

FARTHINGHOE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the **Annual Parish Meeting** held on 8th April 2009 at 8.00pm in the Village Hall

Present: Prof. David Mellor - Chairman
Mr John Grant
Mr David Dashwood
Mr Ian Hunt
Mr Martin Wall
Mr Nigel Heywood
Mrs Jenny Forbes
Mr Ron Sawbridge, County Councillor

Ms Sue Shepard, Clerk
Sgt. Tim Pearson
PC Gez Shillito

Approximately twenty seven villagers were also in attendance.

1. Welcome. Chairman, David Mellor extended a warm welcome to all those present and advised that minutes and agendas for Parish Council meetings would be available electronically via the web site. The Chairman's Report and the financial report would also be available on line.

2. Apologies: District Councillor Rebecca Breese is recovering well after her accident last year.

3. The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 9th April 2008 were read and signed as being a true record.

4. Matters Arising. Chairman's Report: Street lighting.
The funding from the County Council was used to install a street light at the junction of Cockley Road and the Bowling Green instead of Old Road.

5. Reports from:
County Councillor Ron Sawbridge Appendix 1

Northamptonshire Police, Sgt. Tim Pearson
Reported crime figures for 2008 - 09 as follows:

Violent crime	1	Vehicle interference	1
Robbery	0	Criminal damage	2
Burglary - dwelling	0	Drug trafficking	0
Burglary - other	3	Drugs - other	0
Thefts from motor vehicles	2	Other theft	7
Theft of motor vehicles	2		

There had been three more crimes than in the previous year. Non-dwelling burglaries had included thefts from sheds, outbuildings and barns. Red diesel tanks had been a particular target for thieves and Trading Standards, Environmental Health and HM Revenue and

Customs were involved in investigations. Drivers were advised to remove sat navs from their vehicles and also any clues that there might be one in the vehicle. There had been an armed robbery at Greatworth Post Office and two arrests had been made. The next Community Panel meeting to establish the local priorities for the next three months will be held at Croughton Village Hall.

The Chairman, Councillor David Mellor Appendix 2

6. Financial Report for year ending 31st March 2009.

Opening Balance at 1st April 2008: £8,799.26

Precept was £6,250 and has remained at £6,250 for 2009 - 10. The Parish Council also received other income: £238.76 VAT refund and interest of £53.76.

Total expenditure £8,222.61 (*£5,577.75 in 2008*)

Balance £7,119.76 (*£8,800.26 in 2008*)

This balance is still higher than anticipated because the Parish Council had budgeted £1,800 for the replacement of six of the street lights on Main Road because the electricity cables are to be put underground. This work was supposed to have been completed by March 2008 and the Parish Council have been informed that the work will now be carried out in the next financial year, so hopefully the balance will be more realistic as of March 2010!

Although the Council paid £2,286 for street lighting and maintenance, this included two new street lights near The Limes and at the Bowling Green. These were funded by a grant through the County Council Empowering Scheme: thanks to Ron Sawbridge. A further £1500 is to be paid for two more street lights in Baker Street and Queens Street. It is anticipated that the one in Baker Street will be covered by an insurance claim

The administration costs are £2,480.66 (*£2,385.73 in 2008*) which includes insurance, audit, the Clerk's salary and her expenses. The pay award has only just been finalised for 2008 and although an interim pay rise was awarded half way through the year the Clerk is not claiming to have the final award back dated but it will take effect as of the next quarterly payment. The Parish Council contributed £590 towards the mowing of the Village Hall grounds, made a donation of £500 to the Almshouses and contributed £762 towards the cost of producing the Farthinghoe Chronicle. Just over £200 has been spent on setting up the website but it is hoped that some sponsorship will be available to offset this cost.

Comments:

Should the village join Community Speedwatch? Vehicles sound horn and travel through at 40mph.

Tim Pearson - record registration numbers.

If individuals are reported to the Police, will action be taken? If there is no likelihood of action being taken against individuals then residents will not bother to report.

TP - need something tangible before prosecuting and almost every road has a similar problem.

Drivers are ignoring speed limit. Can a check be done to establish average speed?

Ron Sawbridge - this would require a camera at both ends of the village and it would be difficult to justify the extra cost.

Cllr Grant - the speed camera has been effective in reducing speed through the village but still, 1000 motorists were caught exceeding the speed limit.

If somebody in a wheelchair lived at The Limes they would have no way of getting into the village because the pavement is not wide enough for a wheelchair.

It is unlikely that this can ever be resolved as neither the road nor the pavement could be widened.

Vehicles are regularly travelling at 60mph once out of the village. The 40mph signs on the bends towards Banbury are only advisory. The Rightracks initiative is looking at introducing a 50mph speed limit from Brackley to Farthinghoe as part of its Casualty Reduction strategy. Only 5% of digital cameras are investigated at any one time.

Damage to properties is being caused by heavy lorries on the Main Road, near the junction with Baker Street. This part of the village is in a Conservation Area. Could vehicles not be encouraged to use the B4525?

Cllr Grant – if homes are being affected by pollution or vibration then they should be monitored.

7. Reports from other village organisations

Farthinghoe Primary School

Wendy Baldwin reported that there were 40 children on roll, four teachers and a teacher's assistant. The school sets high standards and 100% of the children meet the targets. The school is in the heart of the village and the involvement with the community e.g. allotment, give it a special value.

Farthinghoe PCC

The Christmas services were well attended.

Thieves had attempted to remove lead from the church in November but it had now been treated with 'Smartwater'.

The church itself is in reasonable order and the churchyard is well maintained. The PCC is grateful to the Parish Council for funding the annual cost of printing the Chronicle.

As from Good Friday the church will be open during the hours of daylight but villagers are asked to be vigilant.

AOB

1. Any damage to road edges or pavements can be reported to the Street Doctor but will wait until work on the Fox is completed before reporting damage in Baker Street.
2. The annual inspection of the playground had been carried out and some maintenance was required. This work was in hand.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and their contribution to the good exchange of views.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm.

Sue Shepard

Clerk to Farthinghoe Parish Council