

**Minutes of the Meeting of Fringford Parish Council, held on
Monday 21 October 2013, in the Chinnery Room of Fringford Village Hall at 7.45pm**

Present: John Fargin (Chairman), Les Harris, David McCullagh, John Reader,
Roger Williams
In attendance: Three members of the public and Jane Olds (Parish Clerk)
Apologies: Mick Cowland, Adrian Thwaites

1. Apologies

Mick Cowland and Adrian Thwaites's apologies were accepted.

2. Declarations of Interests

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Public Participation

There were three members of the public.

Mr Charles Hebditch attends the Villages of Oxfordshire Opposing HS2 group (VoxOpp) and briefed the meeting on the current status for the village. If the project goes ahead, there will be mitigation and compensation factors, but Fringford is unlikely to qualify for compensation. However, the village could be adversely affected by increased traffic both from the development and the general public using the village as an alternative route to avoid the works. It is likely that the A4421 will be greatly affected, particularly through Newton Purcell, but there is no decision on the route of the road at present.

Oxfordshire County and Cherwell District Councillors have been very supportive of the group and MP, Sir Tony Baldry, has given helpful advice.

Mr Hebditch then left the meeting.

Mr and Mrs Soar attended to brief the meeting on their Planning Application and left shortly afterwards.

4. Minutes of the Meeting held on 16 September 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 meeting was informed that the field was now up for sale. The Councillors **RESOLVED** to keep the money in the budget for the stile, but not to pursue the project further at present.

b. Chestnut leaves

The Councillors **RESOLVED** to accept Green Scythe's quotation of £195 ex VAT to clear the chestnut leaves and remove them from the village.

c. Playground Weed Spraying

The Clerk has confirmed with Green Scythe to weed spray round the playground equipment.

d. Deeds

The Clerk had written a letter for the Barclays signatories to sign which has been received by the bank. It is hoped that the Deeds will be at the Bicester Branch by Wednesday 23 October. The Clerk will write a further letter for the Councillors to sign to authorise the collection of the Deeds. The Clerk will then scan the deeds and write a letter to deposit them with Brethertons Neasham Lloyd.

e. Pony on the Green

The Clerk has spoken to Planning about the construction of the stable. The Planning Officer confirmed that the footprint of the building does not warrant Planning Permission unless it goes above a certain height as it is classed as a form of shed.

f. New Parish Council Noticeboard

The Clerk has ordered the new noticeboard. John Reader is prepared to erect it.

g. Playbus Christmas Grotto

The Clerk has been in contact with school and Playgroup. The school suggested that the Parish Council gets in touch with the Friends of the school (FoFS). Playgroup may be interested. The Clerk will let the Playbus organisers know and see if they still have a date available.

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	£883.44
Business Saver Account	£6,158.76
Co-op Current Account	£4,547.38
Co-op Savings Account	£10,934.14

There were no unrepresented cheques. The £1 standing charge has been taken from the Barclays current account; the Barclays Savings Account has received £0.77 interest. The Clerk has paid the £50 rent from the fair into the Co-op account which has also received £0.46 interest. The Co-op savings account has received £2.89 in interest.

The Councillors **RESOLVED** to transfer the full amount of £6,158.76 from the Barclay's Business Saver Account to the Current Account and to write a cheque for £7,000 from the Barclays account once the Deeds have been received.

The Clerk has reviewed the budget for the year and presented the meeting with an end of year forecast together with a printout of all expenditure for the current year on all the accounts.

b. To consider invoices for payment

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

Payment to	Cheque Number	Amount
Royal British Legion for Poppy Wreath (S137 grant)	400016	£100.00
Green Scythe Ltd for September grass cutting	400017	£126.60
CDC for emptying of 4 dog bins	400018	£348.70
JMC Olds for Clerking Duties 1 July – 30 September plus April to June back pay	400019	£228.79
JMC Olds for expenses	400020	£81.06
J Fargin for CLP Launch expenses	400021	£52.20

8. Parish Matters

a. Road across the Green.

The Clerk and Roger Williams met Mrs Pearson at school to discuss the issue.

Following the meeting, the Clerk had drafted a letter to be sent jointly from the Parish Council, School and Playgroup to ask parents to park more courteously and avoid the Green. The Councillors **RESOLVED** to agree to sending the letter with amendments from John Fargin and Roger Williams.

