**Minutes of the meeting of Fringford Parish Council,   
held on Monday 19th February 2024 at 7.45pm.**

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

**Also present:** R. Damerell (Clerk) and 7 members of the public.

1. **Apologies for absence**

* Apologies were received for Cllr Mackenzie.

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

* Cllr Davids-Austin declared an interest in an applications 24/00001/LB, 24/00141/F & 24/00105/DISC.

1. **Public participation**

* A resident informed the Parish Council that a crack had appeared in the newly built wall by the school. Cllr McCullagh agreed to contact the contractor.
* The resident also requested the ‘20 is plenty’ sign be moved as this is a potential hazard as it is currently at head height. Cllr McCullagh agreed to look for a new position.

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

* No update provided.

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

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

1. **Finance**

* **Financial Spreadsheet** – The Councillors received the monthly Reconciliation.
* **Invoices to pay** - The Invoices were reviewed and approved by the Council.
* **Authorised signatory** – The Clerk confirmed that a complaint has been lodge with the Co-op Bank regarding the delay in adding Cllr Hope to the Bank Mandate.

1. **Parish Matters**

* **Village Plan 2024 (including draft village survey)**
* The draft survey is currently being tested on a few residents (including Cllr Mackenzie) who have given feedback and amendments.
* Cllr McCullagh suggested including the achievements of the Parish Council to be included as part of the survey document. Cllr Hope to action this.
* Once the survey is finalised it will be made available to residents both online and paper copies. It is encouraged that most submissions to be on-line to save analysis time. Cllr Hope to send village communications out regarding the launch of the resident’s survey via village email group, village WhatsApp group, The Village Voice, and the PC website. Paper copies to be printed and made available in the Village Hall and The Church.
* **Village Gates**
* The Parish Council has started the process of investigating installing village gates, assessing the potential locations and types and costs. These were highlighted in the 2016 Village Plan. Location of these will involve the close neighbours and the Highways Traffic Officer to approve.
* Cllr McCullagh to contact Abbey Mill Homes, the developers of the Wise Crescent development, to enquire if they would be willing to contribute towards the cost of the new gates. Post meeting note: the developer declined to speak to Cllr McCullagh.
* **Funfair**
* Following the Parish Council’s offer of alternative dates for the Funfair to visit in summer 2024, due to the works being undertake on The Green, they have confirmed that they will not be coming to Fringford this year. The Parish Council has responded to the Funfair to express its desire for the funfair to return in summer 2025.
* **Variable Speed Monitor – Fringford Road**
* Cllr Hope updated the meeting that the sign is currently switched off. A resident has registered their concerns regarding the continual flashing of the sign due to pedestrians, trees in the wind etc. Cllr Hope has arranged for the engineer to come out and adjust the sensitivity of the sensor.
* **Butchers Arms – Asset of Community Value**
* The application documents have been submitted to Cherwell District Council and the Parish Council is now waiting for the outcome of the process.
* The Parish Council expressed its thanks to Tim Mustill for all the effort in organising the pop-up Pub.
* **Quote for external sockets for Xmas tree lights**
* It was agreed to defer this item until later in the year.
* **HS2 Grant Applications for improvements to The Green**
* **Village Sign** – Outline plans for the design of the village sign were looked at by the Parish Council. It was agreed that the icons to include for a further draft design are; the anvil and hammer, the profile of Flora Thompson, the village pump, the Church. It was agreed that a village crest would be included showing a quill, a candle, a medical staff symbol denoting Dr Addington. More work needs to be undertaken on this design so a working group of Cllrs Hope, McCullagh & Gue to work with Nicola Gue (co-opted) on the design to be re-shared with the Parish Council
* **Pond** – Project is now complete. The benches have been positioned. Trees pruned and pollarded, bulbs planted, water safety sign installed. The only outstanding item is the village sign.
* **Village Hall Roof** – Funds have been received from the Village Hall Committee and the roof is underway.
* In regard to the grant funding from Cherwell District Council. The Parish Council needs to pay for the works and then submit the bank statement.
* **Portrait of His Majesty the King**
* The Parish Council approved the application for a framed portrait of His Majesty the King for the Village Hall.

