**Minutes of the meeting of Fringford Parish Council,   
held on Monday 25th April 2022 at 7.45pm.**

**Present:** Councillors: John Fargin, Phil Davids-Austin, Robert Gue, Hayley Ryder, Les Harris, Ginny Hope

**Also present:** R. Damerell (Clerk) and 1 member of the public

1. **Apologies for absence** – to receive apologies for Cllr David McCullagh. Cllr Corkin sent his apologies.
2. **Requests for Dispensations and Declarations of interest, gifts and hospitality –** Cllrs Fargin (Bancroft) and Ryder (The Spinney) declared an Interest on item 7 (b) Trees
3. **Public participation** – **to receive questions from members of the public relating to items on the agenda, in accordance with the Council’s Code of Conduct and standing orders**.

* A member of the public conveyed a message from a resident that they would oppose the removal of the trees on Church Lane. They would however accept some pollarding of the trees.
* The Parish Councillors involved were thanked for their support in resolving the issue of the tree at Bancroft.

1. **Updates from County & District Councillors – See item on Ox / Cam**
2. **To approve the Minutes** of the last Parish Council Meeting. – The minutes of the meeting held on the 21 March 2022 were unanimously approved.
3. **Finance**
   1. **To receive the monthly bank reconciliation** – The Parish Council reviewed and approved the accounts.
   2. **To consider invoices for payment.** – Invoices were reviewed and approved by Councillors.
4. **Parish Matters –** to discuss where necessary
   1. **Village Groups – to receive an update from any of the Village Groups** 
      1. **Village Hall –** Ultrafast Broadband has been installed and has resulted in a reduction in monthly costs. The Booking Clerk is settling in well. A marketing project has begun to increase bookings.
   2. **Trees – including by the Church**
      1. **Bancroft –** Cllr Fargin updated that Carter Jonas have finally accepted that the tree that has fallen down is on the property of their clients, the Oxford Diocese. They are now seeking quotes to remove the tree.
      2. **Trees by the church –** Cllrs Harris and Ryder to meet the Land Agent once a date has been provided.It was resolved to re-examine the Beech tree in a years time. The Council resolved that it is the intention is for the other trees to be pollarded rather than felled except for one tree that is in poor condition. The Council also expressed their desire for the trees in the Spinney to be made safe rather than to have all the trees felled.
   3. **Village Green / Motorbikes on the Green –** The Parish Council resolved to try and resolve the matter informally at this stage. Cllr Davids-Austin to visit the family involved pointing out the numerous complaints received and the illegality of the action. However if this starts up again then the Council will look to escalate their response further.
   4. **HS2 Project / Grants –** 
      1. **Road Across the Green –** Cllr Gue has been liaising with OCC, who have made the application on the Parish Council’s behalf.
      2. **Pond area/Wall –** The application has been completed. Cllr McCullagh will add a financial update and upload the application to the HS2 site. The value of the Grant to be requested will be approximately £65,000. A post has been acquired for the Village Sign. It was resolved to progress the village sign even if the grant is not awarded.
   5. **Platinum Jubilee –** Cllr Fargin proposed having a second meeting with the interested parties/groups in the village to progress the jubilee plans and look to try and bring in some more volunteers to help with delivering the various elements of the weekend..
   6. **Village Speed limit –** The Council agreed to review the OCC website on the 20mph speed limit. It was agreed to revisit this at the next meeting
   7. **Oxford / Cambridge Arc**

* Cllr Wood outlined the current situation of the Ox / Cam arc and provided the following answers….
* Q. Is it true that this is no longer a Government initiative but up to individual authorities to create their own strategic plans
* A. Fundamentally yes. The original drive of the arc was to improve the growth the was already occurring in those areas. Once the project came under Michael Gove’s remit, it was identified that a project of this nature in this area of the country did not match the Governments ‘levelling up program’ and therefore the strategic responsibilities would now lie with the individual local authorities rather than directed by Central Government. This led to a slow down and halt to work once Authorities understood out how this new outlook would work and whether the plans were feasible and viable
* Q. What do you believe the Cherwell Strategy would be?
* A. There will be some expansion in Cherwell but not particularly in this area. The bigger factor for this area is the Oxfordshire Local Plan 2050. The view at Cherwell is whilst recognising Oxford’s dynamism and the companies that have emerged in from the university Cherwell also is determined for some development and recognition to be given to Bicester, Banbury and Heyford Park.
* Q. Will the plans for the Ox/ Cam expressway be revisited?
* A. The expressway in its previous form has been shelved. However due to the congestion and high volume of traffic on the A34 / A41 could push Highways to revisit the idea of a possible local bypass in the area.
* Q. What about the initial idea of the Arc accommodating 1 million new homes?
* A. This idea was withdrawn some time ago and will not be progressed.

1. **Planning Applications/Decisions**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Ref | Location | Proposal | CDC status | PC Comments |
| 22/00998/F | Land North East Of Fringford Study Centre Adjoining Rectory Lane Fringford | Erection of a 4 bedroom detached dwelling with garage and access | Under Review | Object – The Parish Council Resolved to ask Cllr Wood to call this application to committee. Cllr Wood agreed to the request |

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

* **CDC – Notice of Election**
* **CDC – Notice of uncontested election**
* **OALC – Monthly update**
* **Member of the public – request for use of the Village Green**
* **Charles Pither – Oxford / Cam ‘Stop the Arc Campaign**

1. **Items for information or next Agenda only** – all items for the next agenda to be submitted to the Clerk by 9 May 2022
2. **Date of next meeting** – to confirm the date of the next meeting as Monday, 16 May 2022. The regular meeting will be proceeded by the Annual Parish Meeting which will start at 19.30. The meeting will be the Parish Council AGM and will start at approximately 20.00 hours

**Part 2**

 Confidential business:  To consider and resolve whether to exclude Public and Press on the grounds that matters for discussion affect individual staff members/ procedures/ legal/ finance issues.

* + - 1. **Discussion regarding the need to agree future Councillor roles ahead of confirmation at the AGM on May 16th**