Following discussion, the Councillors agreed that any repair completed now would just get damaged quickly over the inclement winter months so the best time to do work would be in July to give time for the work to bed in before the children go back to school in September.

There were two suggestions firstly to repair the edge and add a mound to the edge of the verge to deter cars from parking on it or secondly to kerb the edge of the verge to contain hard standing / gravel so that the area could be used as short-stay car parking. The Grasscrete and edging would be repaired at the same time.

The post and chain option was rejected as too cumbersome for maintenance and permitted access.

However, the Councillors were very concerned about the safety of the children.

The Village Hall building works which will start in due course, will also have an adverse effect on the car parking in the village hall car park.

b. War Memorial

David McCullagh had asked the Structural Engineer involved in the Village Hall project to look at and report on the War Memorial. This report had been received and was circulated.

It is not possible to know whether the movement on the plinth is ongoing, but the Engineer checked the stability of the cross and the centre of gravity falls within its base fairly comfortably, so the cross is reasonably stable and safe for work to be undertaken on the lettering.

He recommends considering levelling the plinth in due course.

The Councillors **RESOLVED** to obtain quotations for the lettering work.

The Clerk will send Mr Tobin the report for information.

c. 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. The Clerk would write to confirm.

d. Christmas Tree

The Councillors **RESOLVED** to purchase a 12' Christmas Tree from West Farm Barns to be delivered to the Village Hall car park.

e. Broadband

BT's Broadband Request website appeared to show that neither Fringford nor Stratton Audley were in the rollout for the Rural Broadband upgrade. The Clerk contacted OCC and was informed that a number of premises in the OX27 postcode area will be part of the project and that the reason why it is not showing on BT's website was because the information is only fed into the system up to six months before deployment. However OCC is setting up a new interactive map which will enable a view of coverage by exchange areas and give information about phases of delivery.

The Clerk suggested asking as many people as possible to register an interest at <http://www.superfast-openreach.co.uk/where-and-when/>

f. Trimming of shrubs in Crosslands

The Councillors **RESOLVED** to agree to Tree Solutions' quotation of £300 to trim the hedging and shrubbery, trim the top and sides of the Leylandii hedge, trim / remove problem sapling as required and to chip the cuttings back into shrubbery, raking out, leaving the area neat and tidy. The Clerk would write to confirm.

9. Community Led Plans

John Fargin reported that the launch meeting had been a success, and that the 'post-it' exercise had not raised any great issues - Broadband being the most popular concern. The CLP group has suggested a village newsletter which the Councillors **RESOLVED** could be funded by the Parish Council and run jointly.

The Councillors also **RESOLVED** to agree to help with the funding as necessary, although requested that any grants which were available be applied for.

10. Village Hall Extension Proposals

It is hoped that the project would start in the middle of 2014. The Councillors **RESOLVED** to agree to writing to Baroness Ann Maltzhan to request to use the grass verge outside the Village Hall as a storage area for the building materials.

The Village Hall Committee is also currently working on a Business Plan in order to maximise income when the work is complete.

11. Policies – to discuss and adopt a Financial Reserves Policy

The Councillors **RESOLVED** to agree to adopt a Financial Reserves Policy drafted by the Clerk.

12. Planning Applications

a. To consider recent Applications

The Councillors considered 13/01486/F – Mrs M Soar, Lime Tree Cottage, Manor Road, OX27 8DG: Removal of existing conservatory; new extension to rear with existing first floor bedroom extended into new roof space and had no objections.

b. To discuss the Parish Council's response to the appeal regarding 13/00718/F – Mr and Mrs R Ward, Former Rosemary - Variation of Condition 2 of 11/01160/F - re-submission of 13/000097/F

The Clerk had sent the letter to the Planning Inspector including the DVD of the two Planning Meetings at CDC but had had the DVD returned. However, the DVD may be presented to the Appeal Hearing on 30 January 2014 at Bodicote House.

Cllr Wood had submitted his letter and photographs to the Inspectorate.

c. To note Notices of Decision

13/01214/F – C & D Maxfield, Crow Barn, OX27 8RQ; Extension of time limit to 10/01132/F - Amendment to 08/02074/F - Extension to existing dwelling (as amended by plans received 10.08.10) – consent granted.

