

FARTHINGHOE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the **Annual Parish Meeting** held on
Wednesday, 11th April 2012 at 8.00pm in the Village Hall.

Present

Parish Council Chairman Prof. David Mellor
County Councillor Ron Sawbridge
District Councillor Rebecca Breese
Parish Clerk: Sue Shepard

Thirty members of the public:

1 Welcome. A warm welcome was extended to all speakers, representatives of village organisations and villagers.

2 Apologies

3 The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 13th April 2011 had been circulated. The minutes, proposed by Cyril Jarvis and seconded by Angie Grant as being a true record of the meeting, were signed by Chairman David Mellor.

4 Matters Arising

In future, a hard copy of the minutes will only be available on request to the Chairman.

5 Reports from:

Northamptonshire Police. Crime report for March '11 to March '12

I would like to apologise for not being able to attend your annual meeting as I am sure you can appreciate we get invited to a large number of APM's this time of the year and we sadly cannot attend everyone.

Chair: "Having been given two months notice it is disappointing that no representative was able to attend".

Over the past year we have recorded 13 crimes for Farthinghoe, this includes 7 theft/handling offences and 2 x burglary non dwelling, these offences have predominately occurred at the Recycling Centre. There has been 1 theft of a motor vehicle and 2 thefts from motor vehicles and 1 other unclassified crime.

Your local SCT officers and PCSO's have visited the local primary school and given talks to the children.

We have continued to conduct locally identified priorities such as, speed enforcement within the village. Since the beginning of 2012 we have completed 8 Speed Enforcement checks which have resulted in 10 warnings being issued to drivers.

We have held a number of 'Have your Say Days' in Brackley Town, where a number of villagers gave us their thoughts on issues that impact on them.

Operation Guardian, Operation Silverfox and Operation Brompton, are all operations that your local officers have been involved in, and they have

targeted the travelling fraternity, serious acquisitive crime offenders and cross border offenders. We have worked alongside Trading Standards, and VOSA targeting persons using red diesel in their vehicles and other vehicle offences. There have been a number of prosecutions over the last few months in relation to these operations. We will continue to target these types of offenders.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind residents that with the warmer weather and lighter nights, items in insecure garden sheds or items left in gardens are a prime target for the opportunist thief. Please take care of your belongings and store them securely.

If you wish to report an incident to Northamptonshire Police please call 101 if it is an emergency dial 999. You can also go the Northamptonshire Police Website where you can find e-mail addresses which you can also use to contact your local team. Please do not use the e-mail for emergency calls or incidents that you feel need an imminent response from Officers.

PC 105 Gez Shillito

County Councillor Ron Sawbridge Appendix 1

District Councillor Rebecca Breese – extracts from her report

In the last few months the Joint Working Arrangements with Cherwell District Council have become a reality. We now share a chief executive, three directors and eight heads of service. This has reduced the headcount at both organisations from 21 to 12 across these three tiers. The savings on the reduction are split 50/50, as is the officer time. At the moment the new working arrangements seem to be working quite well. Apart from sharing executive officers other areas of joint working are being investigated and will be encouraged only where they provide tangible savings and an improvement in service: both organisations are still sovereign organisations with their own policies and there is no intention to change this.

In the last few months the government has announced the changes to the route for HS2 which of course, affects this ward. SNC has joined a group of 15 councils directly affected by the announcement in seeking a judicial review. The review does not challenge the decision, but the process that lead up to the decision – particularly in this case, the lack of consultation that has resulted for those who are now affected by the revisions to the new route. The other main focus of the council's activities relating to HS2 is to record in detail the mitigation required should the scheme go ahead. This is to aim to preserve as best we can what is special about our area of South Northants and provide the best possible compensation and mitigation for those homes and businesses directly affected. Many of you will already be aware that the first SNC community consultation has already taken place and these will continue while HS2 is a live issue.

Two big pieces of government policy that affect district councils have come to force – the Localism Act and the National Planning Policy Framework: both these policies aim to bring decision making closer to the electorate.

