**Minutes of the meeting of Fringford Parish Council,   
held on Monday 16th January 2023 at 7.45pm.**

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

**Also present:** R. Damerell (Clerk) and 2 members of the public

1. **Apologies for absence**

* Apologies were received for Cllr McCullagh and Cllr Mackenzie

1. **Requests for Dispensations and Declarations of interest, gifts and hospitality**

* No Declarations were received.

1. **Public participation**

* A resident asked about if there had been a response from the landowner of the Village Green and Spinney. Cllr Hope confirmed that Cllr McCullagh had sent at least two emails directly to the landowner about extending the lease for the play area and the old pond to enable the HS2 grant work to improve that area, but landowner had not responded. Disappointment was expressed at the lack of response and stopping improvements that would benefit the village.
* Land adjacent to Wise Crescent planning application for 6 houses – The closing date for comments had been extended to the 27th January due to delays in publishing the application due to Christmas and postal strikes. It was confirmed that the Parish Council has submitted its objection to the application.

1. **Updates from County & District Councillors –** No update has been received
2. **To approve the Minutes** **of the last Parish Council Meeting**. – The minutes were approved as a true record of the meeting.
3. **Finance**
4. **To receive the monthly bank reconciliation.**

* The Bank reconciliation was reviewed and approved by the Council.

1. **To consider invoices for payment.**
   * + All invoices were reviewed, approved, and signed by the Parish Council.
2. **Parish Matters**

* **HS2 Grant Applications**
* Cllr Harris responded to the residents’ question about the withdrawal of consent by the landowner for the grant work to now be undertaken updating them of the history of the projects and the reason for it being suspended.
* The Council reiterated that it has been verbally intimated by the landowner from the very start of the carparking project/improvements to The Green that permission to carry out the work was given. Latterly, permission for the project was rescinded due to the Tree Preservation Order being applied by the Cherwell District Council Tree Officer, to the Spinney and that permission would be re- granted should the Parish Council use it’s influence to try and have the TPO lifted.
* It was confirmed that the Parish Council would not be attempting to try and have the TPO removed from the Spinney, neither as a stand-alone query nor to link this removal with the attempt to have the lease granted by the landowner. The decision to place a TPO on The Spinney was solely the decision of the Tree Officer following a site visit.
* Cllr Hope reiterated that the Parish Council had already discussed the matter and determined that it has no intention to take on the lease to manage The Spinney. This is because the Council has no experience of woodland management, the lease would have a chargeable rent payable by the Council to the landowner. The liability of managing the trees, that have not been managed for a long period of time, sits with the landowner and their agent.
* The Council expressed concern over the trees adjacent to the church and the old pond by the playground as some of these have already been identified apotentially dangerous in the tree survey report.
* The Parish Council resolved to draft a letter to the landowner giving the details of the tree report stating which trees by the church are potentially dangerous and recommending they take the required action..
* **20 is Plenty proposal in the village**
* The article has gone into The Voice with a deadline of mid-February for responses. The clerk to forward any responses to Cllr Ryder.
* **Acorn Biodigester**
* The Clerk to contact the clerk at Evenly Parish Council to establish the position on the Biodigester.
* **Village Hall update**
* The Village Hall has hosted the pop-up pub which has been extremely successful. The Council noted their thanks to all those who have run it over the last few months as an asset to the village. It was suggested by the Village Hall Committee for surplus monies to be divided between the Village Hall and the Parish Council’s project fund.
* It was requested to put in some ducting in to make the electrics safe for the Christmas Tree. The Council agreed to source quotes for the cost of the work.
* Helen Fargin has stepped down as Chair of the Village Hall Committee after 11 years. The Council noted their thanks to Helen for all her hard work and commitment to the village and steering the committee. The committee has not yet managed to appoint a new Chair. The committee has asked if the Parish Council have any ideas or would be willing to encourage any willing parties to come forward. An opening suggestion was to install a rotating Chair.

1. **Planning**

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| 22/03502/F | Richmond House, Rectory Lane, Fringford, Bicester, OX27 8DX | Demolition and replacement of existing conservatory, glazed corridor and side extension  with a new side and rear extension. Including garage conversion and internal remodelling. (resubmission of 22/01838/F) | Submitted |
| 22/03023/F | Laurels Farmhouse The Green Fringford OX27 8DY | Installation of 10 solar panels on a pitched roof garage (5 on each side). | Application Permitted |

1. **Correspondence Received / AOB**

* The Parish Council resolved to approve the two requests for parking on the Village Green.

1. **Items for next Agenda:**

* All items for the next agenda to be submitted to the Clerk by 10th February 2023

1. **Date of next meeting:**

* The date of the next meeting was confirmed as 20th February 2023 at 7.45pm.