**Minutes of the meeting of Fringford Parish Council,   
held on Monday 17th April 2023 at 7.45pm.**

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

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

1. **Apologies for absence**

* Apologies were received for Cllr McCullagh

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

* No interests were declared.

1. **Public participation**

* Cllr Hope updated that a resident contacted the Chair over the trees in Church End. Cllr Hope contacted the agent and forwarded the report from Nicholson’s stating a recommendation to remove the deadwood from the tree and to crown the tree by 2 metres.
* The Land Agent has had a verbal opinion from a tree specialist stating that reducing the crown by 2-3 metres will not make a material difference and will encourage the tree to grow. The Land Agent has asked for a second written report from another specialist as a second opinion.
* Cllr Harris expressed concern over the dead wood and suggested the Owner should remove the dead wood in the other 3 trees at the same time that the two trees for removal are felled. Action agreed was to email the Land agent and suggest it.
* The Parish Council recognises that there are some residents who have expressed that the trees remain as they are and not to be removed unless they are unsafe.

1. **Updates from County & District Councillors –**

* No update received.
* Cllr Hope updated that a Scots Pine had been planted on Main Street in the village. Cllr Hope contacted the District and County Councillors who confirmed that this was a County Council initiative. After contacting the department responsible and explaining that the tree was not suitable for the location , it was re-sited to the outskirts of the village.

1. **To approve the Minutes** **of the last Parish Council Meeting**.

* The minutes were approved as a true record of the meeting.

1. **Finance**
2. **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.
* The Council were updated that the complaint had been made to NatWest regarding the time taken to transfer the account but no response has been received. Action was agreed as a priority to expedite the complaint and request £100 compensation for the length of time this has taken.

1. **Parish Matters**
   1. **HS2 Grant Applications for improvements to the Village Green.**

* Cllr Hope reported that Oxfordshire County Council are re-tendering for the improvement works to The Green. Cllr Hope has spoken to the Land Agent and the Lease has been drafted. The Land Agent is instructing the land owner’s solicitors this week to finalise the lease. Cllr Hope is also preparing to speak to the Council’s solicitors for receipt of the lease. Cllr Hope and Cllr Harris were confirmed to be the signatories on the lease. In the interim, the land agent has provided a letter of comfort for OCC stating that the works are permitted to go ahead.
* Cllr Hope proposed that the Parish Council does not pursue purchasing the adult Gym equipment. (part of HS2 grant.)  
  The outcome was that it was unanimously decided not to proceed with it due the following issues; concern about it possibly being misused and attracting antisocial behaviour, some residents raised this concern. But more importantly, from a matter of child safety, it wasn’t going to be in a fenced off area and would be close to the new parking spaces and the road, this is not ideal for younger children who are inevitably going to be attracted to the equipment. It could be difficult for parents whose children use the playground to keep them from wanting to play on the equipment outside the fenced area. Some parents and carers of young children had brought this to our attention.  
  As the pond is remaining as a natural soak away and wildlife habitat, instead focus will be more on improving that area, removing dead trees, replanting wild flowers and trees, bird boxes, and a memorial bench etc. We are in the process of including this area in a new lease with the landowner.
* Cllr Ryder suggested planting bulbs on the Green in the areas where the grass is more difficult to cut for example around the new bollards. Cllr Hope to approach the Landowner with the suggestion whilst also taking photographs of the similar areas in Evenley.
  1. **20 is Plenty proposal in the village**
* The Council agreed to proceed with the purchase of six 20mph signs to attach to the posts in the village, following Cllr McCullagh’s quote.
  1. **Potential new Digital Vehicle Activated Sign for the village on Fringford Road**
* The Clerk to forward through three quotes for Speed Signs to Cllr Hope to review for recommendation at the next meeting.
  1. **Appoint ROSPA for safety audit of the play area**
* The Clerk to contact ROSPA to arrange an inspection of the Play Area and to have Fringford added to the annual inspection schedule.
  1. **Kings Coronation**
* Cllr Hope checked with Tim Mustill to ask whether the Pop-up pub was going to operate on the Sunday of the Coronation for the concert and was confirmed that it would not be operating due to organisers being away. The Village Hall has also confirmed that they would not have enough members to organise an event. It was unanimously agreed to support the Butchers Arms pub in whatever events they organise as it is important to support the new landlord so that the pub can remain open.
* It was agreed to place a statement in the Voice asking for new volunteers for organising events as these currently are struggling to take place due to a lack of new volunteers.
  1. **Village Hall update**
* Cllr Gue updated that the Village Hall is planning to organise a jazz evening on the 28 October 2023.
  1. **Annual Village Meeting preparation**
* The Clerk to send through a list of organisations to Cllr Hope previously invited to the Annual Parish meeting to look if there are any others which could be included.

1. **Planning**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Reference | Location | Proposal | FPC Decision / Comments |
| [23/00682/CLUE](https://planningregister.cherwell.gov.uk/Planning/Display/23/00682/CLUE) | Glebe Farm Barn Fringford Bicester OX27 8RJ | Certificate of Lawfulness of Existing Use: Continued occupation in excess of 10 years in breach of 01/00265/OUT condition no. 8 (reserved matters 01/02384/REM). Application is for 'dwelling house without any occupancy conditions'. | No Comment |
| [23/00575/CLUP](https://planningregister.cherwell.gov.uk/Planning/Display/23/00575/CLUP) | Land adjoining The Green Fringford | Certificate of Lawfulness of Proposed Development for installation of adult gym equipment that will be secured to the ground; installation of a village sign that will be concreted into the ground | Cllr McCullagh to amend the application to withdraw the adult Gym equipment |
| 23/00358/F | 22 Crosslands Fringford | Single storey extension and internal alterations | No Comment |

1. **Correspondence Received / AOB**

* Verbal Concerns regarding the sewage vehicles damaging the fences on the lane near their property down St Michael’s Close. It’s understood that previous communication had been made with Anglian water for the contractor to use the correct size vehicle. Since this time on two occasions two oversized tankers have damaged the fencing further. Cllr Hope advised the residents to monitor the situation and update if there are any further incidents and the Parish Council will offer support where they can.
* The Council agreed to the request to use the Village Green for parking on the 15th July 2023.

1. **Items for next Agenda:**

* All items for the next agenda to be submitted to the Clerk by 5th May 2023.

1. **Date of next meeting:**

* The date of the Annual Parish Meeting is **15th May 2023 at 7:30pm**
* The date of the next meeting as **15th May 2023 at 8.00pm.**