Sitting alongside both these pieces of policy is the Neighbourhood Plan. I hosted a meeting about Neighbourhood Plans for parish councils at the beginning of January. For the first time at a council meeting the council chamber was standing room only. At this meeting officers explained what neighbourhood plans are and how the plan making process will work. Rather than go into considerable detail about the process I would just emphasize that neighbourhood plans are not about saying no to

development, but rather communities deciding where development should go. A Neighbourhood Plan will cost each community; it is estimated, around £10 – 16,000 to complete, sums which the parish will have to find on its own. The three parishes that are front-runners for the country, in this district, Yardley Gobion, Middleton Cheney and Horton, have all been granted £20,000 by central government. This money will not be available to other parishes. The District Councils are responsible for funding each local referendum that will be required to adopt each Neighbourhood Plan. There are, of course, no central government funds to cover this additional cost. As you are aware the system for collecting cardboard is changing as we speak. After April 1st it became illegal to compost cardboard because of the printing inks they contain. As South Northants needs to renew all its dustcarts next year it has been necessary to introduce the interim measure of collecting cardboard in the black boxes. This time next year we will all have a new bin that stores all recyclable materials in one container – they will no longer need separating out and new dustcarts that will have pods for all the different bins we will have.

Last week SNC announced that negotiations had been completed to begin the redevelopment of Moat Lane in Towcester. This historic site is, at present, unused and dilapidated, but in five years will host new council offices and community buildings. This is a project that is not costing council tax payers a single penny. The partner developers Morgan Sindall will deliver to the district a freehold council and community building that will save £200,000 a year in running costs and provide additional rental income. In addition the council have been able to purchase, with generous grants from bodies like WNDC, 60 acres of ancient water meadow which are now open to the public. If you do not know the area I would urge you to go because it is quite glorious – with the setting of the ancient Motte that has been restored over the last few years. The restoration of the Motte won the English Heritage restoration award last year – ahead of Westminster Abbey. The Moat Lane site is also being used by English Heritage as an exemplar of sympathetic restoration. Finally, the great challenge that is facing this and other wards over the next few months is the aspirations of wind farm developers. Next month an eight day appeal is being held in the council chambers by Broadview Developments who were refused planning permission for five turbines in this ward. I am involved in the preparation of this appeal for the council, as well as assisting in decisions on other applications in the district. The refusal at Broadview was the first application for industrial turbines in South Northants and now there are, I believe, another five in the planning process. Permission for an anemometer has just been given between Croughton and Hinton with the possibility of 2 x 400ft turbines at Gateridge Farm.

Thank you.

Parish Council Chairman Prof. David Mellor Appendix 2

Additional comments:

David Clayton and John Grant are to be trained in using equipment to carry out a survey of vehicles through the village. The latest software should not be directing traffic through Farthinghoe to the M40.

Do we have the right tree for outside of school? The Parish Council believed that the original tree was a cherry and as such will be replaced with the same.

Q. The crime report has identified crimes committed in Farthinghoe but my concern is the accuracy of the reporting. The Police capture accidents and photographs appear on the website but it would appear that less than half are being reported.

6 Financial report for year ending 31st March 2012

Opening balance at 1st April 2011: £4,615.30

The precept has remained at £6,500 for the coming year, no increase for the third consecutive year. The Parish Council also received other income of £1,045.53, insurance claim for damaged street light, a £518.08 VAT refund, sale of map £5.50, donations from Limes Farm and The Fox £1,496.66 and £1.63 in interest.

Total expenditure £11,537.31

Balance at 31st March 2012: £2,645.39

Although the Council paid £1,992.89 in total for street lighting and maintenance, this did include the repair to the light on Main Road at £1,145.53. Annual lighting costs were £344.64 and £502.72 for maintenance.

The administration costs were £2,924.68 which included insurance £602.15, internal audit £140, external audit £120, subscriptions £153.63 and the Clerk's salary and expenses £1,685. There was no pay award last year but the Clerk did receive a small increase of £43.35 for the year.

Mowing costs for the Village Hall and the playground amount to £1,339.70 and this includes one cut of the hedge at the Village Hall. The cost per cut remains the same for the coming season, no increase by the contractor, but the annual cost varies depending on the growing season. The annual inspection of the playground cost £42.30.

The printing of the Farthinghoe Chronicle is now funded by the Parish Council at £64.90 per month. There has been no increase in the cost of maintenance of the web site, which includes uploading minutes, and remains at £299.00 per annum.

