

**Minutes of a Meeting of Fringford Parish Council, held on
Monday 16th April 2018, in the Chinnery Room of Fringford Village Hall at 7.45
pm**

Present: Cllrs David McCullagh (Chairman), John Fargin, Les Harris,
John Reader, Mick Cowland and Adrian Thwaites.

In attendance:

Apologies: Cllr Ian Corkin (CDC and OCC) Cllr Barry Wood (CDC) and Cllr
Jan Maciejewski

Also in Attendance : The Head teacher and Chair of Governors of Fringford Primary
school and 17 Members of the Public

17. Apologies

Noted as above.

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

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

19. The Chairman, being aware that a number of members of the public present were attending to raise concerns about damage caused to the Green by parked cars, exercised his discretion to deal with the discussions with the school and participation by the public at the same time, as there was commonality between the two issues. He welcomed the Head Teacher and Chair of Governors of Fringford Primary School and explained that they had been invited to attend the Parish Council meeting as the Council is aware that the forthcoming development of HS2 could mean that communities close enough to suffer from the upheaval of construction of the railway line may also be able to benefit from a Community grant of up to £75000 and assistance by work in kind from the main contractor's Community Investment scheme. As Fringford is about 1km away from the construction site of a haul road, it is understood that the parish could be eligible for these benefits, and the Parish Council would therefore like to explore opportunities to improve the parking for both the school and the village hall, with a view to protecting the Green from damage caused by random car parking, mainly by parents dropping children off at school.

The Parish Council was at an early stage of looking at the possibility of developing as a car park the adjoining land at the rear of the new playground. Currently the question to clarify is whether the land belongs to OCC (the school) or the Diocese, and whether the land owner would be prepared to enter into discussions about its development.

Councillors and members of the public attending highlighted the worsening situation with parking, in particular the potential safety hazards to children, the

obstruction by poorly parked cars, increasing damage to the village green and abuse of the village hall car park. It was also reported that some parents/carers were somewhat abusive to local residents and hirers of the village hall. Members of the public made several suggestions as to how the problem could be alleviated to some extent.

The Head Teacher of the school pointed out that disputes over car parking between parents and residents was generating a distraction to him which could compromise his focus on the school's ability to educate its children. It was the success of the school - which had led to its size being increased from 2 teachers when it opened to 15 currently, which was generating a substantial increase in traffic. In view of this, the representatives of the school confirmed that, in principle they were prepared to discuss options, and it was agreed that the Chairman of the Parish Council and the Head Teacher would hold further discussions, and report back to the Parish Council meeting in June.

Parish Councillors reiterated the fact that that there was a long standing agreement, already made known to the school, with the Butchers Arms that enabled parents to park in their car park and then walk their children to school. The benefit of this route was that there was a footpath all the way from the Public house to the school. The school agreed to advertise and support this option in its email to parents, and also advised the Parish Council that it had just started a Breakfast club – which may relieve some of the pressure on parking.

The Chair of the Village Hall Committee explained that there was some cooperation between the school and the Committee – eg when there were events on at the Village Hall (in particular, wakes) the school advised parents that the Village Hall parking was unavailable, and parents mostly respected this.

However this was not the experience with regard to regular bookings, when parents had sometimes acted aggressively towards the hirer. The Village Hall Committee had noticed that bookings were increasing and hirers did expect the booking to include car parking facilities. New bookings were encouraged to avoid drop off and collection periods, but this was not always possible. Indeed the Village Hall had recently received an email from a regular hirer expressing concern and indicating that she may have to cancel the booking and move to another location if the parking problem was not resolved. It had also been noted that parents did not always move on as quickly as possible after dropping off their passenger/s. It was agreed that the school and the village hall committee would carry out a joint survey of parents using the carpark on a date to be agreed between them.

It was suggested that it would be helpful if the school would explain to parents that the use of the carpark at the village hall by school parents is a concession and not a right. There was also concern at the possible danger parents were putting their children into when they parked on the road across the village green and blocked access for other users.

It was agreed that the Head Teacher would write to parents encouraging them to make use of the carpark at the Butchers Arms and would also try to encourage children living in the village to walk or cycle to school.

Finally it was observed that currently parent's parking behaviour was causing damage to the Village Green and encouraging children not to respect other people's property.

It was agreed that the Parish Council would invite the school representatives to its meeting in June , and, at this time, would also invite representatives from the Pre School and the Primary School's Parent /teacher Association.

20. Public Participation

Members of the public had the opportunity to ask make comments and ask questions of the school representatives during the earlier discussion.

21. Reports from District and County Councillors and Police

None .

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

None.

23. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 19th March 2018.

