

**Minutes of a Meeting of Fringford Parish Council, held on
Monday 18th December 2017, in the Chinnery Room of Fringford Village Hall at
7.45pm**

Present: Cllrs David McCullagh (Chairman), John Fargin, Jan Maciejewski, John Reader, and Adrian Thwaites.

In attendance:

Apologies: Cllrs Mick Cowland, Les Harris
Cllr Barry Wood (CDC), Cllr Ian Corkin (OCC and CDC)

1. Apologies

Noted as above.

2. Requests for Dispensations and Declarations of Interest, gifts and hospitality

There were no requests for dispensations or declarations of pecuniary interest.

3. Public Participation

None.

4. Reports from District and County Councillors and Police

Cllr Corkin reported to the Chairman and Clerk by email with OCC news, which has been circulated to all Councillors.

5. To receive a report from Cllr Wood (CDC) regarding any newly registered sites within the village.

None.

6. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 20th November 2017

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes be accepted as a true record of the meeting.

7. Update on progress from the Minutes.

The Clerk reported that the Christmas Tree had been ordered and she noted it was now in situ, and the snow clearance was confirmed in time for the contract to be effective when heavy snow hit the village on 10th December. The Clerk was asked to send a letter of thanks to the contractor for his assistance. The Clerk advised that she had been in correspondence regarding damage to the Village Green by delivery vehicles, and also advised that, in some circumstances, damaging the surface of a registered Village Green could be a criminal offence. She agreed to draw this fact to the attention of businesses adjoining the Green, and CDC refuse collectors, who had been noted driving over the verge when

leaving Crosslands. Damage to the Village green by vehicles parking was also reported to be a problem in the area around the Village school.

8. Finance

a. To receive the monthly financial report – which is attached to these Minutes and shown as “Appendix A”

b. To consider invoices for payment itemised on the payment schedule

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

Cheque no:	Payee and reason	Budget	Amount
400211	Green Scythe	Grass cutting	£330.00
400212	Mrs A Davies	Clerk’s salary and expenses	£177.62
400413	HMRC	Clerk Tax	£41.40
400414	Richard Wise	Snow clearance (maintenance)	£180.00
400415	Rawlinsons	Bollard repair	£138.24

The Parish Council considered the first draft budget prepared by the Clerk and asked for provision to be made for the creation of a “ building contingency reserve” to which £2000 should be added.

9. Parish Matters – to discuss where necessary

a. Village Groups – to receive an update from any of the Village Groups

i. Village Hall Update –

It was reported that the Village Hall Committee is finalising the provision of a suitable A Board, details of which will be forwarded to the Clerk.

The Cycling Group, while dormant over winter, is looking for more ride leaders for spring and summer months.

Village Hall lettings are going well, and a recent Bingo Night raised £900 for the Make A Wish Foundation.

b. Grass Cutting –

The Parish Council noted that quotes had been received from Greenscythe Ltd and The Ground Care Company for cutting both the internal grass in the village, and the grassed areas further from the centre of the Village.

Greenscythe had quoted £2002 for 14 cuts of the internal areas of the village, and £2310 for 14 cuts of the wider area, using a tractor with an external side arm. The Ground Care Company had quoted £2996 for all cuts, but the

Chairman had some concerns that this included a proposal to cut the grass across the village with a Hayter cylinder mower. The Parish Council noted that the quality of work carried out by Greenscythe was exceptionally good, and felt that a reduction in cuts of the outer areas of the village to 6 per annum would bring the costs within the same envelope. On this basis they agreed to appoint Greenscythe as their grass cutting contractor. The Clerk was asked to write to Greenscythe asking for the first cut of 2018 to take place in the 3rd or 4th week in March and to write to The Ground Care Company thanking them for their quote.

c. Trees by Church End – to receive a progress report

The Clerk advised the meeting that OCC are now checking the documentation with their lawyers. The trees have also been reported to SSE as the potential hazard to the electricity supply.

d. Playground

To receive a progress report on the refurbishment project

In anticipation of a successful grant application a preferred supplier has been chosen. Councillors are due to meet them in early January to start making some plans. Meanwhile the Parish Council is grateful for a grant of at least £1000 from Tesco's Community Support scheme

e. Community Transport

The Clerk reported that she had received a telephone call from CDC's Bicester Infrastructure Delivery Lead, at the request of Cllr Wood, who had been contacted by residents with concerns about the loss of a bus service serving the village. She did not think that currently there were any projects that would be of assistance to the Parish, but suggested they look at the provision of the COMET service from OCC. After discussion the Parish Council confirmed that they had investigated COMET options, but felt it was not suitable to the Parish Council needs, but an "on demand" service to Bicester was available from Fringford Friends at a cost of £5, although it was not possible to use bus passes for these journeys. The Parish Council asked the Clerk to advise Cllr Wood of the availability of this service.

f. Lendrums Fair

The Council has received a request from Lendrums Fair for access to the Village Green from 29th July – 5th August. The Council agreed to this request, but asked the Clerk to draw the attention of the fair operators to concerns that had been expressed about the dogs present with the fair, and ask for suggestions to reduce their intimidation to residents.

g. Damage to Village Green

The Parish Council noted that a delivery vehicle had been observed damaging a bollard on the Village Green when reversing. The Clerk reported that she had made the company concerned aware of the issue, and, subject to Parish Council agreement, intended to claim from the company the cost of repairs. The Council authorised the Clerk to take action to reclaim the cost of repairs, including by lodging a small claim in the County Court if necessary.

