

FARTHINGHOE PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

held on Wednesday, 24th April 2019 at 7.30pm
in Farthinghoe Village Hall



Councillors present: Mr Mick Morris (Chair) (MM)
Mr John Grant (JG)
Mr David Dashwood (Vice Chair) (DD)
Mr Henry Bankes-Jones (HBJ)
Mr Trevor Jarvis (TJ)
Mr Barry Willett
District Cllr Rebecca Breese (RB)
Mrs Mary Amos (Clerk)

Also attending Graham Thorley
Rosemary Jarvis

18 attendees from the public

Apologies: Cllr James Harrison (JH)
Safety Community Team
Wendy Whitehouse
Ruth Brittan
Jenny Forbes
David Hancock

ITEM	
1.	<p>Chairman's Welcome</p> <p>A warm welcome was extended to all speakers, representatives of village organisations and villagers by Cllr Morris. In particular, Cllr Morris welcomed Cllr Rebecca Breese.</p> <p>Cllr Morris read through the Chairman's Welcome (Appendix 1).</p>
2.	<p>To receive apologies for absence</p> <p>Apologies were received from Cllr James Harrison, Wendy Whitehouse, Head Teacher Farthinghoe Village School, the Safety Community Team, Ruth Brittain, Ruth Dashwood, Jenny Forbes, and David Hancock.</p>
3.	<p>To receive and approve for signature the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 18 April 2018</p> <p>The minutes were proposed by Rebecca Breese and seconded by David Muller and were signed by the Chairman as a true record.</p>
4.	<p>To review matters arising from the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 18 April 2018</p> <p>There were no matters arising.</p>
5.	<p>To receive the Chairman's Report for the year 2018-19</p> <p>Cllr Morris explained that questions would be invited after each section of his report and proceeded to read through the Chairman's Report (Appendix 2).</p> <p>In response to a query on which three safety issues had been highlighted in the Chairman's</p>

report, the Chairman reported that the safety issues identified were;

Queen Street being used as a rat run during peak traffic times

School Crossing – jumping of lights on the pedestrian crossing, in particular on the way into Banbury

It was mentioned that the pedestrian lights had been hit by a vehicle and was tilted slightly, and as the Give Way sign on the Cockley Road had been hit and was facing the wrong way, it could not be seen on the approach.

A question was raised for Cllr Breese on how often road signage required inspection. Cllr Breese said she would find out and report back.

5.1 Village Hall

There were no comments; the full report is shown in Appendix 3

5.2 Primary School

Cllr Grant asked Graham Thorley about becoming a member of the Warriner Multi Academy trust, and what its impact had been?

He responded that it had been done to protect the future of the school, they had considered the Academy model and decided that it was not right for the school as they wanted to maintain the school's independence, and it was felt that the Warriner Multi Academy Trust was the best model for Farthinghoe School.

He highlighted that the school now had 45 pupils and all the staff were at the top of their game and asked for everyone to get involved with the school, whether it was to listen to reading, or give talks.

The full report is shown in Appendix 4.

5.3 Parish Clerk Financial Report

In response to question about available funding/grants, the Chair explained that there was no funding left from the New Homes Bonus grants received in 2018/19 that funded the Village Hall insulation, and Farthinghoe's street lighting project, and that 2019/20 will see the closing of this particular source of funding.

Cllr Breese commented that some villages had been receiving grants from HS2 funds, the Chair advised that he had been told that Farthinghoe didn't qualify for the HS2 Safety Fund. Cllr Breese said that there was another fund managed by Groundworks and that grants are available for up to £75k, and that she would forward details after the meeting.

5.4 & 5.5 SNC & NCC Reports

Cllr Breese gave an overview of both of the reports and to clarify some of the points in the report, and expanded on some of the work done so far, and stressed that there was still lots of work to be done, and that there was no confirmation that the Unitary Council will happen next year, and there is also a belief that it may be delayed for another year.

It was confirmed that Highways would be split and that the Kierwsp contract ends next year.

A question was raised to query whether there was any truth in the belief that there is a deliberate underspend on roads, so that by the time they are handed over to the Unitary Councils that there will be problems and they will be someone else's problem. Cllr Breese stated that there was no truth in this at all. To date all of the focus has been on child safety and not highways.

The full reports are available in Appendix 6 and 7

	<p>5.6 Church Report</p> <p>There were no comments, the full report is available in Appendix 8.</p> <p>5.6.1 The Seven Sisters Tree Site</p> <p>The Chairman stated that although this report was indexed to the Church report, in fact they were not related at all.</p> <p>A question was raised as to when the buried capsule would be dug up. Rosemary Jarvis said it had been buried in 2000, and it was envisaged it would be dug up around 2050.</p> <p>The full report is available in Appendix 9.</p> <p>5.7 Almshouse</p> <p>There were no comments, the full report is available in Appendix 10.</p> <p>5.8 Allotments</p> <p>There were no comments, the full report is available in Appendix 11.</p> <p>5.9 Northamptonshire Police Brackley Neighbourhood Team</p> <p>A suggestion was made that we asked the Police about the 10.9% increase in funding and what they feel the benefit will be to the Villages, and ask Stephen Mold what Farthinghoe residents will get for their £225 average per household (based on 170 houses) in the forthcoming year?</p> <p>A question was raised about the recent mention of Safety Cameras in the Village. Cllr Grant advised that this was a SNC initiative that had been offered, but when he expressed interest on behalf of Farthinghoe, found that the initiative had been shelved for the present time whilst further investigation took place, and there was no indication when it would be re-offered.</p> <p>The full report is available in Appendix 12.</p> <p>5.10 Playpark</p> <p>There were no complaints and no comments.</p> <p>Closing Address</p> <p>The full list of appendices is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 - Chairman's Welcome 2 - Chairman's Report 3 - Village Hall Committee 4 - Primary School 5 - Parish Council Finances 6 - South Northamptonshire District Council 7 - Northamptonshire County Council 8 - Church of St Michael and All Angels Farthinghoe 9 – The Seven Sisters Tree Site 10 - Almshouse 11 - Allotments 12 - Northamptonshire Police Brackley Neighbourhood team
6.	<p>General Question and Answer session</p> <p>It was stated that dog fouling in the Village is a problem, and several solutions were discussed.</p>

	<p>The Chairman stated that there is a new initiative called Parishes Together, that has been created so that villages could get together and discuss issues and find out how other villages may have resolved similar issues, and he suggested that he raised the issue of Dog Fouling at their next meeting.</p> <p>It was highlighted that a property at the corner of Queen street had foliage protruding over the pavement which was causing a safety issue in terms of driving visibility and the ability to use the pavement. The Chairman confirmed that he would look at the issue.</p>
9	<p>Any other business</p> <p>There was no other business and no further questions from the public.</p>

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed at **8.33pm**.

DRAFT

APPENDIX 1 – CHAIRMANS INTRODUCTION

Good evening everyone and welcome to 2019 annual Farthinghoe Parish Meeting.

In particular we have pleasure in welcoming for the first time:

Rev Sue Cooper our new Rector

Along with:

Cllr Rebecca Breese our District and County councillor, Rebecca set the trend for Unitary Councils

Graham Thorley – Chair of the School Governors

Without more ado I would like to move onto the evenings agenda

Rgds

Mick Morris

Chairman Farthinghoe Parish Council.

