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

**Present:** Councillors: Ginny Hope (Chair), Les Harris, Phil Davids-Austin, Hayley Ryder, Ros MacKenzie, David McCullagh, Robert Gue

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

1. **Apologies for absence**
   * + No apologies were received.
2. **Requests for Dispensations and Declarations of interest, gifts and hospitality** 
   * + No Interests were declared.
3. **Public participation**

**The Voice** –David Bradbury updated that in the past printing for The Voice was carried out free of charge by a sponsor. The situation has now changed, the sponsor has now stepped down and as such The Voice can no longer rely on the printing free of charge. There has also been a steady decrease in advertising. The Voice is now costing approximately £75.00 per edition.

* + - There is an additional cost of design and layout, which is not currently a factor as this service is provided by volunteers. If, however, those volunteers were no longer able to provide their time, this would present an additional cost of approximately £90.00.
    - It was confirmed that whilst Linda Mustill has been helping following her resignation from The Voice she is now needing to step back permanently.
    - The options available in the current situation would be to print less or move online, though this may possibly exclude sections of the Village who do not access the internet.
    - The cost of the current 6 editions is £450 with a possible increase to £550 if the design team can no longer commit to providing their service.
    - The Parish Council resolved to fund the production of The Voice as it is a valuable Village Asset with a review of the situation and costs after a year.

**APP/C3105/W/23/3315481 Land North East of Fringford Study Centre, Rectory Lane (aka The Copse)** – It was confirmed that the outcome of the Appeal was that it was allowed and planning permission granted for the 4-bedroom house. There are several conditions listed in the decision document including archaeological written scheme of investigation and an arboricultural method statement to make sure the trees are protected.

* + - **Q. Do you know who ensures the conditions are adhered to?**
    - A. The Cherwell District Council enforcement team will be responsible to ensure that conditions are met.

**APP/C3105/W/23/3324251 - Land Adjacent to Wise Crescent Opposite, The Laurels, Fringford -** Cllr Hope will be attending the Appeal oral hearing and will reaffirm the Parish Council comments submitted for the original application and Appeal. Cllr Hope has also met with the residents of the Laurels and met with the representative who will also attend the hearing and speak on their behalf. The confirmation on timings for being able to speak has yet to be confirmed. Once these have been received the Council will publicise these and encourage as many residents as possible to attend even if not being able to speak. The Hearing is scheduled for the 25/26th October.

**Proposed Gypsy Travellers Site –** The planning application for proposed plans for the gypsy traveller site has been withdrawn. It is likely there will be another application submitted and the Parish Council will make villagers aware once this has been received.

1. **Updates from County & District Councillors –** 
   * + No update provided.
2. **To approve the Minutes** **of the last Parish Council Meeting**.
   * + The minutes were approved as a true record of the meeting.
3. **Finance**
   * + The Councillors received the monthly Reconciliation.
     + The Invoices were reviewed and approved by the Council.
     + Cllr McCullagh confirmed that he was following up on the process for setting authorization levels at 2 councillor signatories for all payments
4. **Parish Matters**

* **Cherwell draft Local Plan Review 2040 (including village re-categorisation)**
  + - Cllrs Hope and McCullagh are attending consultation events on the 2040 Local Plan and will feedback at the next meeting. The Parish Council will formally submit the statement read out last month as part of the consultation process.
* **HS2 Grant Applications for improvements to The Green**
  + - Cllr Hope updated that the lease has been received and was duly signed by the Parish Council at the meeting. The Landowner is currently away but has confirmed they will sign on their return and the Parish Council hope this will be done by approximately the 25th October. Once the lease has been signed and received the date for work to start on the rebuilding of the stone wall can be confirmed.
    - Cllr Hope will also check with the Land Agent to confirm if the deadwood has been removed from the trees near Church End as specified in the Nicholson’s Report.
    - It was confirmed that the trees close to the play area had been checked out by a tree surgeon and any work recommended will be undertaken.
    - **Pond Area** – Cllr McCullagh confirmed the tidying up work can start at any time, however the land owner has confirmed no trees can be planted on the site but they have agreed to the planting of wild flowers if the Council should choose to. It is anticipated that work will start in this area in November.
    - **The Stone wall** – Cllr McCullagh confirmed that now the lease has been signed the work on the wall can commence shortly. Cllr McCullagh to speak to the contractors to enquire if a permanent marker for the late Queen Elizabeth II could be incorporated into the wall.
* **New Vehicle Activated Sign for the village**
  + - Cllr Hope updated that a post and a site have been allocated by Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) Highways traffic officer, and that the Parish Council is now waiting for this to be erected. OCC will fit the equipment and the post and have agreed to install the VAS.
* **Village Hall update including roof survey and bus stop survey**
  + - Cllr Harris confirmed he has received a quote for the Village Hall roof repairs and will request for the bus stop roof as well. Cllr Davids-Austin and Cllr Gue to also source additional quotes for both the Village Hall roof and Bus Stop roof.
* **Play Area Inspection Report**
  + - Cllr McCullagh contacted Wicksteed for an update and has now sent the RoSPA report. There are some items of maintenance needing to be carried out. Cllr Hope reported that Wicksteed had been asked by the Parish Council to investigate the option for an additional smaller slide to be put into the play area. This was proving to be very tight for space due to the safety requirements. Cllr Mackenzie suggested that the play area could be extended. It was agree that this may be something to consider once budget setting discussions for next year are taking place.
  + **Crosslands Quote for foliage cutting**
    - The Parish Council resolved to approve the quote to carry out the work of Crosslands foliage.
  + **Cherwell Parish Bulletin – Actions**
    - The Clerk to check if the Village Hall fund has been received and complete the expression of interest once it has been received.
    - Cllr Mackenzie confirmed she had submitted the Parish Council’s expression of interest regarding electric vehicle points for the village hall carpark via the Cherwell Parish Bulletin with no response back yet received. Cllr Mackenzie to chase up.
  + **Christmas Tree Order**
    - The Parish Council resolved to order the annual Christmas Tree from Stratton Audley Barn. It was agreed for the Tree to be larger than last year; approximately 7ft. It was also agreed to have a lighting ceremony on Friday 1st December 2023 for the Christmas Tree. Cllr Mackenzie to liaise with Tim Mustill to ask if he would be willing to take on organising the event. The Parish Council to sponsor the Mulled Wine for the event.

1. **Planning**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Ref No:** | **Location** | **Proposal** | **PC Comments** |
| [23/02705/TEL](https://planningregister.cherwell.gov.uk/Planning/Display/23/02705/TEL) | Orange Telecommunications Mast OXF0087 Bicester Road Fringford | Remove 3 x existing Telefonica antennas at 23.45m on the tower, replacing with 3 x new. Install GPS module, radio units and other ancillary items. Minor internal upgrade within existing TEF cabin | For Information Only |
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**Decisions**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Ref No:** | **Location** | **Proposal** | **Decision** |
|  |  |  |  |

**Appeals**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Ref No:** | **Location** | **Proposal** | **FPC Decision / Comments** |
| As stated in the Public Participation |  |  |  |

* **Temporary Traffic Regulation Order** – S14 Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984. Temporary Road Closure at Stratton Audley, Street through Stratton Audley – 6 November 2023 – 8 December 2023

1. **Correspondence Received / AOB**

* None to report

1. **Items for next Agenda**

* All items for the next agenda to be submitted to the Clerk by 9th November 2023.

1. **Date of next meeting:**

* The date of the next meeting as 20th November 2023 at 7.45pm.

