

FARTHINGHOE PARISH COUNCIL
Annual Parish Meeting
Village Hall
20:00 10th April 2013

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

Since this is his last meeting as our County Councillor I would like to express on behalf of the Parish Council our gratitude to Ron Sawbridge for his support at all times during his tenure as our representative at County Level. Many projects would not have been possible in the village without Ron's assistance.

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.

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 was 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. The trees have been planted but the land has not been registered.

This topic will be discussed as an agenda item later in the meeting to allow parishioners to express their views.

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

Thanks to Pip Sandel for editing the copies of the Chronicle for the early part of this reporting year and special thanks to Shirley Downing for taking over seamlessly when Pip decided to hand over the baton. Both have 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

The new village sign and notice board outside the school appears to meet with Parishioners expectations since being rescreened and no further vandalism as occurred.

Diamond Jubilee

I would like to thank John Grant and his team for the spectacular events which took place at Village Hall to Celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen at the beginning of June 2012 .

The events were a considerable success and thanks to everyone on the village who supported the event in any way since without you we would not have had such an enjoyable time.

I would like to express note of thanks also to David Claydon and his team for coordinating the Village Beacon.

Grass Cutting

Jon Hampson has done an excellent job over the last year cutting the grass at both the Village Hall and Childrens Play Area. Due to budget constraints and to avoid increasing the precept the Council have decided to continue to fund the cutting of the grass at the Childrens Play Area and also the areas we attempted to register but not the Village Hall.

Since County grass cutting is now somewhat random and of a considerably reduced nature we want visitors to see our village at its best and wish to avoid the grass outside the school and Church growing to over twelve inches as it did in 2012 between cuts.

Children's Play Area

The Parish Council intends subject to available funds to update the equipment at the Farthinghoe Play Area and applied for a County Council grant through our current Councillor Ron Sawbridge but unfortunately he will not be our County Councillor when 2013-14 Funds are allocated. Councillor Dashwood had agreed to match the County Council grant should it be achieved. We intend to lobby our new county councillor immediately he is elected on 2nd May 2013 to uphold the commitment that had been made by Councillor Sawbridge.

You will have noted that in parallel with Parish Council efforts Becky and Louise have through the Farthinghoe Chronicle asked for your support and ideas on this issue.

Broadband

Although as reported last year 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.

With the advent of LTE and government commitment to Rural Areas we are hopeful that Internet Speed will increase in the not too distant future. Only by constantly complaining to your supplier will we see action.

Finally I would like to thank my Vice Chairman, John Grant for taking the Chair when I am unable to attend due to other external pressures.

Professor David P Mellor OBE
Chairman