**Minutes of the meeting of Fringford Parish Council,
held on Monday 21st October 2024 at 7.45pm.**

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

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

Cllr Hope announced the sad news of the passing of Cllr David McCullagh. The Parish Council expressed its sadness and gave its sincerest condolences to the McCullagh family and heartfelt thanks to Cllr McCullagh for his work and dedication to the Parish Council and to Fringford Village over many years.

The Parish Council observed a minute’s silence out of respect and gratitude to Cllr McCullagh.

1. **Apologies for absence**
* Apologies were received for Cllr Ros MacKenzie.
1. **Requests for Dispensations and Declarations of interest, gifts and hospitality**
* No Requests for dispensation or declarations of Interest were received from Councillors.
1. **Public participation**
* No questions were raised by the public
1. **Updates from County & District Councillors**
* No update received
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** – Councillors received the monthly reconciliation.
* **Invoices to pay** - invoices were reviewed and approved by the Parish Council.
1. **Parish Matters**
* **To note the resignation of a Parish Councillor**
	+ The Parish Council noted the resignation of Cllr David McCullagh, received prior to his passing and posted the notice of the vacancy in office of Parish Councillor on the Parish Council noticeboard and website.
	+ The Parish Council, should they be free to co-opt a new councillor, agreed to post the advert and role description later in November to encourage any prospective applicants.
* **Trees by the bus shelter on Wise Crescent**
	+ Cllr Hope met with two tree surgeons and received quotes to carry out work on very large leylandii that is now too large and a large maple following concerns from residents. The Parish Council approved the quote from Oxford Tree Services who have confirmed the work will be carried out on the 5 November 2024. The Parish Council agreed to distribute flyers to the close neighbours the week prior to the work being carried out. The work will also include the removal of the leylandii which has grown too large and the remaining stumps. The maple will be reduced by a third in height and width as well as being shaped and removal of the ivy.
* **Village Plan 2024 and residents survey**
	+ Cllr Ryder shared the draft village plan with the Parish Council. Cllr Hope confirmed that all photographs used in the plan have had agreement to be used.
	+ It was agreed to change the photograph on the draft front cover of the plan to one of the new Village sign.
	+ Cllrs Hope, Ryder and MacKenzie to finalise the plan ready for sign off at the November 2024 Parish Council Meeting.
* **Butchers Arms – Asset of Community Value and options report regarding possible community pub models**
	+ A copy of the working group notes of 16th September were shared. No further update to report at this meeting. Cllr Hope to liaise with Geoff Vernon to see what, if any, the next steps would be.
* **HS2 Grant Applications for improvements to The Green**
	+ The Parish Council noted that the project on the Green has been completed and have received a request from the HS2 funds team for written confirmation that the project is now complete.
	+ HS2 funds team have also confirmed that there is still a small amount of remaining funds from the project; approximately £1,470 which can be used to part fund village gates. Cllr Hope has been in contact with OCC Highways about the position and installation of village gates, which have been noted as an action in our Village Plan. These will be on Stratton Audley Road and Fringford Road. These will also include new Fringford coat of arms. Final cost to be £3,380 minus grant of £1,470. Cost to Parish Council will be £1,910, which was agreed by the Parish Council. The order will now be placed. OCC Highways officer has approved the location and positions with Cllrs Hope and Harris. Glasdon the approved highways supplier of the gates has visited the sites to establish the measurements and gate types.
	+ The Parish Council to also establish with HS2 funds team whether the remaining funds are transferred to the Council prior to or after the gates have been installed.
	+ **The Council resolved to approve the cost and installation of the gates in the village.**
	+ **The Council resolved to include in the budget for 2025/26 funding for the ongoing maintenance and repair of the Village Green verges.**
* **Digitalisation of previous Parish Council records.**
	+ The Parish Council approved the quote of approximately £300 for the digitalisation of the Parish Council records. The Parish Council also approved the quote for approximately £100 for a new fire-resistant document safe for the original documents to be stored.
* **Village Hall Committee**
	+ The Village Hall Committee updated that the hall is carrying out ongoing maintenance and repairs and asked if there was any scope for financial assistance from the Parish Council.
	+ The Parish Council agreed in principle to help with the cost for re-surfacing of the Village Hall car park with a better quality more permanent surface, but deferred any decision until quotes had been received.
	+ The Parish Council resolved to approve the quote for approximately £1,200 for the installation of armoured cabling and waterproof sockets for the Christmas tree lights. This work needs to be carried out as soon as possible to be ready for the lighting event at the end of November.
1. **Planning**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Ref No:** | **Location** | **Proposal** | **PC Comments** |
| [24/02643/DISC](https://planningregister.cherwell.gov.uk/Planning/Display/24/02643/DISC) | The Barn Fringford Lodge Buckingham Road Bicester OX27 8RG | Discharge of Condition 3 (Archaeological Watching Brief) of 24/01202/F | For Information Only |
| [24/02632/NMA](https://planningregister.cherwell.gov.uk/Planning/Display/24/02632/NMA) | Land Adjacent To Wise Crescent Opposite The Laurels Fringford | Amendments to PLOT 5 to use half of the previously approved garage as habitable space within the dwelling (proposed as non-material amendment to 24/01613/F) | For Information Only |
|  |  |  |  |

* + [**24/02167/F**](https://planningregister.cherwell.gov.uk/Planning/Display/24/02167/F) **- Land North Of A4221 Bicester Road Fringford** proposed gypsy traveller site– Cllr Hope updated that she had contacted the Director of Planning to request an update on the application now that the deadline date has passed. District councillor Barry Wood has requested this application to go before the full planning committee if the planning officer is minded to approving it. The Parish Council has contacted its planning advisor Stansgate, who have confirmed that they would be able to provide representation whether this is in written form or in person.

**Decisions**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Ref No:** | **Location** | **Proposal** | **Decision** |
| [24/00899/OUT](https://planningregister.cherwell.gov.uk/Planning/Display/24/00899/OUT) | Land Adjoining The Cottage The Green Fringford | OUTLINE application for construction of 9 detached dwellings, formation of new vehicular and pedestrian access, associated landscaping, drainage and associated works with All Matters Reserved except for Access | Application Refused |
| [24/01637/F](https://planningregister.cherwell.gov.uk/Planning/Display/24/01637/F) | St Michael And All Angels Church Main Street Fringford OX27 8DP | Replacement of church pathway | Application Permitted |

**Appeals**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Ref No:** | **Location** | **Proposal** | **CDC Decision / Comments** | **Parish Council Comments** |
|  |  |  |  |  |

1. **Correspondence Received / AOB**
* OALC – Monthly Update
* British Legion – The Clerk confirmed the wreaths for the Remembrance Day had been ordered and will be delivered to the Church.
* Cllr Hope updated the Council that a donation of £20 had been received from a resident towards bulbs and compost for planting in/around the Village Green.
* Cllr Hope to have a look at the possibility of installing raised beds for tulips/flowers near the pond area.
* OALC – The Clerk confirmed that the subscription fee increase had been approved by members including Fringford.
* Use of the Village Green – The Council approved a request for the use of the Village Green for car parking for the funeral of David McCullagh.
1. **Items for next Agenda**
* All items for the next agenda to be submitted to the Clerk by 8th November 2024.
1. **Date of next meeting:**
* The date of the next meeting is 18th November 2024 at 7.45pm.