

**Minutes of the Meeting of Fringford Parish Council, held on
Monday 18 November 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: 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

No members of the public attended.

4. Minutes of the Meeting held on 21 October 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 field, which had been for sale as development land, has been taken off the market. The Clerk had received a further email from the Diocesan Rural Surveyor asking what the Parish Council insurance would provide for in relation to a kissing gate. The Clerk had received guidance from OCC Footpaths who confirmed the Clerk's view that, even if the Council chose to fund the kissing gate, it would be the land owner / lessee who would be responsible for it and their insurance which would cover it. The Councillors were concerned at the precedent that the Council insurance being involved in one gate would have over others.

b. Chestnut leaves and Playground Weed Spraying

The Clerk has confirmed with Green Scythe to clear the leaves and do the weed spraying.

c. Deeds

The Clerk has received the Deeds from Barclays and will scan them when she has access to an A3 copier / scanner. She will then deposit them, as agreed, with Bretherton Neasham Lloyd.

d. Snow Clearance

The Clerk has confirmed the agreement with Mr Wise.

e. Trimming the shrubs in Crosslands

The Clerk has confirmed the work with Tree Solutions.

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	£878.44
Business Saver Account	£6,158.76
Co-op Current Account	£3,662.72
Co-op Savings Account	£10,934.14

There were was one outstanding cheque of £52.20 on the Co-op Current Account; the account has received £0.49 in interest. The Barclays Current Account has been charged £5 for the 'B/Safe Stnd Acc', which the Clerk believes is for the removal from the store of the Deeds; however the bank assured her that this will be the last charge. There is no change on either the Barclays or Co-op Savings Accounts.

b. To consider invoices for payment

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

Payment to	Cheque Number	Amount
Information Commissioner annual registration fee	400022	£35.00
Green Scythe Ltd for October grass cutting	400023	£126.60

c. To consider the allocation of Reserves

Following the adoption of the Reserves Policy, the Councillors **RESOLVED** that the following amounts be held in earmarked Reserves:

3 months' running costs	£2,500.00
Crosslands	£1,000.00
Election Expenses	£1,000.00
Village Hall	£1,000.00
Play Area	£350.00
General Fund	£1,500.00

The following items would be transferred to the Reserves at the end of the current financial year if there was anything left in the budget: Play area maintenance / refurbishment; the Road across the Green repair; the Stile and the War Memorial. In the 2014 / 15 budget, the Clerk would include a nominal amount of £120 to start building up a fund for the Thatch on the Pump which will need repairing in 15 to 20 years and a figure for the replacement of one bench per year for the next three years.

8. Parish Matters

a. Road across the Green.

The Clerk had sent the Headmistress of School and the Playgroup Supervisor the draft letter, but, despite reminders, had not received a reply.

The Councillors requested that the Clerk chase up the letter as a matter of urgency as the weather is causing the road to deteriorate even more quickly.

The Councillors **RESOLVED** to ask the Clerk to write to Baroness Maltzhan with the proposal that bays are cut out of the verge on the south side of the road, a membrane put down, using type 1 ballast as a base and then appropriately coloured gravel on top which would all be contained by stone kerb setts. The adjacent side would have an edge cut and the tarmac re-laid.

b. War Memorial

Mr Tobin has had another stone mason turn down a request to look at the Memorial, but he is waiting for a quote from a mason in Bicester and he will try to find some further quotes. He apologises for the lack of progress.

c. Christmas Tree

Following further discussions, the Councillors **RESOLVED** not to purchase a Christmas Tree this year and not to do so in future years until satisfactory and safe arrangements can be made for the powering of the lighting.

d. Broadband

This was raised at the Parish Liaison Meeting. CDC has put together a Broadband Information Request form which the Clerk will complete and return in due course. The Clerk has asked all Councillors and the Broadband Champion to let her have the details of download and upload speeds, both on computers and mobile telephones and what type of connectivity is available on mobiles.

The Councillors suggested inviting the Broadband Champion, Simon Biltcliff, and a member of Stanlake's Broadband Committee to the December Parish Council meeting.

John Fargin will ask as many people as possible to register an interest at <http://www.superfast-openreach.co.uk/where-and-when/>

9. Community Led Plans

John Fargin reported that the group would be meeting with Alan Foulkes from ORCC on Monday 25 November to start working on an action plan. The Clerk has written to Cllr Fulljames to ask for financial assistance.

