

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FARTHINGHOE PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 8th OCTOBER 2014 AT 7.00pm AT THE VILLAGE HALL

Councillors present: Mr John Grant (Vice Chair)
Mr Ian Hunt
Mrs Sally Thomas
Mr Ross van Geest
Mrs Jenny Forbes
Mr David Dashwood
Mrs Philippa Clayton (Clerk)

Public Time

Seven members of the public were in attendance, including the land owner of the proposed solar farm. The Vice Chair opened the meeting by explaining that as there was currently no chairman on the Parish Council, the meeting had no legal status but councillors present would listen to what those attending had to say. The public were then invited to speak.

The group made reference to a previous application in Canterbury where a delegation had met with planners to demonstrate serious flaws within the application, as a result of which the application was rejected before being submitted for final approval. It was suggested that Farthinghoe PC should adopt a similar approach, highlighting the large number of errors and inaccuracies in the submission, with support from Halse and Greatworth, and request a meeting with Robert Fallon, Development Services Manager for the SNC.

The feeling was expressed that a stronger objection needs to be made by the Parish Council to reflect the depth of feeling within the community. Reference was made to the fact that as it is being classed as a new application, there should also have been a new consultation, which did not happen. Cllr Forbes responded that the Parish Council would discuss constructing a more detailed communication to the SNC.

One member referred to the fact that it is the positioning of the solar farm which is the issue, and that the original suggestion of the airfield would have been a natural choice. The land owner responded that this was the first choice but that several developers he had spoken to had said it was not viable.

Green Energy claim to have dropped 2,500 leaflets in the area to publicise the public presentations in Farthinghoe and Brackley on Tuesday 7th October. The land owner has requested to see a distribution map of the drop as it appears that some households did not receive the notification, which could have affected the poor turnout at both venues.

Public time concluded at 7.25pm. The Vice Chairman requested two members, who had expressed an interest in joining the Parish Council, remain behind. He then explained that the Parish Council currently has approval for one councillor to be recruited with a further vacancy expected to be approved imminently. He requested that the two members attend the November meeting, where they would have the opportunity to explain to the councillors their reasons for wanting to join the council and the attributes which they could offer. The two members then left the meeting at 7.30pm.

1. **Appointment of Clerk:** The Vice Chairman confirmed the appointment of Philippa Clayton to the position of Clerk to Farthinghoe Parish Council.
2. **Appointment of Chair:** The Vice Chairman asked the councillors present if anyone was interested in taking the position, but received no offers. He then asked Councillor Van Geest if he would be interested and he agreed he would in the absence of other volunteers. Councillor Hunt then nominated Councillor Van Geest and the nomination was seconded by Councillor Forbes. Councillor Van Geest was duly elected Chairman and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office. The Vice Chairman relinquished the chair and asked the new Chair to take over.
3. **Apologies:** Councillor Grant initially gave apologies from Councillor Thomas, but Cllr Thomas was fortunately able to join the meeting shortly after.
4. **Minutes of previous meetings on 13th August 2014 and 10th September 2014.** Amendments made to August minutes were duly witnessed, signed and adopted. Draft minutes from the September meeting had some minor amendments, which the Clerk would re-draft before publication on the website. These would be signed and adopted at the November meeting.

5. **Matters Arising:**

None.

6. **Finance:**

6.1. **Barclays Bank** statements at 30th September 2014

Business Saver	£200.31
Community Account	£6,133.14

6.2. **Expenditure:**

The following payments were authorised and cheques signed.

Cheque	Payee	Amount	Power
100624	Texprep	£66.30	Local Government Act 1972 s142
100625	E.ON – lighting	£138.75	Parish Councils Act 1957 s3
100626	E.ON – maintenance	£107.70	Parish Councils Act 1957 s3

6.3. **Changes to bank mandate:**

Cllr Grant provided the personal details form to support the change to the bank mandate. Philippa Clayton was required to be added to the mandate in order to be able to discuss details with the bank and it was agreed that The Chair should also be added. Cllr Hunt would be removed from the mandate once additions have been made.