10. Liaison with HS Contractors

Cllr Corkin is now trying to finalise a meeting with the HS2 contractors early in 2018, which the Chairman will attend, as the Council is keen to minimise any disruption to the Village during the construction of the railway.

11. Conservation areas

The Parish Council noted the report of the Clerk into the process of making a Conservation Area, and agreed that CDC had policies in place to protect villages such as Fringford and therefore it would not proceed further with this designation at present.

12. Emergency Plan/SSE Resilience Fund

Following the 9 hour long power cut on 10th December, this is now recognised as a significant issue for the village. The Chairman confirmed that he had had preliminary discussions about the proposed siting of a generator at the Village Hall, and had also investigated an improved gritter with the snow clearance contractor. The Clerk is waiting to hear from SSE about the next round of resilience Fund applications, and in the meantime the Parish Council will develop a list of items required to enhance the Village's resilience in the event of a power outage and/or inclement weather.

It was also agreed that the Parish Council should obtain copies of the SSE Priority service leaflets, which Fringford friends will distribute around the village.

13. Oxford to Cambridge Expressway

The Clerk reported that the National Infrastructure Commission have recommended the construction of an Oxford to Cambridge Expressway as a strategic development linking the two cities, and with the intention of building a further 1.2 million houses along its length.

Currently there are 3 corridors that have been proposed:

1. A southern route via Aylesbury
2. A northern route crossing the M40 and linking with Winslow
3. An option running along the A4421 to join to the Finmere bypass.

The Parish Council agreed that, while they noted that the routes were not yet clear, they strongly opposed any proposal to construct the Expressway along or adjoining the A4421 from Bicester.

14. Community Police Update

Thames Valley Police have recently reported that two men were arrested in Fringford recently on suspicion of car theft, and that overall, rural crime has increased by five percent between October 2016 and September 2017.

TVPA have confirmed that they are committed to investigating reports of rural crime, but they rely on information from local communities as there are often fewer witnesses to rural crimes and greater opportunities for criminals to target isolated properties and businesses.

They have suggested the risk of becoming a victim of rural crime can be reduced by

- Keeping the boundaries of land and property well-maintained and secure
- Fitting strong locks to sheds, garages and outbuildings
- Checking security equipment regularly to ensure it is working properly
- Locking equipment away in a secure building when it's not in use
- Security marking tools and equipment
- making sure that all vehicles are locked to prevent any opportunist crime that may otherwise go unnoticed for a considerable period
- ringing 101 to report any suspicious activity

15. Boundary Commission Update

The Parish Council noted that the Boundary Commission has recently been advertising heavily for final responses. The Council has submitted a response and has nothing further to add.

16. Planning Applications

- a. To consider all recent Applications received from Cherwell District Council detailed below or on the District Council website up to the date of the meeting**

Certificate of Lawfulness of Existing Use for the parking and storage of commercial and private vehicles and equipment and the storage of road planings

Land South East of Glebe Court Fringford Ref. No: 17/02407/CLUE

Certificate of Lawful Use Existing for a single storey office, a storage bay, the bund.

Bicester Sweepers Globe Works Fringford Bicester OX27 8RJ Ref. No:
17/02276/CLUE

The Parish Council expressed concerns at these applications as the use of the land had generated a considerable amount of complaints from residents over the years. It was generally believed that the current use of the land was greatly in excess of the use applied for, and included maintenance of vehicles, steam cleaning and floodlight operations, all outside what could be considered “normal working hours” and sometimes in the early hours of the morning. The Parish Council also did not consider that the access to the area the subject of the applications was suitable for the proposed uses.

To note Notices of Decision

Single storey rear and side extension - re-submission of 17/01407/F

10 Church Close Fringford Bicester OX27 8DR Ref. No: 17/02081/F

Approved.

17. Correspondence Received – to note correspondence received not otherwise on the agenda where decisions are not required

The Councillors noted the correspondence received, most of which had been circulated by email, and discussed where necessary.

- a. 22/11/17 Met office weather advisor
- b. 24/11/17 OCC update from Cllr Corkin
- c. 30/11/17 OCVA Pulse

18. Reports from meetings

The Chairman reported that he had attended a planning meeting organised by OALC in Witney on 12th December, but was told that, due to weather conditions, it had been cancelled.

19. Items for information or next Agenda only

Agenda Items

The Clerk requested that all items for the next agenda should be submitted by Wednesday 5th January 2018.

16. Date of next meeting

The Council **RESOLVED** to agree the date of Monday 15th January 2018 at 7.45pm.

The meeting closed at 9.00 pm

Signed

Dated

Fringford Parish Council			Monthly Financial Report	
			Parish Council Meeting	18 December 2017
Payments processed since last meeting				£667.30
20-Nov-17	Green Scythe	400205		£165.00
20-Nov-17	JMC Olds	400206		£92.48
20-Nov-17	information Commissioner	400207		£35.00
20-Nov-17	Mrs A Davies	400208		£178.02
20-Nov-17	HMRC	400209		£41.20
20-Nov-17	Rawlinsons	400210		£155.60
Receipts processed since previous report				£157.50
03-Oct-17	Donation			£7.50
16-Oct-17	Donation			£7.50
23-Oct-17	Donation			£22.50
07-Nov-17	Donation			£45.00
21-Nov-17	Donation			£30.00
01-Dec-17	Donation			£45.00
Bank Reconciliation		Statement dated		01 December 2017
		Savings Account		£23,579.97
		Current account		£2,360.62
Items not yet cleared:				
Receipts	None			
Payments	Royal British Legion			£100.00
	Mrs A Davies			£178.02
			Net Total	<u>£25,662.57</u>

