**Minutes of the Meeting of a virtual meeting of Fringford Parish Council,   
held on Monday 20th July 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 15th June 2020.**

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

1. **Public Participation**
2. A member of the public attended the meeting in response to an article in Village Voice suggesting possible works to increase parking capacity at the village green. In her opinion the grasscrete currently installed had not facilitated the growth of grass and the areas were therefore weed infested. To extend the grasscrete would therefore extend the problem. There had been other suggestions such as writing to see if the Parish Council and school could create a car park close to the playground, or to approach the owner of farmland that had recently been advertised for sale.

There was a suggestion that the school could arrange a one way drop off solution, but concern was expressed at the probable length of any car parking queue.

It was agreed that the option of buying the farmland opposite the Laurels would not be ideal due to the distance from the school and road safety issues.

The Clerk was asked to approach the school again about developing additional car parking capacity, and to ask Cllr Corkin if he was able to help.

1. **Finance**
   1. **To receive the monthly financial report – which is attached to these Minutes and shown as “Appendix A”.**
   2. **To consider invoices for payment itemised on the payment schedule: -**

| 1. **Cheque no:** | **Payee and reason** | **Budget** | **Minute Ref** | **Amount** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 400450 | Green Scythe | Grass mowing |  | £205.80 |
| 400451 | Mrs A Davies | Clerk Salary |  | £178.89 |
| 400452 | HMRC | Cl tax |  | £44.80 |
| 400453 | Richard Wise | Verge trimming |  | £168.00 |
| 400454 | Fringford Village Hall | PPE |  | £265.55 |

Total £863.04

1. **Parish Matters** – to discuss where necessary
   1. **Village Groups** –.
   2. **Village Hall**

The Chair of the Village Hall Committee explained to the Parish Council that its members were currently discussing when the Village Hall should re-open. Influencing any decision was the knowledge that one of the functions of the Village Hall was to provide a community service; it was also important to try to retain the Hall’s client base and thus it’s future viability and sustainability. A huge number of Government guidelines have been reviewed to define what needs to be put in place.

Reopening the hall would, however, presents a number of different risks – financial, reputational, legal and health and safety among others. The Committee have asked hirers about their intentions and the number wishing to return will assist in making this decision.

The Committee have determined that any reopening would require a rigorous approach to the management of lettings, a change to hiring Terms and Conditions to require cleaning by the hirers and regular monitoring.

The Parish Council, after consideration of the options, agreed to support any action the Committee took with regard to the management of the Hall.

The Committee also asked if any Councillors would be able to provide support in the activities required prior to re-opening.

* 1. **Social distancing**

It was agreed that signs should be put up around the village reminding residents and visitors that social distancing should be maintained.

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

It was agreed that proposals should be circulated to residents close to the Green, including those in Rectory Lane, drawing attention to the Parish Council’s proposals to increase parking on the Green and asking for input. There was concern that widening one side of the Green with grasscrete would lead to an increase in speeding drivers, so the proposal has been developed to use both sides in a staggered format.

* 1. **COVID update**

Fringford Friends are continuing to support residents, including shopping and prescription collection.

* 1. **Potholes and gullies**

OCC have confirmed gully clearance work has been carried out.

* 1. **Hedge by the Playpark**

The hedge by the playpark to the corner by the school needs to be cut back, but initial attempts have shown up the poor state of the wall behind. The Parish Council considered several further options, including cutting the hedge back to the fence and carrying out maintenance work on the wall. The Council agreed that they would investigate funding availability to support a project to cut back the hedge, repair the wall and tidy the ground around it. It was also agreed to tidy up the area by the bus shelter.

The Clerk was asked to write to the occupier of Sunnyside Cottage asking that their hedge be cut back to facilitate pedestrian access.

* 1. **Email Communication**

Councillors were reminded to be mindful of Data Protection and Freedom of Information requirements**.**

* 1. **E/W rail**

The Council was warned that a change of plan by the construction consortium could lead to an increase in LGV traffic on the Stoke Lyne road.

* 1. **Trees at Crosslands**

The Parish Council agreed to proceed with the quote from Oxford Oak Tree Surgery in the sum of £760 + VAT.

1. **Planning Applications/Decisions**

**Butcher’s Arms development**

The Parish Council, having queried the planning conditions with regard to highway safety, have received a reply from CDC planners which was not considered very constructive. It was suggested Cllrs Corkin and Wood be asked to follow the matter up as the Parish Council still did not understand why the need to improve the site entrance and the sight lines were not conditions requiring compliance before development commenced, rather than before occupation of the houses.

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 Council agreed to request 2 wreaths from the Royal British Legion, in accordance with their usual practice.
   2. The Parish Council has received a complaint about parked cars on the corner of St Michael’s Close blocking access into the pumping station for the Anglian Water tanker. The Clerk was asked to draw the issue to the attention of both OCC and Anglian Water and ask whether they could suggest a solution.
2. **Items for information or next Agenda only**

The Clerk was asked to add the condition of the plant growth at the footpath by Fringford Cottage. She was also asked to report the problem to OCC’s footpath team.

The Parish Council agreed not to lock the gates of the playground as this would not fully prevent entry and could lead to damage. It was agreed to move the ‘closed’ signs to the fence adjacent to the gates.

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

17th August 2020.

The meeting closed at 10.00pm