Farthinghoe Annual Parish Meeting - April 24th 2019

During this year we have seen a significant number of changes in the composition of Farthinghoe Parish Council.

We have seen three councilors leave along with a change in our Parish Clerk. Councilors Ross van Geest, Jenny Forbes and Sally Thomas have retired along with our Parish Clerk Pippa Clayton. We will miss them all and thank them for their considerable and valued contributions to the benefit of the parish.

We have welcomed three new Councillors, James Harrison, Trevor Jarvis and Barry Willett, and Mary Amos our new Parish Clerk. Mary lives in Middleton Cheney and her daughter Kim lives in Farthinghoe.

Traffic has again been one of the major topics of activity for the Parish Council and the funding of a village bypass has been prime in this.

It has been a very eventful year in this respect and most of the progress has been published on the Parish website, in the Farthinghoe Chronicle or by email from the Parish database as it has been since 2015.

The major points being

- A) The Major Roads Network (MRN) has confirmed that the Farthinghoe Bypass meets their qualification criteria for acceptance of funding bids.
- B) NCC Highways, SEMEP and EEHSA will now work together to prepare a project to the bidding stage for MRN funding. This bid is expected to be presented during July 2019.
- C) Our MP, Andrea Leadsom will convene a meeting on May 3rd, which she will chair. All of the parties mentioned in (2) will attend with the main purpose being to ensure that the bid preparation is on schedule to meet the presentation date.

Items (A), (B) and (C) above were confirmed by Andrea during her Action Day visit to Farthinghoe on February 8th and during her address at the coffee morning she made it clear that her efforts to secure bypass funding would be greatly enhanced by a village e-petition indicating the support of others from outside Farthinghoe for a bypass, particularly drivers. Thankfully Pippa Clayton was quick to pick up the cudgel and we are appreciative of her support.

In addition to the e-petition a weekend of petition signing was organised at Tesco Brackley and these will be presented to Andrea Leadsom at her surgery in Brackley on April 26th.

E-petition 949 signatures (as at 17/04/19)

Tesco petition 1251 signatures

We are hopeful of another petition weekend to be held at Tesco Banbury over the Easter weekend.

In addition, we are led to believe that considerable support has been received from Industry and Commerce.

Road Closure (August to December 2018)

Most of us were taken by surprise by the bridge failure but subsequent reports seem to indicate that there may have been known problems for a few years to those monitoring the bridge.

It was a double-edged sword giving Farthinghoe a long taste of the A422 without the traffic but in other respects causing hardship. Most of these aspects were made public over the 5-month closure.

Following on from the closure the bad publicity seems to have prompted the very big improvements made on the Cockley Road structure which will soon be resurfaced along with the A422 (New Road to Thenford Crossroads).

During this closure period it was made abundantly clear that should we get 20 mph speed limits in the village they will not be monitored by the Police.

In addition, we have been advised that no weight restrictions will be considered for the A422 or the Cockley Road.

A big "Thank You" is also due to the management and drivers of Stagecoach whose reactions were exemplary during the closure.

Road Safety

There will inevitably be a period of delay between the agreement of our bypass funding and the completion of the bypass being in operation. During this period the current traffic dangers will most likely increase very quickly.

The main issues being :

- 1) Rat runs in Cockley Road and Queen Street
- 2) Dangers of the A422 traffic light controlled crossing
- 3) Inappropriate parking.

In January we had requested consideration by the NCC / HS2 Safety Fund for finances to study and improve these situations.

NCC Highways have confirmed that these issues are on their agenda and that we will learn the outcome of these deliberations at the end of April.

Highways, Footpaths, Hedges & Verges

The 'Street Doctor' facility for reporting defects has now been superseded by a revised and much more informative facility called 'Fix My Street' and this can be found on **www.fixmystreet.northamptonshire.gov.uk**.

This is not just a facility for the use of the Parish Council, it is for everyone to use to report problems and we encourage everyone to acquaint themselves with it and to use it. It shows the authorities that the Parish is alive to the dangers and it cares. Anyone who has problems using it is most welcome to contact me.

Streetlights

The new streetlights were installed in January improving safety and reducing operating costs.

Sewers & Drains

This subject is very closely associated with street safety as well as hygiene.

The problems of sewage in Chapel Lane and Main Road have been a long running saga. There has been a reluctance amongst the various authorities to admit "ownership" of the drains and thus solve this unsavory problem. The situation changed in December when we took a more positive stance and advised them that we would no longer be "piggy in the middle". All parties then decided on a combined approach and solutions were found.

These investigations established a number of blockages and a broken pipe, which have now been repaired, along with a faulty sewer connection which has now been corrected. "Ownerships" have now been agreed and all is now more clear for the future.

Considerations for Farthinghoe in the future :-

1) During the last year regular meetings have been organised called "Parishes Together". This is an initiative organised by the Brackley Town Mayor for local Parishes to share problems, successes and consider joint solutions in the future. This could prove to be very useful as the format develops.

2) In recent months the results of a National Survey by the Country Land & Business Association criticised South Northants Parishes as being lacking in sustainability. We are studying the implications of this and will continue to do so in order to find ways of improving the village in this respect. This could be particularly relevant as the character of the village changes with any reduction in through traffic.

3) Please take a look at **www.brackleycommunityhospital.charity**.

In 2020 the new Brackley Medical Centre is planned to open. Following this the Brackley Community Hospital will start to develop on the same site and this additional medical facility will be funded by a Charitable Trust.

We will be following this very carefully to find ways in which our Parish can both contribute and benefit. One obvious benefit is that the 500 Bus Service will provide direct access as there will be a bus stop adjacent to the Centre.

4) We are very concerned that rural views and needs are being ignored and had expressed these fears in our response to the Unitary Council Consultation in 2018. Recently in Parliament the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, Liz Truss, made comment on the difficulties rural communities are experiencing in financing education, infrastructure, bus services and policing, amongst other issues. Cllr John Grant has recently asked Andrea Leadsom to consider inviting Liz Truss to visit South Northants villages were these issues are exacerbated by the perilous state of our County Council finances.

Cllr Mick Morris
Chairman
Farthinghoe Parish Council

PS We currently have 48 email addresses on our database, but would like to have the ability to communicate quickly and directly with as many people in the village as possible when needed. If you wish to register, please see our website for details.

Farthinghoe Village Hall report April 2019

The Hall facility continues to progress as planned with regular income now covering the running costs which have been trimmed further this year. Several successful fundraising events have seen income increase to give a current bank balance of around £17,500. The regular monthly income and expenditure statements are available from the website - www.farthinghoevillagehall.org as are the minutes and 150 Club results.

The Social events have been well received to the end of 2018 and the Film and Table Tennis clubs have been gaining traction. We are looking forward to a special Village show in September which is planned to be of interest to all the Village. We now have an opportunity to install a wooden floor and electric heating from existing funds. This will have a massive impact on the environment and make the facility more saleable and enjoyable for the Village as well as improving the structure by providing a consistent temperature. The roof insulation has been installed and already makes a big difference. However, the running costs will increase until we have the funds to install Solar PV which will generate the electricity required to run the heating etc. This will be the subject of separate fundraising activity, including grant application etc.