1. **Planning**

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| **Ref No:** | **Location** | **Proposal** | **PC Comments** |
| 24/00250/F | Glebe Leisure Caravan Park, Glebe Court, Fringford, Bicester, OX27 8RJ | Change of use of Agricultural land and works to extend a caravan storage area. | Object - The Parish Council objects to this application due to it being a proposal to further extend the storage of caravans on this site, which by virtue of its siting backing on to open countryside, would have an urbanising effect on the open countryside and would result in demonstrable harm the rural character and appearance of the area.  There is a risk that by further expansion of caravan storage area that this could have a negative impact on close neighbours due to lack of residential amenity.  We request that this is considered by the planning team in making a decision.  The Parish Council requests that the planning department check that the conditions placed on previous planning application approvals for this site are being adhered to before considering a further expansion. |
| 24/00063/F | Pony Paddock, Street Heading NW to Hethe, Fringford, Oxon | Retrospective – Erection of two sets of wooden stables | Support |
| [24/00001/LB](https://planningregister.cherwell.gov.uk/Planning/Display/24/00001/LB) | Hall Farm Main Street Fringford Bicester OX27 8DP | Rebuilding of 2 walls and alterations to roof structure - (Re-submission of 23/00741/LB) | Support |
| [24/00141/F](https://planningregister.cherwell.gov.uk/Planning/Display/24/00141/F) | Hall Farm Main Street Fringford Bicester OX27 8DP | Rebuilding of 2 walls and alterations to roof structure - (Resubmission of 23/00740/F) | Support |
| [24/00105/DISC](https://planningregister.cherwell.gov.uk/Planning/Display/24/00105/DISC) | Hall Farm Main Street Fringford Bicester OX27 8DP | Discharge of Conditions 3 (window glazing details) and 4 (door and window details) of 23/00741/LB | Support |
| [24/00245/OUT](https://planningregister.cherwell.gov.uk/Planning/Display/24/00245/OUT) | South Lodge Fringford Road Caversfield Bicester OX27 8TH | Outline application for demolition of existing structures and erection of up to 99 dwellings, access, open space and associated works with all matters reserved except for access | Object - The Parish Council objects to this application for the following reasons;  1. The proposed site is outside the built-up envelope of Caversfield village and is currently an agricultural field in the greenbelt. Such a proposal for 99 dwellings, a single access on to Fringford Road would effectively serve to join Caversfield village to Bicester.  The Cherwell Local Plan identifies a green buffer between Caversfield and Bicester which should be retained.  2. Caversfield is a small category 3 village and is not a sustainable location for such a development. This means that the proposal is contrary to Cherwell’s Local Plan where development is only allowed in sustainable locations. The Bicester Elmsbrook Eco-town development is within close proximity to the proposed site and the Cherwell Local Plan housing policy clearly identifies Elmsbrook as the focus for housing development in that area of Bicester. Therefore, speculative applications such as this on greenfield sites can justifiably be refused to prevent sporadic development in the open countryside. Aunt Ems Lane is very much a country lane in nature and appearance.  3. The adjacent sections of land contain listed buildings such as Caversfield Church and what was previously RAF Bicester The Garden Quarter. The proposed development site would be clearly visible from both areas with listed buildings, creating an urbanising effect and negative impact.  4. Nothing has changed since the previous appeal decision reference App/C3105/A/13/2208385 Land off Fringford Road Caversfield (May 2014). This appeal was dismissed by the Planning Inspector on the grounds that it was contrary to the Cherwell Local Plan housing policy and that it would cause harm to the rural landscape and the setting of listed buildings. The appeal also considered the impact on the risk of flooding in concluding it should be dismissed. The Parish Council urges the planning team to consider the reasons for this appeal dismissal as still being relevant.  We respectfully ask for this planning application to be refused. |

**Decisions**

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

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| **Ref No:** | **Location** | **Proposal** | **CDC Decision / Comments** | **Parish Council Comments** |
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1. **Correspondence Received / AOB**

* **Section 106 Monies**
* It was confirmed that the Parish Council is not due any Section 106 monies from the Wise Crescent development. This is due to the size of the development being 6 properties.
* **Coffee Trailer adjacent to the Cricket Club Pavilion**
* The Parish Council received an email from Pip Bacon regarding the installation of a temporary coffee trailer proposal adjacent to the Cricket Club pavilion.
* The van will be a privately owned, converted horse trailer, mobile unit. The Cricket Cub is keen to involve villagers and the wider community as much as possible, to create a community feel for the club going forward.
* Q. What would coffee be served in, particularly with a view on litter etc?
* A. Pip will arrange for a rubbish collection. We will be using mixed recycling, and selling from recyclable cups. The cakes served in paper bags to reduce the use of plastics. We will always do a sweep of the area after closing and are keen to be involved in village clear ups. We will ensure that bins are provided on site and promoting a sustainable message.
* Q. Would it be competition to the pub?
* A. No, the products on sale are not in direct competition to the product on sale in the pub, these will be take-away and we will be targeting different markets and at different opening times.
* Q. Where will you park the trailer?
* A. Initially in one place. We have looked at an area to the side of the pavilion and will stay on one pitch on the cricket ground.
* Q. Will you be in communication with the pub landlord?
* A. Yes, I will try to meet him in person to explain the proposal etc. As part of the street license, we also must contact dwellings within 100m of which the pub is one of these.
* Following the proposal outline and discussion the Parish Council expressed its support for the venture.

1. **Items for next Agenda**

* All items for the next agenda to be submitted to the Clerk by 9th March 2024.

1. **Date of next meeting:**

* The date of the next meeting as 18th March 2024 at 7.45pm.