**Minutes of the Meeting of a virtual meeting of Fringford Parish Council,   
held on Monday 15th June 2020 at 7.45pm.**

**Present:** Councillors, John Fargin, Adrian Thwaites, John Reader, David McCullagh, Jan Maciejewski, Les Harris and Hayley Ryder.

1. **Apologies**

Cllrs Barry Wood (CDC) and Ian Corkin (CDC and OCC).

1. Also present: 3 members of the public.
2. **Requests for Dispensations and Declarations of Interest**

There were no requests for dispensations or declarations of interest.

1. **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 16TH March 2020.**

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

1. **Informal meeting**

The Council confirmed the notes of the Informal Meeting of the Parish Council held on 18th May 2020 as a test for the Zoom online conferencing tool and also confirmed the election of John Fargin as Chair of the Council and the appointment of Les Harris as Vice Chair. The Council also confirmed the Parish Councillor roles as set out in these notes, and the Parish Council’s procedure for dealing with planning applications during the pandemic.

1. **Public Participation**
2. A member of the public attended the meeting to thank the Parish Council and village residents for their support during the lockdown, and to express concern at recent incidents of flash flooding, which appeared to be caused by blocked road drains and gullies. The Clerk has already reported this to Oxfordshire County Council, should they not take appropriate action the Parish Council may make arrangements with a private contractor for the drains to be cleared.
3. Another resident asked about the donations to the Village Voice shown in the 2019/2020 accounts. It was suggested and agreed that the availability of the Community Action Fund be promoted in a future edition of the Voice.
4. The Chair of the Village Hall Committee updated Councillors on the Village Hall and its plans for re- opening. During the period the Hall has been closed it has been thoroughly cleaned. So far as it being reopened, the Committee will be advised by Community First Oxfordshire. It will have ample supplies of hand sanitiser, paper towels and dispensers. A risk assessment is to be undertaken but it is likely that the hall may re-open on September 1st at the earliest. Hirers have been kept up to date. A Government grant may be available to assist with the pandemic safeguards that will be required.

There has also been an enquiry from an existing hirer about the use of the Village Hall Car Park.

1. **Finance**
   1. **To receive the monthly financial report – which is attached to these Minutes and shown as “Appendix A”. The Clerk was asked to provide more details of receipts and payments.**
   2. **To consider invoices for payment itemised on the payment schedule:-**

| 1. **Cheque no:** | **Payee and reason** | **Budget** | **Minute Ref** | **Amount** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 400446 | Greenscythe | Grass mowing |  | £253.80 |
| 400447 | J Fargin | Zoom subscription |  | £13.39 |
| 400448 | Mrs A Davies | Clerk Salary x3 months |  | £536.77 |
| 400449 | HMRC | Cl tax 9x3) |  | £134.00 |

Total £937.9

* 1. **To confirm the Parish Council accounts for 2019/2020 and authorise the Chair to sign the Accounts and the Annual Governance Statement**.

The Parish Council resolved to agree these and authorise the Chair to sign.

1. **Parish Matters** – to discuss where necessary
   1. **Village Groups** – the Council thanked the groups who had provided support to the village residents during the lockdown period, including Fringford Friends, The Church, the Butcher’s Arms and the Muddy Duck. Thanks were also given to the individual residents who had organised food and prescription collection for neighbours including people who were shielding and had limited opportunity to leave their homes.
   2. **Social Distancing**

There would appear to be an increase in people using footpaths and bridleways. Cllr Ryder agreed to produce a poster, to be placed at entrances, reminding people, including cyclists, to comply with social distancing requirements.

* 1. **Village Green** – to receive an update

The Parish Council has consulted with OCC regarding the protection of the edges of the Green by creating several Grasscrete or similar parking bays on the road across the Green. These proposals are currently being progressed by Cllr McCullagh, who would apply for funds to carry out the work from the developers of HS2. It was agreed that there should be consultation with residents before any work was started. Cllr McCullagh agreed to write a letter to adjacent residents to gain feedback on the proposed works. This will also be posted on the village website and Facebook.

* 1. **Potholes and gullies**

See public participation.

* 1. **Protecting the Cricket Field**

The Chair agreed to contact the Cricket Club trustees to progress the ongoing discussions regarding the long-term protection of the cricket field against potential development and to discuss possible support for the club from the Parish Council.

The Council will also proceed with an application for registration of the land as an Asset of Community Value.

* 1. **Dog bin by the Church**

This has now been resolved.

* 1. **Verge trimming**

The Parish Council has received a suggestion that the highway verges should be cut in a manner to support wildlife. After discussion the Council agreed that verge cutting would have little effect on the wild life of the area, but agreed that the contractor should be asked to leave a small margin by the hedge in future cuts to create a “wildlife corridor”.

* 1. **Overhanging hedge/s**

The Clerk was asked to write to the occupier of Sunnyside Cottage asking for the hedge overhanging the pavement to be cut back.

It was reported that the trees from the Primary School to the corner of the road also need to be cut back to avoid their branches interfering with pedestrians.

1. **Planning Applications/Decisions**

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.

None.

1. **TVPA Rural Resilience Group**

The next meeting is to be confirmed. The group also has an active Facebook page.

1. **Correspondence Received** – to note correspondence received not otherwise on the agenda where decisions are not required.
   1. The Chairman has received correspondence from a resident drawing the Council’s attention to problems with blocked drains in Rectory Lane. The Clerk was asked to report the problem to both Thames and Anglian Water and request that they follow this up by writing to local residents about the causes of the issue.
   2. Councillors have again received complaints about vehicle repairs in Wise Crescent. If these persist the Clerk was asked to report the problem to Sanctuary Housing and Cherwell District Council again.
   3. The Council received a letter from a village resident complaining about the design of the repairs to the Old Rectory wall on Church Lane. Following consultation, and a revision to the design it was reported that the immediate neighbour to the wall is now happy with the work undertaken. As the revised design was appropriate to the local area no further action would be necessary.
2. **Items for information or next Agenda only**

None

1. **Agenda Items** –Agenda items for the next meeting should be submitted as soon as possible.
2. **Date of next meeting**

20th July 2020.

The meeting closed at 9.45pm

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