The Committee has seen a number of changes during the year, but all members are active and committed to continue the development of the Hall and its processes and procedures. The Parish Council, Church and School have representatives attending every meeting, and I must thank all the Committee for their commitment and enthusiasm during the year.

The 2019/2020 Goals are published below and I would commend everybody to visit the website which provides all the information required for Villagers to keep in touch with events.

David Hancock
Chair Farthinghoe Village Hall

Farthinghoe Primary School
Head Teacher Report for the Parish Council
March 2019

This report provides villagers with an update on the work the school has been carrying out in order to maintain our 'Outstanding status'. In order to continue to drive further school improvements, a key piece of work at the start of the year has been defining our school values.

Farthinghoe.....where all children are valued and given the opportunity to thrive!

We are....

A Community

Unique

Caring

Resilient and able to grasp every opportunity to learn.

The most important area of school development is that we have become part of one of the highest regarded Multi Academy Trusts in the area (Warriner Multi Academy Trust – WMAT). This has provided opportunity and sustainability for the future education of our pupils.

All our classes have been fascinated by our topics this year-

Castles, kings and Queens

Sports for all

Mountains, Rivers and Coasts

Composers through time

To further support the progress our children make in Maths, we have reviewed the curriculum and are introducing a 'mastery approach to teaching'. This style of teaching is inspired by lessons from Shanghai. Currently the children are focussing on learning their multiplication tables for a challenge in the Summer term.

In September we introduced the Prince William Award to all our children in Key stage 2. This takes place within the school day and is taught by instructors who have been in the Armed Forces. It is a character and resilience award programme for children aged 6–14 and the first such award programme in Prince William's name. This has been a major investment on the schools' part and we are excited to be one of the only schools in the area to be running this new award.

We are so fortunate to live in such a beautiful rural community and to have the opportunity of visiting a farm. The children in Keystage 1 (age 5-7) took part in Forest School sessions at Greatworth Hall. The philosophy of Forest Schools being to encourage and inspire individuals of any age through positive outdoor experiences. The children had the opportunity to learn about the natural environment and at the same time establish and grow in confidence.

In February we were pleased to welcome The Right Honourable Andrea Leadsom, MP, to our school. We gave her a tour of the school and she asked the children in Year 5 and 6 their opinions on the possibility of a bypass for Farthinghoe. It was a short visit but as usual, the children at our school were well informed, articulate and unfailingly polite. Mick Morris the Chair of the Parish Council took part in the tour and once again I would like to thank the villagers who are working so hard to ensure the roads in Farthinghoe are safe.

The RT Hon Andrea Leadsom MP

February 2019

I also had the pleasure of being taken around Farthinghoe Primary by Wendy Whitehouse and Cllr Mick Morris, and was hugely impressed by the fantastic work being done there to support the students in their learning. I was given a fantastic overview of the school's concerns about the traffic through the village by Maggie and Lauren, and had the opportunity to speak to all the classes, including an in-depth Q&A with years 5 and 6.

In the Summer term we are learning about the Stone Age in Keystage 2 and Watery Worlds in Keystage 1. We will be creating opportunities for the children to use Maths outside in our outdoor classroom and the children across the school will be taking part in producing our school play. We were so pleased to be able to invite the community to watch our Easter Bonnet parade, we hope to repeat this invite to the Summer show.

We remain a very popular school and currently have 45 children on our school roll. Our unique character and our small class sizes enable us to offer a high adult to child ratio delivering a broad and balanced curriculum.

Farthinghoe Primary School is lucky to be part of such a supportive village community.

Thank you for your continued support.

Wendy Whitehouse
Headteacher

APPENDIX 5 – FARTHINGHOE PARISH COUNCIL FINANCIAL REPORT TO 31ST MARCH 2019

In the financial year to 31st March 2019, the Parish Council continued to provide for precept funds and playpark funds separately within the accounting process to ensure that the funds raised so diligently by parishioners can be clearly accounted for. In addition, funds for the defibrillator were also accounted for separately. The Financial Report therefore reflects this accounting process.

Precept funds

Opening balance at 1st April 2018: £5,926.14

The precept for the year to 31st March 2019 was £7,900.

Income received in the year:		Expenditure in the year (incl. VAT):	
VAT refunds	£1803.25	Street lighting	£1588.05
Interest/Compensation	£25.40	Maintenance Grass/Dog Waste etc.	£933.60
Chronicle Advertising	£120.00	Subscriptions	£458.80
SNC Grants	£7574.00	Chronicle	£795.60
Village Hall Loan	£5022.00	Clerks Salary (inc Tax)	£2010.00
		Clerks Expenses	£325.00
		Insurance	
	£643.81	Audit	£175.00
		Donations	£300.00
		Projects (Street Lighting & Village Hall Insulation)	£9509.72
		Repayment of Village Hall Loan	£5022.00
		Website	£135.45
Total income	£22444.65	Total expenditure	(£21897.03)

Opening Balance	£7159.19
Precept	£7900.00
Income received	£22444.65
Expenditure	(21897.03)
Closing Balance at 31 st March 2019:	£7706.81

Item	2017 costs (excl. VAT)	2018 costs (excl.VAT)	% increase (where applicable)
Street lighting			
- Electricity	£980.90	£1102.55	11%
- Maintenance	£359.00	£359.00	
Administration			
- Insurance	£749.64	£643.81	-14%
- Internal audit fee	£167.00	£172.00	3%
- External audit fee	£0.00	£0.00	
- NCALC subscription	£256.04	£250.80	-3%
- Chronicle printing	£715.60	£795.60	10%
- Election fee	£0.00	£0.00	
- Clerk's salary	£1400.00	£2010.00	30.3%
- Clerk's expenses	£300.00	£325.00	8%
- Clerk training	£0.00	£175.00	100%
- Website domain name renewal	£43.35	£51.00	15%
- Website hosting and support service	£0.00	£61.88	100%
- IT equipment	£0.00	£0.00	

- Land registry	£0.00	£0.00	
Mowing	£815.00	£690.00	-15.4%
General maintenance			
- Dog waste disposal	£156.00	£156.00	
- Refurbishment of noticeboard	£0.00	£0.00	
- Playpark safety inspection	£0.00	£56.40	100%
Council for Protection of Rural England subs	£36.00	£36.00	
Donation to defibrillator fund	£480.00	£0.00	-100%
Speed check on Queens Street	£195.00	£0.00	-100%
Projects			
Village Hall	£0.00	£4185.00	100%
Street Lighting	£0.00	£3389.00	100%

Explanation of increases

The % increase in electricity costs are due to the unit costs charged by E'ON increasing from 15.75p per kWh to 17.90p per kWh which applied from 1st July 2018. Going forward the installation of new street lamps installed in January 2019 will result in reduced consumption of energy.

The website domain name renewal and support are inflationary.

NCALC is the Northamptonshire County Association of Local Councils. The subscription fee pays for membership of NCALC and of NALC, the National Association of Local Councils. The subscription is based on the number of electorates of 319 which is a slight reduction on 2017.

The internal audit is conducted by NCALC, the increase is inflationary.