The group would like to produce a newsletter. The Clerk would look into how the Parish Council and the CLP could fund and produce it.

10. Neighbourhood Plan

The issue of the Parish creating a Neighbourhood Plan to protect the village from property speculators was raised as it is understood that Government is proposing the setting up of a scheme for producing a 'light' version of the Neighbourhood Plan which it would be hoped might suit smaller villages.

The Parish recognises that the Government requires growth in communities, but wished to be able to decide where in the village new houses could go rather than them being imposed on the community by developers.

Following a discussion, the Councillors **RESOLVED** to keep abreast of the situation and to review the issue when necessary.

11. Village Hall Extension Proposals

Andrew Banks has visited the Village Hall and taken measurements in order to produce a set of plans. Once these plans have been received they will be displayed for comments by the Village Hall Committee, Parish Council, Community Led Plan Committee, users and any other interested parties.

12. Meeting dates for 2014 /15

The Councillors **RESOLVED** to accept the meeting dates for 2014 / 15 with the inclusion that the June meeting will need to be a week earlier than usual because of the European Elections.

13. Planning Applications

a. To consider recent Applications

There were no applications

b. To note Notices of Decision

13/01486/F – Mrs M Soar, Lime Tree Cottage, Manor Road: Removal of existing conservatory; new extension to rear with existing first floor bedroom extended into new roof space. Permission granted.

14. Correspondence Received

a. **OCC** – Poster for Primary School Registration

b. **OCC Bicester Schools Consultation Meeting** - Thursday 14 November 6 – 7pm

c. **OALC Members' Update** – circulated by email

d. **High Sheriff's Awards** –the Clerk asked if there were suggestions for nominations. The deadline is 13 December

e. **Data Protection Registration Renewal**

f. **OALC re Nomination to NALC Smaller Council Committee**

g. **Michael Gogut from CDC** – re Cherwell Faith Forum, Cherwell Disability Forum and Welfare Reform session for Deaf Community; various dates

h. **Letter from Communities Minister, Don Foster** – circulated by email. The Councillors briefly discussed the letter but **RESOLVED** that there were no projects within the parish which would qualify for the project.

i. **ORCC Community / Neighbourhood Led Planning Conference** – 25 January. The Clerk asked if any of the Councillors would like to go and has also circulated it to the CLP team.

j. **OCC Home to School Transport Consultation**

k. **Communication from a villager** – re the village green and the bonfire damage. The Councillors considered it and requested that the Clerk reply acknowledging the points raised and thanking them for their comments.

l. **Communication regarding Bicester Sweepers** – The Clerk has heard from Michelle Jarvis in the CDC Planning Enforcement team who reports that the CDC Solicitors have advised proceeding with Enforcement Action.

m. **OALC 2014 Courses** – the 'Roles and Responsibilities – Working on your Local Council' course on 5 March 10am – 3pm; and 'Getting to Grips with Local Council Finance' on 8 April 10am – 3pm. Both courses will cost £65 plus VAT per person.

15. Reports from meetings

a. Community Emergency Planning Workshop – 7 November

The Clerk attended the briefing and provided a written report. The Clerk recommended that an Emergency Plan be created and would circulate the documents collected at the meeting for discussion at a future meeting.

b. Parish Liaison Meeting – 13 November

John Fargin and the Clerk attended this meeting and provided a written report to the Councillors.

A number of items were covered by Cllr Barry Wood in his introduction including CDC Finance, joint working with other district councils, the new homes bonus, Eco-Bicester, HS2 and judicial reviews.

The following topics were then covered: Rural Broadband; progress on the Local Plan; a presentation by a representative of Age UK and further information on Assets of Community Value and the Right to Bid.

The Clerk circulated the leaflets collected about the Age UK project for the Councillors to read. This is a new project which will have implications for the wider community and how to help the elderly and vulnerable in the community.

Assets of Community Value and the Right to Bid has been widely accepted, but Mr Lerner from CDC wished the meeting to know that it was costly to CDC to register an asset and that it was wise to consider the following points prior to registration:

- does the building have an important function within the village?
- is it likely to get sold 'from under our noses'?
- would the parish be able to buy it?
- would the parish want to buy it?
- would the parish be able to run it?
- would the parish be able to keep it up?

If the answer to all these questions is 'yes' then it is worth applying.

16. Any Other Business

- a. There was no further business

17. Date of next meeting

Monday 16 December 2013 at 7.45pm.

The meeting closed at 9.25pm

Signed Dated