The lower end of year balance was due to extra expenditure for repairs to play equipment and the bus shelter roof, plus the addition of the new sign and notice-board, but this was off set by the contribution from The Fox and Limes Farm. The Parish Council is now a member of the Council for the Protection of Rural England and the £29 annual subscription goes towards helping them with their campaigns to protect our countryside. The Thomas Amphlett Almshouses also received a donation of £200.

I hope this gives an indication of how the Parish Council spends the precept on your behalf. The Parish Council will be pleased to answer any questions.

Sue Shepard - Clerk

7 Amendments to notice board

The notice board helps the Parish Council to fulfil its legal obligations for publishing information. As part of those duties, agendas need to be published and displayed three clear days before the meeting, but any matters raised in Public Time can only be discussed at the next meeting when it has been included on the agenda. Additions to the map will initially be made on the website.

8 BT Infinity

Residents are paying for a broadband business service but are clearly not getting one. The service is totally unsatisfactory: paying for 8mb but only receiving between 1.7 and 3. There are 276 fibres at the end of Queens Street going through the village but they are not being used for the benefit of business users. Perhaps if all businesses were to write to the supplier.....If there was a competitor then a better service may be provided. There are appalling error rates but Northamptonshire (NCC) is aiming to improve the service throughout the county: entitled to 40Mbps from Infinity. Could the village get 50 people to take up the challenge?

9 Reports from village organisations

Farthinghoe PCC – Rosemary Jarvis

Thanks were extended to Rev. Gill Barker, Rev. Eddie Smith, Rev. Hugh Warwick and Mrs Carrie O Regan for leading our services and all other help they provide.

The PCC met 4 times during the year as well as the Annual Meeting. Mrs King retired after many years service and we welcomed Mrs Joan Mildren and Mr Steve Pillinger.

The Church building remains in general good order and a small group are hoping to get the clock working again. While this work is on going the door to the base of the tower is being kept locked.

A small item of little value was stolen from the church. The police were informed but no action was deemed necessary.

Our services followed the usual pattern and fund raising events during the year included coffee mornings in the Spring and Christmas at which the children of Farthinghoe School sang carols for us.

We had a successful fete and the Harvest Festival was followed by the Scarecrow Festival, which this year was organised by Mrs Pam Pillinger with individual families making the scarecrows.

The Farthinghoe Chronicle has been taken over by the Parish Council but is still delivered by members of the Church.

Our thanks must go to everyone who helps in any way, whether brass or Church cleaning, flower arranging, readers, keyholders, Chronicle deliverers and all who help at events and Mrs Wenmouth, who is our organist. Our churchyard is kept in very good order due mainly to Mrs Sharman. Lastly our thanks must be recorded to our treasurer Mr Vic Tolchard, for keeping our accounts in good order and our secretary, Mrs Lisa Wenmouth.

Sadly, our auditor, Mr Richard George, died in the Summer.

We are very sorry that our Rector, Gil Barker retired at the end of October after a long struggle against illness. We are at present in the process of selecting a new Rector.

Vision Statement: Farthinghoe Church is a historic building open and welcoming to all. A place of learning, tradition, peace and tranquillity that is much loved.

Farthinghoe School – Sid Atkins

There are 38 children on role and the Executive Head spends her time between two schools.

New central heating has been installed and at the moment tenders are being evaluated for the new extension which it is anticipated will go ahead during the school Sumer holidays.

Farthinghoe Village Hall

e-mail from Pete Hampson

“The village hall continues to survive on a turnover of less than £10k per year and we are lucky to have dance and art classes which provide most of our income.

This year we have invested in 40 new chairs, a marquee and two new sheds whilst also tidying the mess of a hedgerow to the front and planting a Jubilee oak tree from the Queen’s estate.

Our next project is to redecorate the inside.

We did have big plans for the Jubilee weekend but this has now been greatly reduced to the afternoon tea party and a social in the evening.

We are lucky to have one of the best equipped and maintained village halls in the area which is much admired by our hirers but we do need more committee members!

The Village Hall Committee is one of the groups involved in co-ordinating the Jubilee Celebration which promises to be a noteworthy event.