A full breakdown of the accounts is now uploaded monthly to the website so that at any time, parishioners will be able to see the current funding status for the parish.

Clerks Salary is increase as the number of hours were changed from 10 to 15 per month commencing September 2018. In addition, there was an overlap of Clerks employed in the month of September 2018.

Clerk expenses was a temporary increase as two clerks were employed during the month of September 2018

Some items appear in 2018 which were new or one-off costs resulting in a 100% increase;

- New Clerk training was required in September 2018, which was not required in 2017 resulting in a 100% increase over the previous year.
- Playpark inspection – annual inspection was not required in 2017 but it is annual requirement and will now appear annually in the accounts.
- Village Hall & Street Lighting projects, one off cost which were completely funded by SNC Grants.

Playpark funds

Opening balance at 1st April 2018: £2,156.34

Income received in the year		Expenditure in the year	
None		Parking bollards	none
TOTAL	£0.00	TOTAL	(£0.00)

Opening Balance	£2,192.34
Income received	£0.00
Monies paid out	(£0.00)

Closing Balance at 31st March 2018 **£2,156.34**

Defibrillator funds

Opening balance at 1st April 2018: £436.48

Income received in the year	None	Expenditure in the year	None
TOTAL	£0.00	TOTAL	(£0.00)

Opening Balance	£436.48
Income received	£0.00
Monies paid out	(£0.00)

Closing Balance at 31st March 2019 **£436.48**

TOTAL CLOSING BALANCE AT 31ST MARCH 2019:

Precept	£7706.81
Playpark	£2,156.34
Defibrillator	£436.48
TOTAL	£10,299.63

Mary Amos – Parish Clerk
16 April 2019

APPENDIX 5 – FARTHINGHOE PARISH COUNCIL FINANCIAL REPORT TO 31ST MARCH 2019

Farthinghoe Parish Council - Accounts to 31st March 2019

		To 31.3.19		To 31.3.18	
Receipts					
Parish Council					
	Precept	£	7,900.00		£7,150.00
	Grants/Loans	£	12,596.00		£240.00
	Chronicle advertising	£	120.00		£360.00
	VAT returns	£	1,803.25		£306.16
	Bank interest/Compensation	£	25.40		£0.14
			£22,444.65		£8,056.30
Playpark					
	Fundraising		£0.00		£0.00
	VAT returns		£0.00		£0.00
			£0.00		£0.00
Defibrillator					
	Fundraising		£0.00		£791.48
	Donations		£0.00		£630.00
	VAT returns		£0.00		£197.00
			£0.00		£1,618.48
	Total Receipts		£22,444.65		£9,674.78

Payments

Parish Council					
	Electricity	£	1,588.05		£1,460.75
	Maintenance - grass cutting, dog waste	£	933.60		£1,002.20
	Subscriptions	£	458.80		£459.04
	Chronicle	£	795.60		£715.60
	Clerk's salary including Income Tax	£	2,010.00		£1,400.00
	Clerk's expenses	£	325.00		£300.00
	Insurance	£	643.81		£749.64
	Audit	£	175.00		£0.00
	Repayment of Village Hall Loan	£	5,022.00		£480.00
	Projects (Street Lighting/Village Hall)	£	9,509.72		-£30.00
	Website	£	135.45		£52.02
	Fox at Farthinghoe	£	300.00		£234.00
	Total Overheads				£6,823.25
				£21,897.03	
	Asset purchase - computer equipment		£0.00		£0.00
	Total Assets		£0.00		£0.00
	Total Payments		£21,897.03		£6,823.25
Playpark					
	General maintenance		£0.00		£0.00
	Health & Safety equipment		£0.00		£36.00
			£0.00		£36.00

APPENDIX 5 – FARTHINGHOE PARISH COUNCIL FINANCIAL REPORT TO 31ST MARCH 2019

Defibrillator					
	Asset purchase - defibrillator and casing	£0.00		£1,182.00	
			£0.00		£1,182.00
	Total Payments		£21,897.03		£8,041.25
	Surplus/(Deficit) for year		£547.62		£1,633.53
Accounting Balances					
	Parish Council	£7,706.81		£7,159.19	
	Playpark fund	£2,156.34		£2,156.34	
	Defibrillator fund	£436.48		£436.48	
	Annual Total		£10,299.63		£9,752.01
Bank Balances as at 31 March					
	Current Account	£3,098.59		£9,617.67	
	Business Saver Account	£7,201.04		£200.64	
	Unpresented cheque	£0.00		-£66.30	
	Total		£10,299.63		£9,752.01

						Opening balance	Receipts	Payments	Closing balance	Surplus/ (Deficit)
Annual Accounts 2018-2019										
	Parish Council	£7,159.19	£22,444.65	£21,897.03	£7,706.81					
	Playpark funds	£2,156.34	£0.00	£0.00	£2,156.34					
	Defibrillator funds	£436.48	£0.00	£0.00	£436.48					
		£9,752.01			£10,299.63					£547.62
Annual Accounts 2017-2018										
	Parish Council	£5,926.14	£8,056.30	£6,823.25	£7,159.19					
	Playpark funds	£2,192.34	£0.00	£36.00	£2,156.34					
	Defibrillator funds	£0.00	£1,618.48	£1,182.00	£436.48					
		£8,118.48			£9,752.01					£1,633.53

Local Government Reform (LGR)

The past year has been dominated by the events at NCC. As we began the new municipal year in 2018 NCC issued a further Section 114 Notice. Max Caller reported that in his opinion Best Value was not being satisfied and the difficulties at NCC were such that it was not possible to recover this in a sensible time period and concluded that the best thing to do was to have two new unitary councils. The unitary councils replace NCC and all 7 districts and boroughs. He proposed that there should be one in the North encompassing Corby, Kettering, Wellingborough and East Northants and one in the West taking in Daventry, South Northants and Northampton Borough.

At the same time as appointing commissioners the Sec of State issued an invitation to all the districts and boroughs and the county council to submit a proposal for the future governance of the county. That invitation set out some strict rules that needed to be followed for a proposal to be considered valid.

- Whole councils to be used as building blocks
- A single county proposal was not allowed
- A population had to be substantially in excess of 300,000
- The proposal had to have a credible geography
- Whilst it was also possible to overstep the county boundary it was also necessary to respect the police boundaries.

In effect this meant that there was only one proposal that would fulfil all the criteria, namely the one set out by Max Caller for a West and North unitary council.

On 31 August all the councils, except for Corby, submitted a proposal to the Secretary of State however to date, the Sec of State has not given any indication as to whether or not he is minded to implement those, although a decision is due imminently,

The councils are working on the assumption that the Sec of State will approve these proposals and so are beginning to make some of the preparations for unitary councils.

