**Minutes of the meeting of Fringford Parish Council,   
held on Monday 16th December 2024 at 7.45pm.**

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

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

1. **Apologies for absence**

* Apologies were received from Cllr Gue.

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.
* A member of the public, John Reader, confirmed that he has high resolution electronic copies of the pictures that were hung on the wall of the Hall prior to the Halls refurbishment in 2015.
* The Council agreed to assess the pictures in the spring / summer to see if they would be suitable to be displayed in the village or pub.
* Village Plan 2024 Feedback – The general feedback from villagers on the plan has been very positive with one resident commenting for any future updates that under the information on P.6 it would be useful to have the number attributed to each age group colour bandings in order to readily understand the breakdown in age groups in the village.

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

* The Council resolved for Cllr Ryder to draft a statement from the Parish Council in response to Cherwell District Council’s consultation on setting the 2025/26 Budget.
* The Council to also contact Cllr Barry Wood about the impact of the Government’s recent announcement on a major reorganisation of county local authorities, likely to reduce the number of councils in the county to one or more unitary authorities, meaning District Councils would disappear.
* Cherwell Draft Plan 2040 consultation – Cllr Hope agreed to re-send the Parish Council’s views on this considering the recently updated Fringford Village Plan 2024.

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.
* **To review and approve the 2025-26 Precept Request –** The Parish Council reviewed an approved an increase of 2.5% on the Precept request. The Parish Council set the 2025-26 Precept request at £16,492.
* **2025/26 Budget** – The Clerk to send the draft 2025/26 budget to all Cllrs for review and approval at the January Parish Council meeting.
* The Clerk confirmed that the debit cards for the Council had been received and handed them to Cllr Hope and Cllr Harris.
* The Clerk also updated that the Clerk had been in contact with HMRC who stated that the VAT reclaim should be paid to the Parish Council before the 31 January 2025.

1. **Parish Matters**

* **Update from the Village Hall Committee (VHC)**
* Cllr Hope fed back that Cllr Hope & Cllr Mackenzie met with the Village Hall trustees and the Booking Co-ordinator (employed role) to outline the proposal from the Parish Council. The proposal was met positively and as part of this Cllr Hope volunteered in the short term (for 12 months) to be the Acting Chair of the Village Hall Committee. There was also positive news that Victoria Rose, a resident from Crosslands, had volunteered to be the VHC Secretary.
* The VHC will still have a minimum of two meetings per year including the AGM as per their constitution and reporting requirements. The
* The VHC will operate with closer support of the Parish Council and from January 2025 a member of the VHC will attend Parish Council meetings to feedback a monthly report on main areas of focus for the Village Hall.
* The VHC also agreed to try and organise more events in the Hall including a Pop-Up Village Social. Cllr MacKenzie confirmed that Tim Mustill has agreed to be involved and the intention was to try to align the event whilst the pub was closed for re-decoration. The current suggested date is Friday 3rd January 2025.
* **Butchers Arms – Asset of Community Value and options report regarding possible community pub models**
* No update to report
* **HS2 Grant Applications – Village Gates**
* Cllr Hope confirmed that the Village Gates have been installed in the village. The Council extends its thanks to both the Highways officer at Oxfordshire County Council and the contractors for carrying out the installation so quickly.
* **Digitalisation of previous PC records.**
* Cllr Hope provided the Council with the update from Cllr Gue. The paper records will be delivered to the company digitising them on 17 December 2024. The company have confirmed these will be ready for collection on the week commencing the 6th January 2025. Cllr Gue has organised the fire safe to store the documents ready for when the they have been returned.
* **Co-option**
* Cllr Hope resolved to draft an advert to co-opt a new councillor on to the Parish Council from January 2025.Post meeting note: this has been circulated.
* **Bus stop** – The Council noted that the bus stop has recently had second hand books placed there and some book shelves, but we do not know who by . The Parish Council did not object to this in principle, however the project would need to be organised and looked after with a named contact who the Parish Council could liaise with. This would ensure the bus stop does not become and a dumping ground for unwanted items.

1. **Planning**

Cllr Hope reported that she had chased the lack of decision on the proposed gypsy traveller site application 24/0216/F with the planning department at Cherwell District Council.

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| **Ref No:** | **Location** | **Proposal** | **PC Comments** |
| None |  |  |  |

**Decisions**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Ref No:** | **Location** | **Proposal** | **Decision** |
| None |  |  |  |

**Appeals**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Ref No:** | **Location** | **Proposal** | **CDC Decision / Comments** | **Parish Council Comments** |
| None |  |  |  |  |

**Land Adjacent to Wise Crescent Fringford –** The Parish Council received a request from Cherwell District Council regarding the potential name of the new road leading off the Fringford Road to the new development. The Parish Council unanimously agreed to support the name of ‘Addington Close’ due to there already being a Candleford Mews in the village.

1. **Correspondence Received / AOB**

* OALC – Monthly Update
* Cherwell Parish Bulletin
* CDC – District Council Budget Update
* Use of the Village Mutual WhatsApp – it was agreed by the Parish Council that it would use this minimally, but it is a useful and quick way to communicate with villagers on council matters. On matters requiring residents to respond the Parish Council will give the Parish Clerk email address and also advise residents to attend meetings to air their views.
* EV Community Charging hubs - The response for Stuart Cole at OCC Innovation Service, states that OCC are only going out to procurement in 2025 and therefore this would not be in our timeframe for the resurfacing of the VH carpark. The Parish Council anticipated that the demand for a charging point on the VH carpark is likely to be low but possibly worth finding out more information.
* Xmas tree switch on – Cllr MacKenzie fed back to the Council the comments from some residents regarding the very successful lighting of the village Christmas Tree:
* P.C. Improvements
* Purchase new external lights for chestnut tree. An absorbent cloth under the mulled wine. A roll of kitchen roll to mop up spills. Villager Suggestions included:
  + Food including: Pig roast, Hot dogs, Hot chestnuts
  + A simple bar / Village social / pop up pub after the switch-on
  + Seating available for older people.

1. **Items for next Agenda**

* All items for the next agenda to be submitted to the Clerk by 10th January 2025.

1. **Date of next meeting:**

* The date of the next meeting is 20th January 2025 at 7.45pm.