**Minutes of the meeting of Fringford Parish Council,   
held on Monday 17th March 2025 at 7.45pm.**

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

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

1. **Apologies for absence**

* Apologies were received from Cllr MacKenzie.

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

* Cllr Hope declared an interest in planning Application 25/00516/F - Bakery Cottage Main Street Fringford. It was agreed that Cllr Harris as Deputy Chair would chair that item of the meeting.
* Cllr Davids-Austin declared an interest in the Wise Crescent development. The top- soil from the development is being deposited in a field owned by Cllr Davids-Austin

1. **Public participation**

* A member of the public raised the the recent cinema event on the Village Hall only had 12 attendees. It was agreed that the Parish Council would ask the VHC to keep a record of village held event and numbers attending.

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

* No updates received from County or District Councillors.
* Cllr Hope had attended the on-line Local Plan Workshop training delivered by OALC. This detailed the meaning of Local Plans and how they link with the Cherwell District Council Local Plan.
* It was highlighted that several villages do not have a village or neighbourhood plan. The benefits of a neighbourhood plan articulate the priorities for a local parish and open opportunities to apply for grants for the village as the plan shows a clear demonstration of engagement with community.
* It is also clear that speculative planning applications are increasing, and a neighbourhood plan gives parishes a stronger position object to larger planning applications.

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

* The minutes of the February 2025 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.

1. **Parish Matters**

* **Update from the Village Hall Committee (VHC)**
* **Car Park -** Cllrs Hope and Gue confirmed that three quotes had been received regarding the resurfacing of the car park. These will be considered at the Village Hall Committee. It would be preferable to widen the access from the main road to the car park to allow two cars to pass side by side as it is very tight and school times. The work would include the edges and soak aways.
* The Parish Council approved in principle to contribute funds to the resurfacing of the car park but would need to discuss the level of contribution with the Village Hall Committee.
* **Butchers Arms – Asset of Community Value and options report regarding possible community pub models**
* An update was received for the group looking options if the pub was ever to be put on the market for sale. If this was to occur, the community, led by the Parish Council or nominated group, could put together a business case to purchase the pub as an asset of community value. The options were discussed and examples of where this is happening elsewhere were shared.
* **Defibrillator**
* Cllr Hope confirmed that the new defibrillator has arrived and will be installed in the new position nearer to the entrance of the Village Hall. The current defibrillator will then be removed and de-commissioned.
* **Tree survey**
* The Parish Council approved the quote of £500 for a survey of the tree near the church and the quote of £750 for a survey the other trees on Parish Council owned or leased land near the Village Hall.
* **Bus shelter/books**
* Cllr Hope confirmed the unwanted books and shelves have been removed from the bus shelter. The books that were not damp or mouldy were taken to the All About Ali charity.
* **Fringford Circular Walk - display board and QR code**
* Cllr Hope confirmed that the map of the Fringford Circular Walk has been placed on the noticeboard. The Council resolved not to install an information board at this time but would review this again at a future date and subject to funds.
* **Parish Council Website**
* It was agreed to defer this item to the April 2025 Parish Council meeting for an update from Cllr Mackenzie
* **Gipsy Traveller Site planning application update**
* Cllr Hope confirmed that Cherwell had posted a that a decision on this application is due on the 22 March 2025. Post meeting note: the decision date has moved to 19 May due to Cherwell DC awaiting the outcome of a planning appeal decision on the matter of need for sites that might have a bearing on this application.

1. **Planning**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Ref No:** | **Location** | **Proposal** | **PC Comments** |
| 25/00439/SCOP | Land at Dymocks Farm Buckingham Road Bicester | Scoping opinion | Objection |
| 25/00330/EL | Land adjoining Hall Farm Main Street Fringford | Upgrading to existing 100 kilo volt pole mounted transformer unit with a stout pole replacing existing H pole and relacing a leaning pole on the same line to make safe | Support |
| 25/00516/F | Bakery Cottage Main Street Fringford | Single storey, pitched roof extension to the existing dwelling | Support |
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**Decisions**

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

**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**
* **Puy de Fou – Myth buster**
* **Cricket Club –** Request for donation – The Council approved the request for £450 from the Fringford Cricket Club as a contribution towards the grass cutting**.**
* **Wise Crescent –** The Parish Council acknowledged correspondence from a resident regarding the breaching of work hours at the Wise Crescent development. The Parish Council resolved to ask the resident to provide evidence of the breaches that they could share with the developers. Post meeting note: none have been received.

1. **Items for next Agenda**

* All items for the next agenda to be submitted to the Clerk by 18th April 2025.

1. **Date of next meeting:**

* The date of the next meeting is 28th April 2025 at 7.45pm.