As a result, Cherwell and South Northants decided that their partnership would need to be dissolved and everything that we had achieved with Cherwell unwound. This process began last autumn with a management restructure, Yvonne Rees took up a new post as joint chief executive of Oxfordshire County Council and Cherwell District Council and Richard Ellis took up the post of Chief Executive of SNC. The other members of the senior management also split between Cherwell and South Northants. In December a negative order was passed in parliament to delay the elections that were due in 2019 until 2020. That should dovetail with the new elections for the new councils. The current timetable is not fixed, but is something along the lines of: -

- Secretary of State consultation ended 25 January 2019
- Secretary of State to indicate his decision on the proposal – spring 2019

Assuming he is minded to proceed based without modifying the proposals -

- Orders laid in Parliament in late April /May and then make their way through the two houses of parliament. This normally takes a few weeks
- Shadow council will come into being 14 days after the order is made
- Shadow council will comprise of all the members of all the councils and those from NCC who represent this area
- Shadow council will elect a shadow executive to prepare for day 1
- The new council will come into being 1 April 2020
- SNC will cease to be a council on 1 April 2020
- Elections to the new unitary authority will be 7 May 2020

There is a lot of work between now and then to get a council set up and running and to be safe and legal on day 1, and then to continue the work of transformation.

As we move forward with LGR we are holding regular **Parish & Town Clerks Forums**, with alternate Forums including PC Chairmen.

SNC Financial Highlights

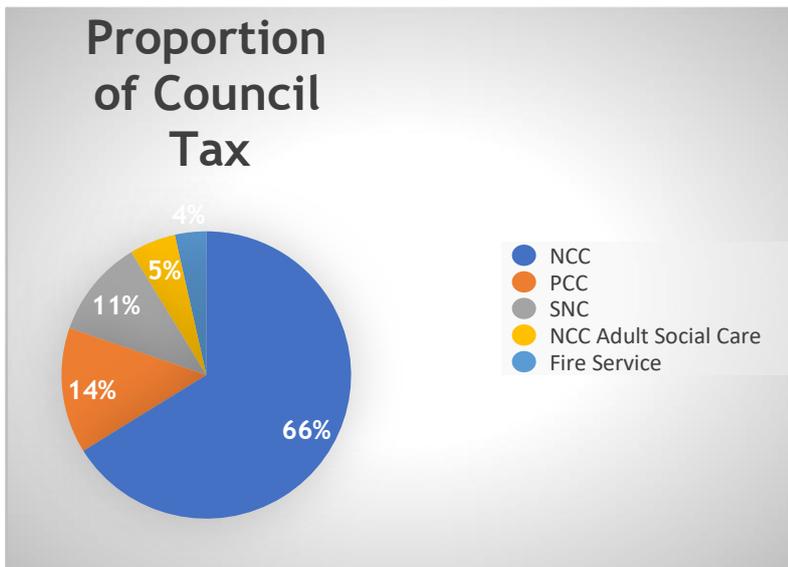
Funding from Central Government is now limited to the Rural Services Delivery Grant. However, our growth in terms of homes and businesses allows us to continue to balance the books. Growth in homes generates New Homes Bonus and this is now a substantial part of the district council income stream.

Unlike most councils SNC uses some of the New Homes Bonus it receives from new developments to invest in the local community. Local organisations can bid for grants to help them achieve their objectives.

In 2018-19, £1.5m of grant funding was made to communities in South Northamptonshire across 167 projects to improve the environment and lifestyle. Over the lifetime of the New Homes Bonus Scheme some £3.3m has been re-invested in the Community.

Council Tax

The SNC part of the council tax bill was raised by 2.99%, (£5.55 a year for a band D property), to £191.33 per year. The increase is in line with inflation. SNC only get to keep 11% of the total bill. Northants County take the biggest share at 71%, the Police and Crime Commissioner 14% and the Fire Service 4%.



The breakdown of the council tax bill for a Band D Property:

Body	2018/19	Increase	Increase Amount	2018/19
NCC ¹	£1,146.63	4.99%	-£0.25	£1,146.38
NCC Adult Social Care ²	£89.72	0.00%	£0.00	£89.72
PCC ³	£221.04	11.00%	£24.00	£245.04
Fire Service ⁴			£60.76	£60.76

SNC	£185.78	2.99%	£5.55	£191.33
Total	£1,643.17	5.48%	£90.06	£1,733.23

This year there are a number of differences:

Note 1 From 2019/20 the Fire Service comes under the responsibility of the Police and Crime Commissioner. Therefore, the cost for the Fire Service has been removed from the County element of the bill, hence the seeming decrease. In fact, the County's part has increased by the 2.99%, the maximum allowed by the Government without a referendum. The Government has permitted the County to surcharge the residents by an additional 2% to assist the County's finances.

Note 2 The Government allows the charging of an Adult Social Care premium. Councils were allowed to raise it by 2% per annum over 3 years, or 3% over two years. NCC have already increased it by the 3% in 2017/18 and 2018/19 and therefore there is no further increase allowed for 2019/20.

Note 3 The Government this year has allowed Police and Crime Commissioners to raise their portion of council tax by a maximum of £24. The Northamptonshire Police and Crime Commissioner has decided to apply this increase in full.

Note 4 This year the Fire Service portion of the council tax is shown separately, previously it had been included in the overall figure for the County. In addition, individual Parish Precepts are applied.

Planning

Local Plan part 2

After five years, South Northants completed the LPP2 and submitted it to the Inspectorate on the 22nd January 2019. We have been allocated an Inspector who will begin his examination in June 2019. He will take representations from residents and agents who wish to raise concerns or objections to any elements of the plan.

Any proposed amendments by the inspector will go for public consultation and possible revision and assuming this to be the case the plan should be adopted at the end of this year, early next. It will then replace the 1997 South Northamptonshire Local Plan.

Neighbourhood Plan

Two Neighbourhood Plans have been 'made' - Harpole and Kislingbury. Middleton Cheney is one of a number of other villages that are preparing plans which when completed will be presented for consultation and scrutiny. Once adopted and 'made' they will sit alongside the Local Plan Part 2. Although some expense is incurred when preparing a Neighbourhood Plan, it is a useful means of protecting our rural villages. Whilst promoting acceptable development it reduces the likelihood speculative development.

South Northamptonshire Land Supply

SNC has built up a good reserve of land with planning permission. We have planned for growth in both housing and employment land in Brackley, Silverstone, Deanshanger and Towcester and this has enabled us to build 11 years of land supply against a government target of 5 years.

It is not clear yet what the government approach will be with the land supply figures across the new unitary. SNC has 11, Daventry 6 however Northampton only has 2.3 years. We are lobbying the government to allow each areas land supply to apply for a further, say, 5 years as a buffer before they are combined.

A422 Farthinghoe Bypass

There does appear to be at least some signs of traction between SNC and NCC regarding preparation work for a bypass for Farthinghoe. SNC is exploring whether it can assist with initial works so that should funding be made available by central government an 'oven ready' scheme can be presented. Time and again when funding initiatives have been announced by Westminster the A442 bypass has not qualified as it has not been worked up enough as a proposal.

Brackley Town Hall Restoration

On the 11th September the newly restored Town Hall was opened. This was the culmination of a project that was funded jointly by the Heritage Lottery Fund (£2.3m), South Northamptonshire Council (£500k) and Brackley Town Council (£500k) that has totally refurbished this iconic Georgian building so that it may continue to serve the community for many, years to come.

The entire building has been restored, with new stonework replacing those blocks that had suffered from decay, some 60% of the roof tiles replaced, the clock cleaned and serviced, and a new bell installed (from Taylors Bell Foundry in Loughborough).



A completely new staircase has been installed which winds round a central lift, providing easier access to the civic chamber on the first floor.

