**Minutes of the meeting of Fringford Parish Council,   
held on Monday 18th September 2023 at 7.45pm.**

**Present:** Councillors: Les Harris (Acting-Chair), Phil Davids-Austin, Hayley Ryder, Ros MacKenzie

**Also present:** R. Damerell (Clerk) and 6 members of the public

1. **Apologies for absence**

* Apologies were received for Cllr Hope & Cllr Gue

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

* No Interests were Declared

1. **Public participation**
   * + **Travellers Site** – Decision was due on the 15th September, but as of yet this has not been published. Cllr Harris has chased this decision with Cherwell District Council
     + **Wise Crescent** – The oral appeal is scheduled for the 25th October 2023. The Council will be attending and will provide the panel the information that was submitted in July 2023. The Council asked if any member of the public would also attend to represent the residents in addition to the Parish Council.
     + **Village Categorisation** – This has been raised in the Cherwell Local Plan which is currently being reviewed. The Parish Council is requesting to be re-categorised in the review and become a Category C village. This should then reduce the level of larger development planning applications. This will be reviewed again in October. The Council addressed this further in the meeting below.
2. **Updates from County & District Councillors –** 
   * + Cllr Patrick Clarke expressed confidence in recategorizing Fringford to a category C village which would only permit limited infill development, proportionate size development and only onallocated sites.
     + Cllr Clarke confirmed that the consultation on the Local Plan will commence on the 22nd September 2023.
     + Q. If the village was recategorized, would this stop the windfall sites in the village
     + A. You can’t stop the development, but this would dramatically restrict what could be built in the village and stop speculative development applications being submitted in Fringford.
     + Cllr Clarke was not surprised the outcome of the Travellers Site has not been published yet due to lack of staff, however was surprised that no answer was given when phoning the Planning Department

**CDC update:**

* + - Following the election in May the outcome was that there was no Conservative majority for the first time in 30 years. Proposals for a Conservative or Labour Leader of the Council were voted down. The following week Cllr Wood was voted as Leader of the Council with a minority Council.

1. **To approve the Minutes** **of the last Parish Council Meeting**.
   * + The minutes were approved as a true record of the meeting.
2. **Finance**
   * + The Councillors received the monthly Reconciliation.
     + The Invoices were reviewed and approved by the Council.
     + The Parish Council resolved to pay £360.00 to change the Clerk to administrative level and for two Councillors to authorise any and all payments.
3. **Parish Matters**

* **Cherwell draft Local Plan Review 2040 (including village recategorisation)**
  + - In advance of the Council’s Executive Meeting on 4 September, please can I share with you, Fringford Parish Council’s view of the draft LP40, particularly in relation to Rural Area Strategy including village categorisation.  
        
      From what we understand it looks as if the draft LP40 is suggesting that Fringford (and other villages) is recategorised as a smaller village. This means that we are unsustainable from a major planned development point of view, but this does not appear to protect us from the kind of speculative developments that we have been constantly fighting and it also does not rule out having multiple ‘windfall’ developments in the same village.  
        
      Windfall developments look like they will still be considered and allowed in unsustainable locations and we’d like to ask what protection small parish councils and small communities have against having to continually fight small windfall developments that would be inappropriate for their smaller village category?  
        
      Ten houses is a lot for a small village. It appears that the concept of a windfall development is in direct contradiction of 3.34 that talks about avoiding unplanned development in rural areas and that developments to meet local community needs would be more like one or two houses not nine or ten.  Ten houses in a village with no public transport is at least a minimum 20 extra vehicles on rural roads and is in conflict with sustainable transport plans and lowering carbon emissions.   
        
      The draft LP40 should also make it clear that there is no public transport in smaller villages and no local shops or services and no safe walking or cycling routes to Bicester, to avoid speculative planning applications that consume resources at all levels including residents and parish councils spending money on planning consultants to object and fight appeals because the developers writing them assume that you can commute into Bicester via green, sustainable transport routes. The key points of no shops and services or safe, green and sustainable travel seems to be missing from the smaller villages definition.
* **HS2 Grant Applications for improvements to The Green**
  + - Cllr Hope is still pushing for the lease to be signed.
* **New Vehicle Activated Sign for the village**
  + - Cllr Hope has spoken with Cherwell DC to assess and approve the site for the sign.
* **Village Hall update including roof survey and bus stop survey**
  + - **Village Hall Roof** - A report was received for the VH roof which stated that the roof would need attention including stripping it and replacing the battons and felting and replacing the tiles.
    - **Bus Shelter** - Guttering needs replacing, moss on the roof and the trees need cutting back as these are leaning on the roof. The Council agreed to source quotes for the work on the roof and the bus shelter
* **Play Area Inspection Report**
  + - **Gates** - Gates need rehanging Cllr McCullagh has requested a quote. Wickstead have been to the site to assess the other areas highlighted on the report and Cllr McCullagh is chasing for a cost.
    - **Trees** – Cllr McCullagh has asked Nicholson’s for a quote and will share this once received.
* **Cherwell Parish Bulletin – Actions**
  + - Cllr Mackenzie updated the Council on the Actions of the Cherwell Parish Bulletin:

The Aim to work across three tiers of Local Government.

* + - **EV charging points** – Cllr Mackenzie confirmed she had completed the expression of interest.
    - **REPF – Village Hall Grant** – Details have not yet been released but will be sent to the Parish Clerk
    - **Defibrillator** – A new grant will be made available for purchasing a new defibrillator. The Church was suggested as a possible site. It was agreed for Cllr Ryder to complete the application form.
  + **Crosslands Quote for foliage cutting**
    - Cllr McCullagh agreed to source quotes for the cutting back of the foliage

1. **Planning**

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| **Ref No:** | **Location** | **Proposal** | **PC Comments** |
| [23/02356/TPO](https://planningregister.cherwell.gov.uk/Planning/Display/23/02356/TPO) | Forgemill House Church Lane Fringford Bicester OX27 8DJ | T1 - Ash tree - Cut lowest overhanging branch back from agricultural barn by 1.5m or to appropriate growth point; T2 - Ash tree - Cut lowest (damaged and dying) overhanging branch back from agricultural barn by 1.5m or to nearest appropriate growth point; T3,4,5 (G1) - Sycamore trees - Reduce by 30ft to approx 21ft to create a flowing canopy - subject to TPO 17/2022 | No Objection |
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**Decisions**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Ref No:** | **Location** | **Proposal** | **Decision** |
| [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'. | Application Permitted |

**Appeals**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Reference | Location | Proposal | FPC Decision / Comments |
| APP/C3105/W/23/3324251 | Land Adj To Wise Crescent Opposite, The Laurels, Fringford | Erection of 6 one and a half and two storey dwellings, with the construction of new access  and footpath, together with carports, parking, landscaping and all enabling works | Awaiting outcome of the appeal (originally due 15th September) |
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1. **Correspondence Received / AOB**

* The Council resolved not to have a stall at the Autumn Fayre, but would attend the event should residents want to raise any issues with members for the Parish Council.

1. **Items for next Agenda**

* All items for the next agenda to be submitted to the Clerk by 6th October 2023.

1. **Date of next meeting:**

* The date of the next meeting as 16th October 2023 at 7.45pm.