

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FARTHINGHOE PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 10th SEPTEMBER 2014 AT 7.00pm AT THE VILLAGE HALL

Councillors present: Mr Neil Downing (Chair)
Mr John Grant
Mr Ian Hunt
Mrs Sally Thomas
Mr Ross van Geest
Mrs Jenny Forbes
Ms Sue Shepard (Clerk)

Public Time

Over fifty members of the public opposed to the new Solar Farm application were in attendance. The land owner was present as well as two representatives from Green Energy UK.

The Chair explained the current position with the new planning application and Mr Foot spoke on behalf of those opposed to the application. The group were once again looking for the support of the Parish Council and believed that there had been no material change in this application to warrant a change of opinion.

Councillors had met to draft a response to the application as the deadline was 11th September giving insufficient time to form a response after this meeting.

One of the main issues was that Green Energy had not consulted with the village before submitting this application. The village of Halse had also formed an action group opposing the application and had attended to make Farthinghoe residents aware that the visual impact on Halse was very significant.

Villagers were also concerned about the route that would be used by vehicles accessing the site as it would be passing the school.

Villagers who had signed the petition opposing the original application had not asked for their names to be removed in response to this new application.

A spokesperson for Greatworth Parish Council wanted to know where the “community” started and finished because the visible impact was greater for Halse and therefore should Halse have been consulted and be considered for any community benefit that may be on offer?

The Parish Council had only been made aware of a possible community benefit for this new application after the agenda had been published, so the offer would be discussed at October’s meeting.

It is possible for views to be submitted up to the date of the meeting to determine the application, currently 23rd October 2014.

Green Energy gave assurance that a consultation with the village would be undertaken.

The Chairman of the Village Hall Committee had asked if those attending Public Time could give due consideration to those using the Main Hall.

1. Apologies: None

2. Minutes of previous meeting on 13th August 2014. Draft minutes had been circulated but needed to be amended. Clerk would re draft and would be subject to approval before publication on the website. Minutes were amended and were signed and adopted at the October meeting.

3. Matters arising:

3.1 Farthinghoe Chronicle: Infringement of Copyright

The Parish Council insurance policy does not include personal cover for councillors. There had been no further exchange of emails regarding the infringement.

3.2 Adoption of new Financial Regulations

Regulations had been printed and were adopted and signed.

4. Finance:

4.1 Barclays Bank statements at 31st August 2014

Business Saver	£200.28
Community Account	<u>£3,169.44</u>
	£3,369.72

4.2 Expenditure:

The following payments were authorised and cheques signed.

Cheque	Payee	Amount	Power
100620	Jon Hampson – grass-cutting	£110.00	Open Spaces Act 1906 s 9 and 10
100621	Texprep	£66.30	Local Government Act 1972 s142
100622	Clerk's salary and expenses: July - Sept	£355.00	Local Government Act 1972 s112 and s111
100623	HMRC	£70.00	

4.3 Changes to bank mandate

The mandate, as agreed at the previous meeting, now needed to be changed. Cllr Dashwood would remain as a signatory. Cllr Grant will be added as a signatory and one other councillor will need to be nominated. Contact details would also be changed once Philippa Clayton is appointed as the new Clerk.

5. Correspondence since 13th August

email NCALC New internal auditor for Farthinghoe PC lynnlavender_5@hotmail.com

Copy of Cllr Forbes' email to David Dashwood asking for hedge to be cut back

email Cllr Forbes will attend CPRE Roadshow on Thursday, 30th October 6.00 – 9.00pm.

Would anybody else like to go?

email NCALC Notice of Annual General Meeting 18th October. *Reply by 6th October*

email Peter Mordaunt re: Hinton Road/A422 junction *forwarded to Cllrs Dashwood, Forbes and Downing*

email CPRE Campaigns

email Cllr van Geest query re number of parish councillors. *The number agreed with SNC was seven but it should have been subject to a review in 2011. Queried with SNC but no response to date*

email Grand Union Housing (parent company of South Northants Homes) parent's concerns over future housing

emails x 2 snvb – local funding ideas, sports training etc. and newsletter

email NCALC Forthcoming Training Courses – forwarded 9th September

email NCALC "Fit for Life" 20 million steps!

