

**Minutes of the Meeting of Fringford Parish Council, held on
Monday 15 September 2014, in the Chinnery Room of Fringford Village Hall at 7.45pm**

Present: Mick Cowland, John Fargin (Chairman), Les Harris, Jan Macijewski,
David McCullagh, John Reader, Adrian Thwaites
In attendance: Two members of the public, Jane Olds (Parish Clerk)
Apologies: None

1. Apologies

No apologies had been received.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Public Participation

Two members of the public observed the meeting.

4. Minutes of the Meeting held on 18 August 2014

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes be accepted as a true record and were signed by the Chairman.

5. Matters Arising from the Minutes

a. Speeding in the Village

The Clerk had contacted PC Chris Kidd, who will attend the October meeting.

b. Playground Report

The Clerk had asked a playground expert to give her a quotation for the remedial work but hasn't yet received the information.

c. Salt order

The Clerk has spoken to Mr Wise and ordered a further (free) tonne of salt from OCC.

6. Report from District and County Councillors

There were no reports.

7. Finance

a. To receive the financial report

The Accounts stand at:

Co-op Current Account	£1,937.54
Co-op Savings Account	£17,587.77

There are no unrepresented cheques.

The Current Account has received £1,045.04: the £1,000 War Memorial Grant from Church, £45 from Village Voice donations and £0.04 in interest.

The Savings Account has received the £750 War Memorial Grant from CDC.

The War Memorial budget now stands at £2,349.

b. To consider invoices for payment

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

Payment to	Budget	Cheque Number	Amount
Andrew Marsden VAT Consultant	Village Hall Extension	400058	£76.00
Royal British Legion for Poppy Wreath	S137 grant	400059	£100.00

8. New Financial Regulations

The Councillors had read through the Financial Regulations which the Clerk had circulated and **RESOLVED** to adopt them.

9. Letter from Mr Bryan Seamour regarding a CDC Planning Officer

The Clerk had been copied in on correspondence from Mr Bryan Seamour to Cherwell District Council officials and had acknowledged the letter saying that it was a matter for Cherwell District Council and not the Parish Council. CDC is now looking into the matter.

The Councillors **RESOLVED** to ask the Clerk to write to CDC's Chief Executive requesting:

- what CDC's policy is on employees undertaking extra employment or running a business in areas that are related to their work at CDC; and
- if this is permitted whether any of their planning or enforcement staff have acted for any planning applicants in the Fringford area in the last five years.

10. S137 Grant to the Royal British Legion

The Councillors considered the application of a grant to the Royal British Legion for the poppy wreath and **RESOLVED** to agree to a grant of £100 under S137 of the LGA 1972.

11. Parish Matters

a. Road across the Green

The Contractor had agreed to the date of 11 September, but unfortunately only half the topsoil had been delivered so he was unable to do the work. The Councillors requested that the Clerk ensures that the work is completed as soon as possible.

b. War Memorial

The Clerk had received and acknowledged a grant from Church for £1,000 and £750 from Cherwell District Council's War Memorial Fund.

The Faculty has been applied for and once it has been received, the work will be able to commence.

c. Village Pump

John Fargin and Jan Macijewski have looked at the pump and have produced a brief for the Clerk to send to three contractors for quotation.

The recommendation is to strengthen the inside of the roof structure with wooden braces to stop it twisting and to reduce the length of the legs, placing the whole structure on stone / brick staddle stones with brick foundations, thus reducing the rot potential to the legs. The Councillors **RESOLVED** to agree to the suggested brief and the Clerk obtaining quotations.

d. Crosslands Shrub Work

The Councillors **RESOLVED** to agree to the quotation of £315 excluding VAT from Tree Solutions for tidying up the shrubs in Crosslands. The contractor requested that the sapling which needs attention is marked so that he knows which one needs dealing with.

12. Community Led Plans

The group were at an advanced stage of creating the village survey which it is hoped will gain understanding of the villagers' concerns and aspirations. The Councillors requested that it is circulated to the Parish Council for comment prior to distribution. Once the survey has been completed it will be analysed and other parties will be approached to help bring the results to fruition.

13. Village Hall Extension

John Fargin reported that the project was going well with the exception of the VAT question.

The Village Hall Committee had received confirmation that the application to WREN was acceptable in its current form and it will be going to the October Committee.

Viridor had asked a number of questions regarding the application which had been resolved and a visit to look at the Village Hall had been arranged for 17 September.

The architects had omitted to obtain additional quotes for the internal works and the timber frame but these have now been received. Three sets of quotations have also been received for the solar and heating systems.

The Village Hall Committee had managed to acquire, free of charge, the services of a solicitor and now have a new 80 year lease based on the ACRE standard lease. They have appointed two temporary Management Trustees – Miles Richards and David McCullagh. However the Trusteeship will be transferred to the Charity Commission so that the lease can be held by the Charity Commission Official Trustee.

Regarding VAT, WREN and Viridor differ in their view as to who is able to apply. Viridor stipulate that they are only allowed to make grants to the entity which is the end user. If the Village Hall Committee receives the money the Parish Council is unable to reclaim the VAT. However Viridor has consistently stated that this is not a problem as they understood that the Parish Council would be able to reclaim the VAT.

As agreed at the August meeting, the Parish Council sought the opinion of a VAT Consultant and a letter was written to HMRC requesting guidance. The response has been received, but the Councillors **RESOLVED** to agree to request further clarification.

The Viridor grant application is for £109,000, exclusive of VAT, but the Committee may need to change the grant application to include the VAT element.

14. Planning Applications

a. To consider recent Applications

No applications had been received.

b. To note notices of Decision

No notices of Decision had been received

15. Consultation on Proposed Modifications to the Submission Cherwell Local Plan 2014

The Councillors had looked at the documents online at

<http://www.cherwell.gov.uk/LocalPlanExamination> but did not believe that there was any change in the documentation which adversely affected the village.

16. Correspondence Received

The Councillors noted the correspondence received and discussed where necessary.

a. Villager – regarding an airgun pellet in a cat

b. ORCC – formal notice of AGM 18 September

c. Stowe House Christmas Gift Fayre – 25 / 26 October. The Clerk has forwarded this to Shelswell News as it was too late for the Village Voice

d. Age UK Community Information Network – a local information service for older people in Oxfordshire. The Clerk has forwarded the information to the CLP, the Village Voice and the Shelswell News.

e. OALC - August update (circulated by email)

f. OCC Minerals and Waste – further consultation. All comments need to be made by 13 October.

g. OCC Community Emergency Planning Survey – The Clerk had started to complete the survey but needed two more emergency contact numbers for both working hours and 24 hours. Names were suggested which the Clerk would follow up.

h. Villager – re Bicester Sweepers Activity

i. Oxfordshire Association for the Blind – donation request

j. Mrs Ward – regarding Freedom of Information request. The Clerk had sent all the information she held and Mrs Ward confirmed that she had received it.

17. Reports from meetings

No meetings had been attended.

16. Any Other Business

a. ORCC

ORCC announced that Alan Foulkes and Anton Nath who were co-ordinating the CLP project have left. Tom McCulloch will now be co-ordinating Community Led Plans.

17. Date of next meeting

The Councillors **RESOLVED** to agree the date of Monday 20 October 2014 at 7.45pm.

The meeting closed at 8.35pm

Signed Dated