Note that the design below the hand rail in the picture is representative of traditional Northamptonshire lace.



All windows on the first floor now have stained glass panels that illustrate life in Brackley, ancient and modern. Here are the two windows that commemorate SNC's and the HLF's involvement. Originally these windows had the Brackley Council crest but had been replaced



with plain glass.

Health & Wellbeing in the District

January this year saw the official opening of Brackley Leisure Centre by Olympic swimmer Mark Foster. The pool represents an investment of £4.5m by SNC and is the culmination of a long held ambition by the Council. In addition £1m has been committed to improvements at Towcester Centre for Leisure.

Summer activities for children. 1207 children from across our District enjoyed the summer activities we provided, making 2018 a record year. Much work went into ensuring we were able to provide great opportunities through the summer holidays to children from all walks of life, including those with disabilities and children from low income families.

Towcester & Brackley Community Fun Days took place at the Islington Road Recreation Ground in Towcester in May and at Brackley's Leisure Centre in Springfield Way in June. Hundreds of families attended these free events which showcased the clubs and activities available to young people in South Northamptonshire.

Disability Sport. We started the South Northants Disability Sports Forum just over a year ago and the Forum consists of local sports clubs, third sector organisations, Legacy Leisure, Northamptonshire Sport and of course South Northants Council. One of the aims of the Forum is to break down the barriers faced by disabled people making it possible for all our sections of our communities to access facilities.

Art & Culture

Centre Screen. The rural cinema scheme continues to be popular in communities where the village hall or library (Brackley) is a convenient place for residents to get together for social activities. Some village groups have invested in their own film equipment, but many rely on Centre Screen to provide it, show the film and deal with licensing. There are more regular screenings in South Northants than other parts of the county. Locally Brackley, Culworth, Evenley, King's Sutton, and Marston St. Lawrence have utilised Centre Screen.

Private Sector Housing Initiatives

Home Safe Project. This year sees the launch of the second year of the Home Safe Project to improve the wellbeing of low-income households by assisting with essential works to their homes. In 2018 the project helped 29 households by assisting with general repair works and improving security, lighting, warmth as well as adaptations to support access and mobility issues reducing the risk of falls.

Financial Assistance for Adaptations and Repairs. Private Sector Housing provides Disabled Facility Grants to help people with a disability undertake major adaptations to facilitate access in and around their home. Last year, 49 people and their families were assisted in the provision of level access showers, stair and through floor lifts, ceiling track hoists, ramps and door widening.

New affordable housing. We work hard with housing associations to provide additional affordable homes to meet the housing needs of local residents. Since April 2018 there have been 145 new affordable homes built across the district. We have a strong delivery programme for the remainder of this financial year and into 2019/20.

Communities

Good Neighbour schemes are established by communities and run by local people to provide day to day support for other residents in their village and community, particularly those more isolated or older residents, who may need help on an occasional or regular basis.

South Northants Council Wellbeing Activity Map, developed by SNCs Community Services Team is now live on our website. You can search for activities near where you live by entering your postcode on the website. Lots of the activities are free of charge and none cost more than £5 per session. They include opportunities for sports, arts, learning and socialising.

Environmental Services

Waste & Recycling

We have the 7th highest recycling collection rate out of 345 areas in the UK at 65%. This has an environmental impact as well as financial - we get financial rewards for recycling as this saves on black

bin disposal costs. I can assure residents that SNC ensure that all waste designated for recycling is not diverted to landfill.

SNC are planning to offer recycling bins alongside general litter bins at sites around Brackley and Towcester in the near future.

Our booking system for collecting bulky waste – such as kitchen appliances and furniture – is now on line. This has seen an increase in the number of collections made and has proved a great success with 97% of those who have used us happy with the service. For £34 we will collect up to six items.

Licensing

Safeguarding of young and vulnerable people is increasingly important and SNC trains staff in licensed premises, hotels, taxi drivers and others who meet the public what to look out for and what to do if they have concerns about children or vulnerable adults.

Environmental Health & Protection

Working with Community Protection and Environmental Protection to address nuisance issues has had some success in the courts. There have been successful enforcement action taken in Roade and Helmdon in relation to land contamination and smoke nuisance as well as responding to c1,200 complaints about noise, air quality and nuisance.

SNC is active in the Local Authorities Noise Group in matters relating HS2 in order to secure the best mitigation possible. Another major consultation is the impact on air quality and potential nuisance that could be a consequence of one or other or indeed both of the large rail hubs proposed between Blisworth and the M1.

Supporting Local Business



83% of the working age population is employed, and the District’s workforce also has an above average level of education.

The Councils Business Support Adviser continues to help businesses in the District. The Council assists new and small business start-ups, and supports the wider work of the Economic Growth Team in working closely with our business community to support investment and growth. In 2018/19, over 100 businesses received such support helping them to expand and create new employment.

Despite low levels of unemployment, demand is still high for the Job Club and Job Match Service, which has been running since 2009 and supported 477 people into work.

NCC Middleton Cheney Division Report

It has been a challenging time to be a councillor at NCC. Being elected just as the whole organisation was being pilloried by parliament, press and public and the subsequent fallout has been quite an experience. It was pretty obvious to many for some time that things were not right and so it has proved to be.

Over the course of the year the aim of the members has been to work with the Commissioners, Improvement Board and others to help place NCC's finances and its services in the best possible position ahead of the expected transition to a two unitary local government structure in Northamptonshire.

A year after the shockwaves went through the council and a tremendous amount of work the Improvement Board, noted in a report to cabinet on the 9th April 2019

'The capitalisation dispensation approved by the Secretary of State has provided a means to fund the deficit (still subject to audit) which is expected to carry forward from 2017/18. It has also provided the means to establish a general reserve to support the Council's 2019/20 budget, a critical factor in relation to the robustness and viability of that budget. In parallel the Council has been able to improve its way of working, in particular by introducing more effective financial controls and disciplines. As a consequence there is now a good prospect that the financial outturn for 2018/19 will be close to breakeven, and cautious optimism that the approved budget for 2019/20 represents a realistic and well tested plan which can be delivered on target.'

This is a dramatic turnaround for a council that was subject to two Sec 114 notices that severely limited its ability to spend money and now reports a potential underspend against budget!

The restoration of the council's finances has been the primary focus over the past year, while maintaining more than just statutory services, and working with the 7 District and Borough Councils as we head towards two new Unitary Councils.

Pressure on demand for services is unrelenting, particularly in adult social care and children's services. Being demand led services it is not a choice whether NCC spends money in those areas, but what became apparent last year was the cost of the services that NCC provided.

Childrens services work out at an average of £160,000 per child to deliver, against an average cost in other county areas of rather more like £120,000 - the number of agency staff and interims causing costs to soar as well as the need to place children out of county because of a shortage of appropriate foster carers. Focus on the employment and retention of permanent staff as well as a foster parent recruitment drive have started to show rewards. In adult social care a key indicator in performance has been Delayed Transfer of Care (bed blocking) out of the acute hospital environment to community care. This has been unsatisfactorily high in Northamptonshire for a number of years and was a reflection of the inability of a council to either assess residents for care packages quickly enough or to fund a satisfactory package. The knock on effects are serious to both the operation of an acute hospital, the local authority and the individual. It is pleasing to note that rates of DTOC have halved in the last few months per head of population, and in the last couple of months have fallen to just a handful of days rather than weeks. An additional focus now is on prevention work as in

Northamptonshire 55% of additional Adult Social Care demand is through admission and then discharge from the acute hospital system compared to a national figure of 25%. This costs NCC £25m per annum and could be drastically reduced.