7. **Correspondence:**

Previous correspondence

- 30/6 email SNC request for link from Farthinghoe's website to SNC's tourism and business support website pages – as long as at no cost to the PC
- 10/7 → email Barclays Bank – Mandate change pack – *John to be added as a signatory – personal details form?*
John Grant re: Rural Housing Policy Review
- 14/8 → email New internal auditor for Farthinghoe lynnlavender_5@hotmail.com
- 5/9 BDO Conclusion of Audit – *John has posted notice*

Correspondence since 10th September 2014

- forwarded * printed *** answer required
- 10/9 email James Harrison – request for information on becoming a councillor
- 11–17/9 Exchange of emails between Cllr van Geest and Arthur Bell, Green Energy Unilateral Planning Obligation (Community Benefit)
email Melody Parkes "Please also be aware that the Domain, website hosting and annual management fee will be due for renewal 1/11/2014" – *Does the PC wish to continue with Parkes Office Solutions?*
email NCC Salt bags for Parish Councils
→ email SNC Parish/Town Councils consultation. *All PC/TC's identified as being affected by a planning application will be sent a hard copy*
→ email SNC Housing Needs Survey to be carried out online – *publicised in the Chronicle*
emailed amended minutes to Neil – have re printed but need to be signed
- 12/9 email Cllr van Geest - copy of email to SNC
email Cllr Grant - copy of email from Mick Morris re Proposed route for Solar Farm traffic
- 15/9 email Superfast Northamptonshire newsletter 13
- 16/9 email NCC consultations
- 17/9 email Melody Parkes – chairman's emails will be re directed to Cllr Grant
- 18/9 email SNC Parish Clerk Forum 31st October at 10.00am at Towcester Council Offices - *may be of interest to Pip*
email NCC September's news from my county council
- 19/9 email NCC consultations
emailed SNC Casual Vacancy notice - *no reply to date as to whether the PC can co-opt*
- 19/9 email Cllr van Geest – telephone conversation with Arthur Bell, Green Energy. 19/9 – 29/9 further exchange of emails
- 23/9 email snvb information
- 24/9 email SNC Alterations to electoral register
NCC Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 – Section 14 The Northamptonshire County Council (Public BywayAM39 – Parish of Farthinghoe) (Temporary Closure) Order 2014 - *copy in file*
Cllr Dashwood took the notice regarding the above closure to speak to SNC regarding the details, in particular the reference to the lane being closed to pedestrians and other forms of non-motorised transport, as he believed this should not be the case.
E.On maintenance invoice £107.70
- 26/9 email NCALC Two vacancies for clerks

→ email Ian George Your Shout - Farthinghoe Solar Farm information sessions + hard copies of notices
email Texprep invoice £66.30 – have advised of change of Clerk

- 29/9 emailed nil response to SNH re parking issues
email David Mellor. Infinity is now available in Farthinghoe. He is having 38Mbps download connected on 15.10.2014. 69Mbps is available at extra cost for those with extra cash to spare. A two year commitment at 38Mbps broadband connection by fibre works out at £29/month +VAT
Cllr Forbes requested that this email be re-distributed.
→ email Christine Hunt – hard copies of planning applications - need to decide who will receive
email Cllr van Geest – copy of email from Melody Parkes re: website hosting service
- 30/9 Applied to HMRC for VAT refund
- 1/10 email Cllr van Geest – July and August's minutes need to be uploaded to the website. Availability of draft agenda and September's minutes.
*Cllr Van Geest pointed out that the minutes have **still** not been uploaded to the website. The Clerk will ensure this happens within the very near future.*
- 2/10 email snvb information
email Cllr van Geest – agenda items.
- 3/10 → email NCALC eUpdate Sept/Oct 2014
- 4/10 Barclays Bank Statements as of 30th September 2014
Business Saver £200.31
Community Account £6,133.14
£6,333.45
Comment was made that there is still a further £1,000 to be given to the playground project this year. The PC must ensure that the bank balance does not fall below 50% of the precept at the end of the year.
- 6/10 E.On invoice £138.75
email NCC Public consultations Northamptonshire Household Waste Recycling Centres
Cllr Grant will take an action to complete the consultation documents referred to on the Household Waste Recycling email.

It was agreed to continue with the circulation of emails to all councillors and to maintain the list of documents.

8. Planning Matters:

Application number	Address	Details	Status/ Decision
8.1 S/2014/1730/FUL	6 Charlton Way, Farthinghoe	Single storey porch extinction to front. Single & two storey extension to rear (Part Retrospective)	<i>The PC had no objections</i>
8.2 S/2014/1724/PA	Colready Farm, Farthinghoe	Determination as to whether prior approval is required (under Class MB of Part 3 of the above Order) for the change of use of the agricultural buildings to a dwellinghouse (Use Class C3) in respect of: the transport and highways impacts of the development; noise impacts of the development; contamination risks on the site; flooding risks on the site; whether the siting and location of the buildings makes it impractical or undesirable to change the use; and the design and external appearance of the building	<i>For information only, no response required</i>
8.3 S/2014/1623/FUL	Walltree House Farm, Steane, Brackley	Conversion of a redundant building into a single dwelling.	<i>The PC had no objections</i>
8.4 S/2014/1495/MA F	Land to the east of Cockley Road	Solar Park complete with security fence, soft landscaping, cctv, inverters, and all necessary ancillary works	<i>The PC objected</i>

8.4 contd.