Farthinghoe Almshouses (The Charity of Thomas Amphlett) – Jenny Forbes – Chairman of Trustees

I would like to inform you that the Farthinghoe Almshouses are in good order and all three almshouses have residents. I would like to thank the Parish Council for their kind donations and support and also my fellow trustees, who are all volunteers. I would like to thank Mrs Ruth Dashwood for her many years as a trustee of the charity and who has recently retired. If you would like further information please go to the Parish Council website:

www.farthinghoeparishcouncil.org

Allotments – Ruth Dashwood

All plots are taken and there is a waiting list of one. The standard varies from plot to plot but most holders find it an enjoyable. The allotments are to be included on the amended plan for the notice board.

10 Other business

Q. When turning into Cockley Road from Brackley, a mirror on the Church wall would be useful to see traffic from Banbury or is there a way to slow the traffic travelling in that direction? Turning into Cockley Road, particularly with a tractor and trailer is very difficult.

A. All junctions joining Main Road have the same problem.

Any proposed alteration to roads etc should ask for feedback before the change and not after. Somebody will die.

Money is available from Central Government for improving Broadband. Abthorpe has provided its own solution. Some individual businesses have paid privately for the infrastructure but this is not available to the community. How can Farthinghoe tap into funding that is available from Central Government via Northamptonshire County Council?

The meeting closed at 9.10pm

DRAFT

Appendix 1

FARTHINGHOE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

APRIL 11th 2012

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

The Budget for 2012/13 was passed at the Council meeting on the 23rd February. The budget is not just about numbers on a spreadsheet; it represents an ongoing investment in the future of Northamptonshire. A future in which the County Council plays a very important and influential role. The County Council is a very successful organisation with an annual gross revenue budget of over £1bn and a Capital programme of £300m over the next four years.

This year consultation on and scrutiny of the budget has been more intense than ever before. Not only a budget has been produced but also a four year plan. This plan details how we shall save £105m by continuing to streamline how we do business over the next four years. This year we have again taken advantage of the Government's offer and frozen council tax for the year thereby retaining our position of having the lowest shire council tax in the country.

Our shared service arrangement with Cambridgeshire is now paying dividends and this together with an extension into further partnerships will result in a further saving of nearly £10m this year. In addition to this there are proposals to complete the transformation of certain services into arms-length or stand-alone self-financing organisations which will enable them to continue to run and improve their offering but to do so at little or no cost to the taxpayer. Examples of this include the proposal to complete the change of the Northamptonshire Music and Performing Arts School into a stand-alone charitable organisation, and the continuation of the development of the Learning Achievement School Improvement function into an income generating service.

At the heart of the budget is considerable investment for the vulnerable in the County, an extra £27.5m into caring for older people, services for young adults, and the County's looked after children.

Although a great deal of pressure on service budgets remains we do have an enviable record of achievement. There has been a 22% increase in the number of pupils achieving higher GCSE grades in the last four years and, coupled to this, nearly 20,000 school meals a day are provided by our new Nourish service. Our library service is recognised as being the most cost effective in the country with a cost per visit of just £1.67 compared with our nearest neighbour's cost of £2.10. This is largely due to the fact that 80% of our libraries are now 90% self service.

During last year over 10,000 home fire safety checks were completed. Also, during last year there was a 23% reduction in reported road and footway defects and a 46% reduction in insurance claims. We shall continue with our annual investment of £2m into the Northamptonshire Enterprise Partnership (NEP) for the next two years, after which it will become self financing. This year we have seen NEP gain Local Enterprise Status which has attracted £3.9m into the

county. You will probably have read about the plans for two university colleges, one at Silverstone and the other at Daventry.

Finances continue to be tight reflecting the national indebtedness but it is now apparent that cost reduction initiatives taken over the last two or three years are beginning to pay dividends.

As you may know a Boundary Review is being carried out by the Government with the objective of making all electoral constituencies and divisions similar in size based on the number of electors. The County Council have submitted proposals to reduce the number of County Councillor for 73 to 57 and my Division will be affected. At present I have three Wards, Little Brook, Steane, and the West Ward of Brackley. I shall lose the West Ward of Brackley and it will be replaced by the Middleton Cheney Division, which includes Kings Sutton, plus a few other villages to the north of Greatworth. The objective to is make all Divisions have between 9,500 and 10,500 electors.