Across all areas of council activities a detailed study of contracts has identified areas where considerable savings could be made or performance enhanced within the same envelope and some areas where appalling contracts have been drafted in the past without sufficient attention to detail and the council is suffering financially or in delivery or often, both.

While the commissioners and members have been concentrating on living within the budget and are now doing so, attention is being turned to service improvement and every department is being studied in detail. There has been much attention on Adults and Children but service delivery in other areas like Trading Standards, Environment Health and Highways needs to improve.

Finance

Body	2018/19	Increase	Increase Amount	2018/19
NCC 1	£1,146.63	4.99%	-£0.25	£1,146.38
NCC Adult Social Care 2	£89.72	0.00%	£0.00	£89.72
PCC 3	£221.04	11.00%	£24.00	£245.04
Fire Service 4			£60.76	£60.76
SNC	£185.78	2.99%	£5.55	£191.33
Total	£1,643.17	5.48%	£90.06	£1,733.23

In order to balance its budget NCC was given specific permission by central government to use the capital receipts from the sale of One Angel Square to fund its revenue deficit in the last financial year. There was also an exceptional decision to allow NCC to charge an additional 2% on top of the maximum council tax increase of 2.9% without triggering a referendum and these have enabled the council to propose a balanced budget. Although the figure above shows NCC as having increased its precept by 4.99 and still showing a negative increase, the Fire Service has been removed from that figure and given its own row. Despite the increase NCC's Band D is still very low. In 2019-20 60% of authorities in England will have a Band D council tax that is between £1700 and £1900.

NCC did not increase the Adult Social Care element as it took full advantage of the limit available last year.

Unitary Preparation

As we wait for the final decision of the Secretary of State (at the moment James Brokenshire) at MHCLG on whether he is minded to accept the August proposals of the 7 authorities, work continues on the presumption and clear guidance given by senior civil servants that it is a given.

A Joint Committee has been set up incorporating representatives of each of the 4 authorities in what will become West Northamptonshire. I sit as a representative of South Northants Council on this committee but am very mindful that I have a shared responsibility at the County Council. This committee is making decisions on how the 'Shadow Authority' will operate prior to the establishment of the new Unitary. The Shadow Authority is a Statutory requirement pre Unitary and will agree such things as the new constitution of the Unitary, oversee the appointment of the Chief Executive and other senior officers and start to make decisions on harmonisation of policies across the existing authorities.

The County Council is working with Daventry, South Northants and Northampton Borough Council providing data / existing policies / information on assets and contracts / HR information / legal and financial information - a vast piece of work that will require the disaggregation and then recreation of service areas. The default presumption is that all services will be split into two, to reflect the belief of Max Caller, the author of the Best Value report last year, that only a completely new way of working will provide the transformation and fresh start that Northamptonshire needs.

My Work

I deal with case work for my division which generally covers the usual range of issues - schools, special needs, concerns by individuals over the funding of care packages, lack of public transport and particularly in the last year the closure of the A422 and repair of potholes.

I sit on the Adoption Panel which recommends adoption and long term fostering matches and is a very life affirming role. I am consistently amazed at the wonderful people who are taking on children from very difficult backgrounds and offering them a home and environment in which they can thrive.

Rebecca Breese

Annual Report 2018 from St. Michael and All Angels Farthinghoe

In the autumn we said a sad farewell to Rev Simon Dommett our Rector and we wish him every success in his future ministry. We officially welcomed Rev Sue Cooper on 30th March 2019 and during the interregnum we have tried to keep as many of our regular services as possible.

We really value having the church open is open to our community for private prayer or just to sit in the stillness. We are very grateful to Rosemary Jarvis who opens and closes the church each day, regardless of the weather!

We continue to welcome people into the church for baptisms and weddings and we have also held the funerals of village friends and relatives.

It was lovely to see such a full church at the Remembrance Service which was followed by the lighting of the beacon. The collection was given to the Royal British Legion. The church was full again for the Crib Service and as in previous years, the collection was passed to the Children's Society.

Outside of our services, our monthly coffee morning continues to thrive, organised and run by Rosemary Jarvis. As well as the coffee (or tea) and cake, we also have a raffle and the coffee mornings generated some £855 for church funds. Our annual Fete is also a very important fundraiser and we thank everyone who attends or helps. We also thank Macintyre's Estate Agents for their donation of the signs which brings in new people each year.

Our two largest expenses are the Parish Share and the insurance. The Parish share is our contribution to the costs across the Peterborough Diocese and only 5 years ago it was £3,500. For 2018 it was £7,200, more than double, so our fundraising and regular collections are even more important for us to keep the church going. If anyone would like to help with a donation, then please contact Vic Tolchard, our Treasurer.

Sadly in September, the church suffered two lead thefts on consecutive nights. We are currently working with the DAC and SNC to agree an alternative replacement material. We have received our insurance settlement, but this will fall short of the amount needed and we have started to look at sources for funds and grants.

We would like to thank all the volunteers who work so hard, some visible and others less so. There are so many jobs, large and small that are handled during the year and the church would not be able to operate without this help.

We thank our two churchwardens, Rosemary Jarvis and Lisa Wenmouth, and our PCC members who also welcome people into the church at the start of the services. We are also very grateful to Lisa for her playing the organ at our services and special thanks for the work done by Rosemary for the church and community.

Finally, If you have not been to one of our services we would love to see you with us!

This is an excerpt from the main report done for the Church Council and a copy of this will be available in the church following our meeting on 23rd April.

The Seven Sisters Tree Site

The Seven Sisters Tree Site is a very special place for the village. It may appear to be a private paddock with some trees, but it is in fact an area of contemplation and remembrance for all the village.

In the centre of the site a time capsule is buried which contains information on Farthinghoe and articles written by some villagers, and many items produced by the children of Farthinghoe School in 2000.

Those children may be parents themselves now, so they can tell their children that they helped to record the history of the village.

Situated on a hill, surrounded by beautiful countryside, the site is a peaceful resting place for the ashes of departed loved ones, who in life had enjoyed our lovely village.

A fee is charged to help with upkeep of the site, but this amenity is open to all villagers and visitors to the site are welcome to sit and enjoy the site, and we always need help!

Best wishes
Rosemary Jarvis
(Secretary)"

FARTHINGHOE ALMSHOUSES
THE CHARITY OF THOMAS AMPHLETT

Extensive work has been carried out to the Almshouses in 2018/2019 including :

New slate roof/facias/guttering and velux windows
New night storage heaters to Nos 2 & 3
New pressurised hot water systems and removal of bedroom water tanks
Decoration throughout
Garden Landscaping

The trustees are delighted to inform you that the Farthinghoe Almshouses have never in recent times been in better condition. This couldn't have happened without the tireless work of the present trustees:

Victor Tolchard
Merry Wadlow
Andrew Bowyer

We will miss Reverend Simon Dommett as a trustee who has now moved on to a parish in Bedford.