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

24. Update on progress from the Minutes.

The Clerk reported that she had had confirmation from the Stakeholder Manager of East/West Rail that the company will be looking to encourage all its traffic other than domestic vehicles to use the HGV route to the Launton Compound either by utilising the HGV route via the B4100 or by going to the Bicester compound and utilising the haul road to the Launton Compound, which should reduce the amount of traffic on the unclassified road through Stoke Lyne considerably, although it would have little effect on the traffic turning right off the A4421. She understood that the Transport and Works Act application would shortly be lodged, and advised the Parish Council that, in her opinion, they should object to the proposals to ensure that the traffic was managed appropriately and to maintain a role in the negotiation of mitigation measures.

The Clerk also reported that there had been an uncontested election at Fringford and all Parish Councillors had been returned unopposed.

25. 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	Minute Ref	Amount
400233	CDC/dog bins	maintenance		£240.24
400234	Anne Davies Clerk salary	salaries	Cl salary	£177.82
400235	HMRC	Clerk Tax	Cl ts and cs	£41.40
400236	A resident	Village Voice expenses		£16.25
400237	Hethe and Fringford Darby and Joan Club	Misc		£280.00
400238	Fringford PCC			
400239	CJM Fencing	Groundworks for playground	10/18	£2988.00

The Parish Council agreed to appoint Arrow Accounting as its Internal auditor for the year 2017/18.

The Parish Council agreed the changes to the Risk register proposed by the Clerk.

26. Parish Matters – to discuss where necessary

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

i. **Village Hall.**

Cllr Fargin reported that he was in the process of obtaining quotes for the cost of repairs to the roof of the Village Hall, and, once these are available, it was his intention to make an application for grant funding to the GarfieldWeston Charitable fund. One quote has been received and a further two are awaited.

ii) . **Application for grant form Darby and Joan Club**

the Parish Council has received a request for a grant from the Darby and Joan Club which meets in Fringford Village Hall. After discussion the Council agreed to make a grant of £280 towards the cost of providing transport to the club’s meetings.

iii) **Church Clock**

Cllr Reader explained that a problem had arisen with the striking mechanism of the Church Clock: it was required to cease striking overnight, and this was not working. The Church had obtained parts to remedy the

problem, and he had carried out the required repair, but it had been at a cost of £800. It was suggested that the Parochial Church Council make a formal application to the Parish Council if they required a grant towards the cost of these works.

iv) Playground

The Parish Council Has now received the formal funding agreement from WREN and has also received the £1000 contribution from Bags of Help. Initial clearance works have been completed.

v) Trees at Church End

It was reported during the public session that SSE had visited and inspected the trees in question, and had allocated a works number for the pruning works required. The Clerk will continue to investigate ownership of the land on which the trees are situated.

vi) Village Green/Parking

See earlier discussion.

vii) Resilience Grant

An application to SSE for the next tranche of Resilience Grant funding can be made until 16th May 2018. The Parish Council authorised the Clerk to make an application for funding for resilience sundries, a towable gritter and a generator which was able to power th the Village Hall.

27. 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**

Residential development of up to 10 dwellings 

Fringford Cottage Main Street Fringford Bicester OX27 8DP

Ref. No: 18/00249/OUT

The Chairman reported that he had attended the Cherwell District Council Planning Committee on 12th April when this application was considered. The Planning officer's report recommended that the application should be refused, and this recommendation as agreed unanimously be the Planning Committee. The refusal notice has just been received and the Clerk will add it to the documents on the website.

Reposition the current garden shed and erection of a garden room 

Feddans Main Street Fringford Bicester OX27 8DP

Ref. No: 18/00502/F |

During the public session the applicant had explained that the application was necessary because the property did not have the benefit of permitted development rights. The Parish Council agreed that they had no objections to the proposals, but would check with neighbours that there were no concerns.

28. 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.

OCC County Council briefing

OALC Update

The Clerk also reported a letter from a resident living on the Stratton Audley Road expressing concern at the line of a new fence at an adjoining property. It was agreed that the matter should be reported to OCC Highways.

29. Reports from meetings

None.

30. Items for information or next Agenda only

Information

The Parish Council instructed the Clerk that, in future, they would not wish to consider planning applications without hard copy documents having been previously circulated, and that, if necessary the Clerk would need to obtain an extension of time for a response to be lodged from CDC.

Cllr Fargin reported that he was looking at compliance with the General Data Protection Regulations on behalf of the Village Hall. The Clerk confirmed that the Parish Council had now agreed its retention schedule – which had been informed by an audit of data held. She would shortly be looking at adding a “resubscribe” button to the Parish Council mailings and would be putting details of the terms on which data was held onto the Parish Council area of the web site.

Agenda Items

The Clerk requested that all items for the next agenda should be submitted by Friday 7th May 2018.

16. Date of next meeting

The Council **RESOLVED** to agree the date of Monday 21st May 2018 at 7.45pm for the Annual Meeting of the Parish of Fringford, with the Annual Parish Council meeting commencing immediately on the rising of the Parish Meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm

Signed

Dated