Finally, I must report how I spent my Empowering Councillors allocation of £7,000 in 2011/12. This was as follows:

Aynho Sports and Recreation Association , £2,500 towards the cost of improving the access road and parking facilities
Greatworth Playgroup, £2,000 towards the cost of additional equipment
Norris Playing Field Association (Hinton-in-the-Hedges), £2,000 towards the cost of a new Children's Embankment Slide
Charlton Memorial Hall Management Committee, £500 towards the cost of refurbishing the children's slide.

Ron Sawbridge.
County Councillor for Brackley West.
Chairman of Northamptonshire County Council.

FARTHINGHOE PARISH COUNCIL
Annual Parish Meeting
Village Hall
20:00 11th April 2012

Firstly I would like to thank all my fellow councillors for their personal support and commitment over the past year. Special thanks to our Clerk, Sue Shepard who has kept us on course throughout our deliberations.

Traffic Issues

Traffic continues to be a major focus of the Parish Council. At this point I would like to pay special thanks to John Grant who continues to devote many hours lobbying the District and County Council in exploration as to what is possible and what is not. I would also express special thanks to Ron Sawbridge for his backing on all occasions when we pursue support.

Recently David Clayton prepared a letter for me to send to South Northants Council in an effort to reduce the number of heavy lorries passing through Farthinghoe. The letter was copied to Andrea Leadsom, in an effort to lobby parliamentary support regarding the satellite routing information passed to heavy lorries via sat-nav services.

We have continued to monitor with interest the impact that the High Speed Rail-link between London and Birmingham might have on traffic levels.

Planning Applications

Although the Parish Council is made aware of most planning applications submitted to South Northants Council, I must emphasise that it is not our responsibility to advise all Parishioners of such applications. Planning applications are notified to those who South Northants believe may be affected and submissions can be seen on the South Northants web-site.

Land Registration

The Parish Council have identified that the grassed area outside the school has not been registered at the Land Registry and neither has the plot on the junction of Charlton Road and Queens Street. It is our intention to register the land in the name of Farthinghoe Parish Council and to plant two trees to commemorate HM Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee.

Village Web-site

The Village web site continues to display a soft copy of the Farthinghoe Chronicle and various reports as they become available. Links are provided to the School, Limes Farm and Fox Inn. The web address is www.farthinghoeparishcouncil.org . This report is available for downloading now on the website!

Farthinghoe Chronicle

Pip Sandel has done an excellent job over the past year keeping us aware of activities taking place in the community and thanks to the Fox Inn and Limes Farm we have been able to keep the cost to Parishioners at zero.

Village Sign

Although a new sign was supported by the Parish Council, Fox Inn and Limes Farm it was not to everyone's liking and several attempts were made over the year to vandalise the sign. The Parish Council have agreed that it will be rescreened and include Bowling Green, Manor Lane, the Allotments and the footpath from Limes Farm to Manor Lane. No other changes have been requested and therefore we will instruct the printer to go ahead with the printing.

Diamond Jubilee

I would like to thank John Grant and his team who together are actively making arrangements for the Village to Celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh at the beginning of June. Special thanks to Major Cox for his generous donation and others who have also contributed to the fund. It is hoped this will be an enjoyable event for all and thanks to the Church, School, Fox Inn, Limes Farm and Village Hall Committee for all their support.

Grass Cutting

As our group of active volunteers continues to age we have of necessity had to employ external help to cut the grass at both the Village Hall and Children's play area. This year we went out to tender and the Council is pleased that the contract has again gone to a local member of the Community Jon Hampson.

Infinity

Although BT Openreach have fed 276 Fibre Optic Cables through the Village as yet they have chosen not to give any of the Villagers or Businesses benefit of improved access to the Internet. We are constantly lobbying BT and will continue to do so and would encourage you all to lobby your provider for improved service.

Finally I would like to thank my Vice Chairman, Ian Hunt for monitoring all planning applications submitted within the village and taking the Chair when I am unable to attend due to other external pressures.

Professor David P Mellor OBE
Chairman

DRAFT