S/2014/1495/MAF

On the matter of the UPO, the Chair reported that the PC have done as much as possible and it is now the responsibility of the SNC to continue to protect their position. The land owner has still to provide proof of title. It was felt

that the PC should still at least have access to the lawyers or keep seeing the variations to keep a watching brief on progression. It was agreed that planning permission needs to be linked to the community benefit as there was some concern regarding the credibility of the developer.

Cllr Dashwood asked the question whether the village is aware of the benefit and whether anyone has expressed an opinion that the benefit would be a good idea. The point was made that the UPO has nothing to do with the actual application, it is merely protecting the interests of the village should planning be approved. At this point in time, there is no formal agreement and even if there were a formal agreement, there is no guarantee that it will be signed. Therefore until such time as it is legally binding, it was agreed that it should not be formally communicated with the village. The Chair will consult with Amanda Haisman regarding comments on the UPO and will request a meeting with the SNC lawyer to go through the final documents.

Cllr Grant expressed concern that the poor turnout at the two presentations on Tuesday suggested possible apathy and raised the query as to the best way to communicate. Cllr Thomas pointed out that people have been showing an interest, by attending Public time.

The Chair took an action to organise a meeting with Robert Fallon and to include members of the action group.

Cllr Forbes asked whether a letter was sent to request a deferral of the planning date of 23rd October. The Chair suggested that at the meeting with Robert Fallon, if he wasn't prepared to reject the application, a deferral should be requested, particularly in view of the lack of consultation since the application has been re-presented.

The question was asked as to whether the £180K one-off payment under the UPO would be subject to tax.

8.5 Receipt of planning applications

With the resignation of Cllr Hunt, there was a need to agree responsibility for planning applications going forward. An interim solution was agreed, with Cllr Hunt continuing to receive the applications for the time being, and Cllr Dashwood will collect them from him. It was suggested that once new councillors have been appointed, this may be a role that one of them would like to take. The decision for the longer term solution was therefore deferred until the November meeting.

9. Traffic Issues:

- 9.1 Cllr Grant reported that a CCTV camera has been erected outside London Barn on Main Road. He has emailed Helen Howard to ask what its function is.
- 9.2 NCC have confirmed that they were not consulted regarding the route for vehicles to the proposed Solar Park site going past the school
- 9.3 Cllr Grant reported that the A422 is due to be resurfaced in the new year with a dampener being used to prevent manhole movement. It was reported that the "reconstruction of the A422 is a priority maintenance scheme", but there is still no guarantee that the work will be carried out. The drains in the highway are close to collapse, but there is disagreement as to who is responsible for their repair/replacement.
- 9.4 A speed/volume detector was erected in the vicinity of the school over the period from 7th August to 12th August. 50,527 vehicles passed through in the period with an 85th percentile speed of 23 miles per hour. Cllr Grant asked all to confirm that they had received a copy of this report.
- 9.5 Cllr Forbes reported that there had been another accident opposite Glebe Farm at the beginning of the week.

10. Renewal of web services and access to website administration:

The web services contract is due for renewal on 1st November. It was agreed that the Chair would investigate two options with the current provider, Parkes; the first being to transfer the website in its entirety into the control of the PC; the second being for Parkes to continue to host the website, with the PC having access to upload information.

11. To agree: Usage of Dropbox

This item was deferred to the November meeting, with the Clerk to draw up a list of documents to be considered.

12. To identify the council's strategy, aims and objectives of the next 12 months and beyond

The Chair had prepared a document, which he will email to the councillors for consideration at the November meeting.

13. Presentation of draft budget:

It was agreed that this would be reviewed at the November meeting, to allow councillors to give it proper consideration.

Councillors round the table.....

1. It has been identified that the current insurance does not cover the officers themselves, which would be normal practice. The Clerk will speak to the insurers for advice on including this option.

2. Cllr Dashwood had been approached by a member of the village, regarding an article they had wished to submit to the Chronicle. They were concerned about the number of dogs that are allowed to roam at will around the village and wanted to make an appeal to the owners to be more considerate. The Clerk will speak to the editor of the Chronicle to have this appeal included in a later edition.
3. The Clerk will inform SNC of the resignation of Cllr Hunt and will arrange for a new vacancy notice to be issued.
4. Cllr Thomas enquired on the situation regarding The Dash. It was confirmed that the issue had been removed from the agenda as they had not accepted the PC's offer.
5. It was agreed that a meeting of the PC should be scheduled for November. The Clerk will make the appropriate arrangements.
6. An agenda item for the November meeting was proposed; to agree a representative from the Parish Council to sit on the Village Hall Committee.

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 12th November 2014 at 7.00 pm in the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm

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