13. Correspondence Received

a. Travellers on A4421

The Clerk had received a note about the travellers camping on the Fringford side of the Stratton Audley cross roads on the A4421. She had contacted OCC's Officer responsible for travellers and he had resolved the issue.

b. Dog mess outside the Laurels

The Clerk had received a complaint about regular dog mess on the verge outside the Laurels. She had contacted the Dog Warden and if it continues, the Warden will attempt to put up temporary signs reminding dog walkers to pick up the mess.

c. Bicester Sweepers Activity

The Clerk has been copied in on correspondence about the activity at Glebe Court, but has not heard from CDC Enforcement or the Solicitors.

d. OCC Planning Consultation – circulated by email. The Councillors had no comment.

e. OCC Finance Planning – circulated by email.

f. Oxfordshire Playing Fields Association Annual General Meeting

g. ORCC Annual Review

h. Highways re closure of A34 for bridge repair work just north of Chieveley. The Councillors **RESOLVED** to ask the Clerk to publicise this information widely.

i. Dogs Trust – Chipping Campaign

j. ORCC Meetings to discuss OCC's budget reductions, service changes and impact on rural communities meeting on 21 November at Marlborough Enterprise Centre, Shipton Road, Woodstock at 7pm. John Fargin agreed to attend.

k. Parish Liaison Meeting on Wednesday 13 November at Bodicote House. John Fargin agreed to attend.

1. Community Emergency Planning Event – 7 November at Bodicote House at 6pm.

14. Reports from meetings

a. SLCC Meeting – 17 September

The Clerk attended the meeting which was about finance and budgets. It had been extremely useful and the Clerk had revised the setup of the finance spreadsheets following the meeting.

b. Meeting with Mrs Pearson at School – 19 September

Roger Williams and the Clerk met with Mrs Pearson and raised the issues of the village hall re-development, parking in the village and on the green, together with the suggestion of increasing the parking on the playing field behind the playground.

Mrs Pearson believed that there would be no possibility of creating a car park behind the playground as it is very boggy there.

Mrs Pearson suggested that the Parish Council, school and playgroup write a joint letter asking parents to park more carefully.

The Clerk also asked if Mrs Pearson would be happy to let the children work with PCSO Sue Cooper on a speeding / road safety initiative which could be used in Fringford, Stratton Audley and Caversfield (as the majority of children come from these areas) and she was happy with this.

c. Oxfordshire County Council ‘Talking Oxfordshire’ – 14 October.

The Clerk attended this meeting which was the start of a consultation exercise to reduce the County’s expenditure by a further £60m.

Between 2010 and the end of this financial year County had made savings of £170m; they had then ‘found’ a further £31m which could be saved between 2014/15 and 2017/18, but the Government is squeezing again and announced in the summer that County Councils needed to cut their budgets even further.

The Council is capped to a 2% council tax rise unless they hold a referendum (which will, in itself, cost in the region of half a million pounds) and raising the council tax by even 4% will only generate about £5.4m a year. Grant funding from Government has been reduced by £96m between 2010 and 2018.

The previous budget cuts made significant savings without severely affecting ‘front line’ services, but this next tranche of cuts are likely to affect these services.

The Leader of the Council, Ian Hudspeth, and the Chief Executive, Joanna Simons, stated that no decisions had been made and that they were asking for people’s opinions on what services could be reduced. There are some services which for statutory and legal reasons cannot be reduced and the education budget of £310m is ringfenced.

There will be further consultations and discussions before the final budget meetings.

15. Any Other Business

- a. The Clerk informed the meeting that the date of next year’s elections has been confirmed as Thursday 22 May. This will affect Fringford as it is an election year. The annual meeting of the Council must take place between Tuesday 27 May and Tuesday 10 June and the Annual Parish Meeting must take place between 27 May and 31 July.

In order to comply, the date of the June meeting will need to be changed to the second Monday – 9 June – rather than 16 June.

The Annual Parish Meeting will take place on the same date.

- b. The Councillors informed the Clerk that the footpath by the pub needed repair. The Clerk would contact Highways.

16. Date of next meeting

Monday 18 November 2013 at 7.45pm.

The meeting closed at 8.25pm

Signed Dated