the wider village.

## 11. Planning Applications

### a. To consider recent Applications

13/00451/F, Fringford Cricket Club; Replace and extend existing tool shed. The application was received on the morning of the meeting. The Councillors **RESOLVED** to consider the plans more carefully in their own time and discuss them with the neighbours.

### b. To note Notices of Decision

- i. 13/00695/F, Mrs I Hopton-Scott, Coach House, Rectory Lane, First floor side extension; new rear dormer and rear single storey extension. Permission for development
- ii. Application 12/01285/F – appeal ref: APP/C3105/A/13/2191771 – Glebe Court, Fringford, OX27 8RJ. Appeal to the Planning Inspectorate dismissed.
- iii. 13/00718/F – Mr and Mrs R Ward, Former Rosemary, Main Street, Variation of Condition 2 of 11/01160/F – Re-submission of 13/000097/F. Application refused.

### c. To receive an update on the District Planning Committee meeting on 11 July regarding 13/00718/F – Mr & Mrs R Ward, Former Rosemary, Main Street, Variation of Condition 2 of 11/01160/F – Re-submission of 13/000097/F

John Fargin represented the Parish Council at the meeting and spoke for his allotted five minutes. Cllr Barry Wood also spoke. The District Councillors voted on the item and rejected the proposal.

The Councillors were most concerned by the biased presentation by Mr Duxbury which did not mention the listed building and missed a number of points raised by the Parish Council and the villagers.

The Councillors **RESOLVED** to write a letter to CDC with questions to include:

- when will the Enforcement Order be issued and actioned;
- how it is decided whether an application goes to the Planning Committee and under what circumstances;
- whether it is policy for officers to tell residents the recommended outcome before it has gone to Committee;

- would further plans / information not available on the CDC website before the Planning Committee Meeting be deemed part of the application should it go to appeal;
- whether the Planning Team check submitted plans for accuracy and ensure that they correspond to the text of submitted Design Statements so that they can assure the Planning Committee that they are making decisions on factual information.

## 12. Correspondence Received

- OALC Courses** – Data Protection, Freedom of Information and Data Transparency (24 September) and Finance (22 October)
- Clerks and Councils Direct** (circulated)
- OCC – Community Emergency Planning Survey.** The Councillors discussed the survey and recommended that the Village Hall and Pub be included under the ‘Survivor Reception Centres’ section. The Clerk, John Fargin and Roger Williams would be the contacts. The Clerk would complete the form and return it.
- Communication with Marsh Gibbon Parish Clerk.** Regarding the telephone exchange and getting better broadband for Marsh. The Clerk had informed her of Oxfordshire’s status and recommended working together once OCC have announced their contract.
- OCC Winter Service.** The Councillors **RESOLVED** to order the one free tonne of salt and to pay for a further two bags at £100 each.
- Letters and emails regarding Rosemary development**
- Email from the developer of Rosemary** – requesting that the colour hand out given to the Planning Meeting Parish Council be distributed to all villagers. The Councillors **RESOLVED** to reject the request on the basis that this was not Parish Council information and could not be verified.
- Two emails from resident** – regarding the disturbances at Glebe Court. The Clerk reported that Rob Lowther at CDC had informed her that he and Michelle Jarvis from Planning would be meeting one of the District’s solicitors on 31 July to discuss the matter.

## 13. Reports from meetings

- SLCC Meeting – 18 June**

The Clerk attended the meeting which was primarily about design and implementation of Skate Parks, although, there is nowhere suitable to put one in the village.
- OALC Meeting – 1 July**

The Clerk had reported the broadband information earlier, but informed the Councillors that the OALC Executive Committee had three vacancies for representatives from the Cherwell district.

## 14. Any Other Business

- The Clerk informed the meeting that the date of next year’s local elections has changed from 1 May to Sunday 22 May in line with the European Elections. This will have implications on the election of the Chairman for the year. More information will be available from CDC in due course.
- Adrian Thwaites brought a newspaper article about the possibility that the area might be ‘suitable’ for ‘fracking’ to the attention of the meeting. The Clerk would circulate the article.

**15. Date of next meeting**

Monday 19 August 2013 at 7.45pm.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm

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