Farthinghoe is very lucky to have Almshouses within the village and with the help of present and future trustees I am confident that they will continue to flourish for many years to come.

Jenny Forbes
Chairman of Trustees
April 2019

FARTHINGHOE CHURCH PIECE ALLOTMENTS

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

FARTHINGHOE PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

24TH APRIL 2019

The Farthinghoe Church Piece Allotments is an old charity set up by a former Vicar of Farthinghoe in the 19th Century to help provide food for the local population. Plots costs £12 per annum.

We are always very happy to consider applications for allotments. Any applications to take on an available plot should be made to Ruth Brittain or Henry Bankes-Jones either in writing or by telephone. At present, three plots are available.

The collection of the rents takes place on the 1st Monday in September in the Church Vestry.

A very successful clean-up day took place in January this year with volunteers from both within and without the village, not all of whom held plots, for which we are all very grateful. Further such days will be advertised within the village in due course.

The trustees are still keen to find someone who would be willing to assist in mowing the paths within the Allotments during the summer months. It is hoped that the gate post near the Main Road will be fitted with new gate-post this year. Finally, we are particularly grateful for all the assistance that Arthur Waters has provided to the allotments over the years, particularly in respect of cutting back the hedges.

Ruth Brittain

Henry Bankes-Jones



South Northants Neighbourhood Teams

Annual Report March 2019

The last 12 months has seen some changes to the teams based between Brackley and Towcester. PC Francesca SMITH has joined the Brackley team whilst PCSO Matthew TAYLOR has joined the Towcester team in a sponsored position for the Bugbrooke Parish. A sponsored PCSO is paid for by the parish and their sole responsibility is for that parish area. If you would like more information regarding sponsoring a PCSO please contact the team.

Nationally there have been increases in burglaries and thefts from vehicles. South Northants has experienced this also. Neighbourhood officers spend a considerable amount of time looking into these offences, reviewing CCTV, analysing trends and using local knowledge to build a picture of who may be committing these offences. We are pleased to report that a man, from Northampton, has been charged with a number of residential burglaries that took place on Christmas Day in Towcester. Another man, also from Northampton, has been charged with burglary following a series of offences committed in the Potterspury area.

Over recent weeks there have been some significant spikes in thefts from vehicles. These have been recorded across the area and clustered to a specific community over a particular night. Brackley, Milton Malsor & Blisworth saw a cluster of vehicles targeted between 5th and 7th March. Towcester and Syresham experienced similar between 8th and 9th March. It would appear that offenders have taken the opportunities provided by vehicles being left unlocked or with valuable property on display. Items reported to be stolen range from sunglasses to wallets and laptops. We cannot emphasize enough the importance of removing property and locking your vehicle. CCTV has shown us that offenders will try the door to a locked and empty vehicle and then move on. Unlocked vehicles are entered and searched and those with visible property are broken into. As of 12th March 2019 officers have identified two potential suspects for the recent thefts from vehicles as mentioned above. Work is being undertaken to collate all evidence sufficient for a charge to be laid once arrests have been made.

We often see comments on social media regarding a lack of Police in an area or that a crime would have been prevented if there were more Police about. Firstly access to social media is widespread and often local sites cannot prevent intrusion from people living outside of the area. Is it wise to suggest that our community is vulnerable to crime or is it better to stand united with the Police to fight this threat? Crime will always happen due to many social and economic factors but we can be better prepared to fight it as a cohesive community. Please support those people that work within your Community as emergency services, volunteers, clubs and organisations and help us make the area less attractive to criminals.

Your Neighbourhood Teams are based within the Community at Brackley and Towcester and are often the first port of call for an emergency as the closest Police resource. We also take on a plethora of other responsibilities in respect of safeguarding vulnerable people, working with educational establishments from an early intervention perspective, crime investigation and intelligence gathering. We use social media (Twitter) and Neighbourhood Alert in order to inform you about crime and incidents relevant to your area and some of the work that the team undertake. Unfortunately there are a lot of aspects of our work that we cannot report on due to the vulnerabilities of the persons involved.

Neighbourhood Alert is an email messaging system that all Schools, Parish Councils, Neighbourhood Watch and community members can sign up to. Register your email address to receive up to date information. Sign up to Neighbourhood Alert Messaging System at www.northamptonshireneighbourhoodalert.co.uk

Towcester & Brackley currently have Street Watch schemes. Street Watch is the equivalent of a mobile Neighbourhood Watch. In addition it can cover the entire Community and tackle issues such as; vandalism, anti-social behaviour, drug abuse and dog fouling. If you are interested in helping your community and joining your Street Watch Scheme please contact a member of the team.

If you wish to have up-to-date crime statistics for your area then we recommend that you visit www.police.uk. Should you wish to discuss a particular issue or wish to meet a member of the team and discuss local trends then please contact either team via NTSouthNorthantsBrackley@pnn.police.uk or NT-SouthNorthantsTowcester@pnn.police.uk

Reporting an issue or crime to the Police can be made in many ways. This includes ringing 101 or online. Northants Police's new website also offers a reporting system for

- A road traffic incident
- Missing person – no immediate harm
- Terrorist activity
- Fingerprints appointments – this could be asked for when travelling abroad
- Hate Crime/ Incident

So that your report can be managed as quickly as possible, it's important to consider the following information and have it ready to provide:

- the date and time the crime happened
- the location, such as address or road name along with the town or village
- a description of any people involved
- the details of any witnesses or suspects
- if you think there's any other evidence such as forensic evidence or mobile phone footage
- if there is clear CCTV footage of the offence being committed

Date for Diary:

South Northants Community Fun day

10am-4pm 23rd June 2019 Islington road Recreation grounds, Towcester

Free open public event which will include demonstrations from the Police, Fire and Ambulance. Crime prevention advice, bike marking and the Rural Crime Team. There will be many local voluntary,

support and cadet organisations represented. Refreshments will be available for the duration of the event.

Useful Links

Northamptonshire Police Website

<http://www.northants.police.uk/>

Check if a vehicle is taxed or untaxed and report if necessary:

vehicleenquiry.service.gov.uk

Useful link for all matters related to driving <http://think.direct.gov.uk/>

Please use this link to support your children's safety <http://talesoftheroad.direct.gov.uk/>

This link will provide you with useful information to help protect yourself from scams -

<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/scams/spotting-a-scam/>

Trading Standards – Advice and help for consumers – Don't get caught out, find an approved trader:

<http://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/en/councilservices/Community/trading/Pages/default.t.aspx>

Contact Crime Stoppers anonymously about crime:

<https://crimestoppers-uk.org/>

Fearless is a site where young people can access non-judgmental information and advice about crime and criminality: <https://www.fearless.org/>

Report to South Northants Council:

Fly tipping, dog fouling, street lights, Litter, noise pollution and other issues.

www.southnorthants.gov.uk

Advice on boundary disputes with neighbours:

<http://www.rics.org/uk/knowledge/consumer-guides/boundary-disputes-guide/>

Street Doctor:

<http://www3.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/northamptonshire-highways/roadsand-streets/Pages/report-highway-problem.aspx>

Thank you from South Northants Neighbourhood Policing Teams