

# MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FARTHINGHOE PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 12<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2014 AT 7.00pm AT THE VILLAGE HALL

**Councillors present:** Prof. David Mellor (Chair)  
Mr Ian Hunt  
Mrs Jenny Forbes  
Mrs Sally Thomas  
Mr David Dashwood  
Mr Neil Downing  
Ms Sue Shepard (Clerk)

**Public Time.** Forty villagers attended to gain the support of the Parish Council in opposing the Solar Farm planning application and to show the strength of feeling within the village. There were many issues that had not been covered by the application including the impact that extra traffic would have on the area and the noise, fumes and dirt that it would create and the effect on wildlife. It is believed that 80 - 90% of the village are opposed to the application and although most were in favour of renewable energy, the Solar Farm was not wanted in the proposed location: it is too near to the village. A petition, opposing the application, now had 150 signatures of people who lived or worked in the village. The local area has already accommodated a number of alternative energy schemes and with the impact of HS2 as well, enough is enough.

*The Parish Council has listened to your views and will discuss and make a decision based on all views but would suggest that if individuals were to each make their views known to SNC, this would add extra weight to their opposition.*

Some of those who had been present remained behind for the rest of the meeting.

## **1. Apologies:** Cllr Grant

**2. Minutes of previous meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> February.** Cllr Dashwood's comment on page 700 "if there is strong opposition from the village" should have read "if there is strong opposition from the Parish Council". They had been circulated in draft form and would be amended before publication on the website. They were then taken as read, signed and adopted.

## **3. Matters arising:**

### **3.1 Potholes – Hinton Road**

The holes had been filled but were opening up again because of shoddy repairs. Water drainage work was required to alleviate the flooding at the corner of Green Lane. NCC had indicated that there would be no budget available until April but would do as much as they could before the Grand Prix.

### **3.2 Overgrown hedges in Old Lane**

Cllr Dashwood would speak to the householders.

## **4. Finance:**

### **4.1 Barclays Bank** statements at 28<sup>th</sup> February 2014

Business Saver	£200.24
Community Account	<u>£3,895.35</u>
	£4,095.59

#### 4.2 Expenditure:

The following payment was authorised and cheque signed:

Cheque	Payee	Amount	Power
100598	Texprep	£66.30	Local Government Act 1972 s142

#### 5. Correspondence since 12<sup>th</sup> February

email CPRE Northants - litter pick 28<sup>th</sup> March – 6<sup>th</sup> April

email Clive Ashmore, Northamptonshire Police – Ward update for Steane, Littlebrook and Kings Sutton

E.On. Is the PC a micro business? *Yes*

email NCALC Training courses during March and April

email Clive Ashmore, Northamptonshire Police – Daventry and South Northamptonshire Independent Advisory Group

email NCALC - Principal Councillor attendance at local meetings

email New Electoral Register

email NCALC - vacancy for Clerk at Middleton Cheney

email information from snvb

Northamptonshire ACRE – invite to join. *Farthinghoe PC decided not to join*

email CPRE Campaigns x 3

Clerks & Councils Direct March 2014

email Northants 50+ Network

email CPRE Northants Spring Roadshow – *reminder*

**SNC** i) email Michael Warren SNC acknowledging receipt of responses to Local Plan consultation

ii) email SNC Press release “Council tax frozen for another year”

**NCC** i) email NCC Community Emergency and Flood Plans

ii) email February’s news from my county council.....

iii) Northamptonshire Highways – allotment hedge blocking the footpath. *Action by Cllr Dashwood*

Promotional material: Wicksteed x 2

#### 6. Traffic Issues:

No update as Cllr Grant not present.

#### 7. Annual Parish Meeting 9<sup>th</sup> April 2014

County Councillor Ron Sawbridge had already been invited and would be attending, District Cllr Breese had stayed for the remainder of the meeting so was invited at this point, Cllr Mellor would invite a representative from school, Cllr Dashwood would speak to the PCC and the Clerk would contact the Police. Notification of APM to be included in the article for the Chronicle.

#### 8. Alternative Energy for Farthinghoe: Solar and Wind

*(Clerk’s note: the reason for putting this on the agenda was to hear the views of councillors regarding renewable energy in general but it was over taken by the current Solar Farm application)*

The high level of concern from the Action Group is noted. The Chair had been copied in on the email response from Green Energy to the Action Group. The response is what one would have expected.

There are many inaccuracies and some documents have not been made available which is of concern e.g. the proposed site is described as being covered by improved grass but it is not, so there will be a loss of productive arable land. The distances from the nearest properties are incorrect. Disappointment was expressed over the actual application. Cllr Dashwood stated that he was not worried about the screening from the road but the effect its close proximity would have on those properties nearest to it. If there was a field between the site and the village this would be better. It is taking away some lovely countryside. The PC needs to represent the village but there is real concern for those most affected.

The member of the Action Group who had offered funding had withdrawn his offer but the funding offered by Green Energy should still be made available to the village if permission is granted. Is there any site as close to a village as this would be? Is it setting a precedent? The site has been reduced in size. There had been a suggestion that the footpath could be moved but this is not the case. Plans are available to view either at SNC or the home of Cllr Forbes. Plans are not to be loaned out.

The Press have picked up on this proposal and the Clerk had advised the Brackley Advertiser to speak to the Chair after tonight's meeting.

## 9. Community Enhancement Gang

This an opportunity for the village to suggest small works that need to be carried out to improve particular areas of the village e.g. trimming back vegetation around signs, cleaning signs, isolated potholes etc.

The request form would be completed and sent to NCC by 14<sup>th</sup> March

## 10. Review Risk Assessment

The Clerk had drafted a Risk Assessment which had been circulated before the meeting but hard copies were also available. Small amendments had been made to last year's version and after a brief discussion the PC agreed to adopt.

## 11. Planning Matters:

S/2014/0280/MAF Solar photovoltaic park.....

The forty people who had attended Public Time represented all parts of the village.

Although Cllr Dashwood supported the idea, it is too near to the village.

Appropriate development but too close to the village and individual properties.

The view from the village has not been considered.

The Environmental Report is inaccurate.

The Council was in agreement to object to the proposal mainly because of the strength of feeling from the village.

Application number	Address	Details	Status/ Decision
<b>11.1</b> S/2014/0280/ MAF	Land to the east of Cockley Road	Solar photovoltaic park with inverters, security fencing, switch gear, landscaping and cables to connect to the existing power line	The Parish Council objected. <i>"The development is inappropriately placed for the village of Farthinghoe. The strength of feeling by the village community was strongly expressed at our last three council meetings".</i>

<b>11.2</b> S/2014/0163/ FUL	10 Bowling Green	Variation of condition 4 S/2009/1241/FUL The use hereby permitted shall be carried out only by Mrs J Webb and shall not endure for the benefit of any other person. To allow other qualified hydro therapists to rent the facilities	The Parish Council supported the application
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#### **Councillors round the table.....**

1. Cllr Dashwood advised that the original site for a turbine was not suitable but he is still considering finding another site.
2. Cllr Downing gave his apologies for the next Parish Council meeting at 7.00pm and the APM at 8.00pm.

#### Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> April 2014 at 7.00 pm in the Village Hall.

This meeting will be followed by the APM in the main hall at 8.00pm

The meeting closed at 8.00pm  
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