**Minutes of the meeting of Fringford Parish Council,   
held on Monday 20th January 2025 at 7.45pm.**

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

**Also present:** R. Damerell (Clerk) and 3 members of the public.

1. **Apologies for absence**

* No Apologies were received from members.

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**

* A question was asked about the Gypsy traveller site application decision process. Cllr Hope said she would cover this in the planning update.

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

* District Councillor Barry Wood addressed the Parish Council regarding the proposed new Unitary Authority consultation:
* This is being put forward under two headings: devolution and re-organisation
* Devolution will the combining the current County and District authorities. This new unitary will have a strategic focus on areas such as planning, transport etc.,
* Each new authority will be headed by an elected mayor for Central Government to disseminate information and the focal point with which to work on strategic plans.
* The impact on Cherwell District – the current plan has seen the suggestion of a Thames Valley authority to mirror Thames Valley police. This would also include Oxfordshire County Council and the Districts along with Bucks Council and northern Berkshire. So far Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) has expressed their approval for the plan. However, this will also need buy-in from Bucks and North Berks.
* If either and particularly Bucks Council do not give their approval, then other authorities could be looked at including Swindon or Northants.
* The incentive to current Councils is the proposed Central Government funding to support these organisational changes.
* In Oxfordshire County Council there is continued pressure to make savings and efficiencies.
* Currently the main difference in spending between the County and District Councils is that the County Council is responsible for Adult Social Care and Children’s services which are high cost areas.
* As part of the approval for joining the new unitary authority OCC has requested to delay county elections scheduled for May 2025 until 2026 to allow for the creation of the unitary authority and to have elections at that time.
* Parish Councillors thanked Cllr Wood for his helpful update.

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

* The minutes of the December 2024 Fringford Parish Council meeting 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.
* **2025/26 Budget** – The Council approved and resolved to adopt the 2025/26 Parish Council.

1. **Parish Matters**

* **Update from the Village Hall Committee**
* Cllr Hope fed back that she is now officially the acting Chair of the Village Hall Committee.
* Cllr Hope’s appointment has also been communicated to the Charity commission and she is set up for the on line banking and the baking mandate has been updated.
* Victoria Rose has kindly joined the team as the secretary.
* Tim Mustill has also agreed to stay on as Village Events co-ordinator.
* The Committee has drawn up a program of social events to run each quarter. A full list of proposed events will be published in The Voice.
* The Committee has also agreed to meet on a quarterly basis including an AGM in July each year.
* The Committee are currently sourcing quotes for re-surfacing with tarmac the village hall carpark. Works to be done over the summer school holidays.
* Cllr Hope shared a quote for EV Chargers with the Council as part of the car park re-surface.
* The Council resolved not to proceed with EV chargers at this time but will revisit this matter in the future should it be let that there is a demand.
* **Butchers Arms – Asset of Community Value and options report regarding possible community pub models**
* No update to report. There is likely to be a report at the March 2025 Parish Council meeting.
* **Digitalisation of previous PC records**
* Cllr Gue confirmed the digitalisation has been done and that the hard copy Council records will be available for collection on the week commencing the 27th January.
* **EV charging points**
* As stated under ‘Update from the Village Hall Committee’.
* **Parish Councillor Vacancy**
* Cllr Hope confirmed that the advert has been published with a closing date of the 29th January
* Cllr Hope updated that so far one member of the parish had expressed an interest in the role.
* **Defibrillators**
* The Parish Council resolved to purchase a updated replacement defibrillator, cabinet and equipment for the Village Hall to replace the current equipment.
* The Parish Council will continue to establish a suitable location for a second defibrillator but agreed that this may not be possible/feasible due to a power supply feed being required. The location requires an electrical source for the temperature controlled cabinet.
* **Tree survey**
* The Parish Council resolved to obtain a quote for a survey of trees in the Parish identified in the 2022 Tree Survey.
* **Bus shelter/books**
* Cllr Hope has placed an article in The Voice to enquire who has started the book swap to establish if there are any members in the village who will monitor and update the books. This is to avoid the bus shelter becoming a dumping ground for unwanted items.
* **Fringford Circular Walk - display board and QR code**
* Cllr Hope confirmed that she had spoken to Cherwell DCto enquire about the the creation of an external display board for the Fringford circular walk, and this will need to be funded by the Parish Council. Cherwell no longer produce paper leaflets, but very much encourage the board to be made, with a QR code to informer walkers of historical markers. Cherwell already actively promote the village and town walks in the area online. Fringford is walk 12.
* The Parish Council also agreed include an update on this on this in The Voice.
* **Gipsy Traveller Site planning application**
* Cllr Hope updated that the planning officer has agreed a further extension for the decision to 23 February 2025.
* The reason for the delay is due to the new Gipsy Traveller Needs Assessment being published in January 2025. This will provide Cherwell an update on the current need for Gipsy Traveller pitches across the district and may be a key consideration for the application potential appeal.
* The decision on this application is at delegated officer level and it is not currently being called in to the Planning Committee.
* **Parish Council Website**
* Cllr Mackenzie to carry out a review of the current website and create a sitemap as first step and share this with the Parish Council to then review the best contentfor each section.
* 80th commemoration of VE Day Thursday 8 May 2025 – initial conversations with Tim Mustill and Christine who feel it is a PC led event. Possible events to do in the village: Bell ringing 6:30pm, beacon lighting at 9:30pm, fish and Chips (one non rationed meal), proclamation 9:00pm. VE Day tributes to be printed from national website. Ros will be away for the event but happy to help arrangements.

1. **Planning**

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| **Ref No:** | **Location** | **Proposal** | **PC Comments** |
| [25/00034/TEL](https://planningregister.cherwell.gov.uk/Planning/Display/25/00034/TEL) | Orange Telecommunications Mast OXF0087 Bicester Road Fringford | Install 3 no. antenna and 1 no. GPS Node, along with associated equipment works | For Information Only |

**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**

* **OALC – Monthly Update**
* **Cherwell Parish Bulletin**
* **Proposed Submission (Regulation 19) Cherwell Local Plan Review December 2024**
* **Fringford Funfair**
* **OALC - Local Government Standards Consultation**
* **OCC - Temporary Road Closure and “No Waiting” Restriction at B4100, Bicester**
* **Notice of road closures A421 and A4421 Jan-Mar 2025**
* **Beer Festival Committee – Looking to purchase new small marquee £700inc VAT. The Council resolved to purchase the marquee.**

1. **Items for next Agenda**

* All items for the next agenda to be submitted to the Clerk by 14th February 2025.

1. **Date of next meeting:**

* The date of the next meeting is 24th February 2025 at 7.45pm. Please note the change of date is a week later than usual due to half term.