email Parish Council Elections 2015 – Recruitment of candidates

email Eventbrite. Invitation to Northamptonshire Parish Council Recruitment Briefing on 24th November – *Cllr Grant has accepted invitation*

email Northamptonshire Police, PCSO Stuart Dowell. Middleton Cheney and Steane Ward update for September

email PCSO Stuart Dowell. Community event in Towcester on 4th October
 BDO Conclusion of Audit – *post notice on board*
 email CommunityLines – copy of Parish Council's insurance policy

SNC i)

NCC i) email Northamptonshire Highways – major road works
 ii) email August's news from my county council
 iii) Blue badge and concessionary bus pass applications and renewals can be done online – *hard copy and posters*
 iv) Copy of email from NCC Street Doctor to Peter Mordaunt re: A422

6. Planning Matters:

Application number	Address	Details	Status/ Decision
6.1 S/2014/0903/ FUL	Old Rectory Stable House	Reversion of "Part of Property" from Offices and Wine Store (Personal Consent) to Residential and New Dwelling and Access to the Walled Garden served off existing access drive	<i>Approved</i>
6.2 S/2014/1497/ FUL	Steane Grounds Cottage	Riding arena	<i>The PC supported the application</i>
6.3 S/2014/1579/ FUL	Gooseholm Fields Farm Banbury Road Brackley	Farm dwelling	<i>The PC had no objections</i>
6.4 S/2014/1495/ MAF	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>

6.4 contd.

S/2014/1495/MAF

To allow the PC time to formulate a response, Cllr van Geest had asked the Chair to contact SNC to ask for an extension to the deadline. The case officer, Amanda Haisman had agreed to a two week extension. It is anticipated that the application will go before the Committee in October – details to follow.

Cllr Forbes had emailed the PC re: flyer for Chronicle to advise all residents that a new application had been submitted.

An informal meeting had taken place on 28th August to formulate a draft response to the Solar Farm application for a discussion at this meeting as the original deadline for a response was 11th September which did not give sufficient time after this meeting.

Pip had taken notes at the meeting which had been circulated to councillors

Cllr Thomas had carried out a comprehensive review of the application with additional comments from Cllr van Geest. A spreadsheet had been produced to form the basis of a discussion

The Chair had received a draft copy of a Unilateral Planning Obligation (UPO) by hand from Green Energy at the public meeting, too late to be considered before the Parish Council meeting but the Community Benefit offer was at least being presented as a formal agreement. Cllr van Geest would scan and circulate but its validity needed to be checked as a legally binding document and to ensure there were no hidden clauses. As there were three options as to how the community might benefit if the application was approved, it needed to be presented to the villagers for their views.

The Parish Council resolved that based on the information available, the application should be rejected. There needed to be consultation with the village regarding the application and the UPO. More money may need to be made available if the benefit is to be extended to include Greatworth and Halse.

It was also agreed that an **objection** to the application would be submitted now as there had been no material changes since the previous application and the proposed development was still too close to the village.

7. Traffic Issues:

7.1 Cllr Grant would try to establish who at NCC had made the decision or agreed to the route for vehicles to the proposed Solar Park site.

7.2 The Chair had spoken to Graham Thorley, the Chair of Farthinghoe School Governors and it was agreed that the problem parking outside of school was going to prove difficult to resolve but it was not going to go away. Could a sign “No parking between 8.00am and 6.00pm” be erected?

7.3 Cllr Dashwood would cut back the hedge on the A422 on 15th September.

8. Children’s Playground: safety checks, update on proposal for improvements and mole hills

The Clerk still needed to contact the Parish Council’s insurers to see what they expected by way of the frequency of inspections. Safety checks will be carried out once the new equipment is in place.

A rail had been identified as being a medium risk and Cllr Dashwood agreed to remove the “Wobbly Walk” completely.

Cllr Dashwood advised that trapping was an effective way to get rid of moles but this would not be appropriate in a children’s playground. Did Jon Hampson’s contact have any other suggestions?

9. Does the Parish Council’s insurance indemnify councillors?

Currently, the PC’s insurance does not indemnify individual councillors. Given that there is a legal stand against the Council for an infringement of copyright ,what is the position of individual councillors? The Chair would make enquiries with NCALC.

10. Does the Parish Council need to nominate a second person to have access to upload information onto the website?

The new Clerk would be asked if she wanted to take on this role.

11. To agree:

Which documents and policies are to be held by the Parish Council?

Which ones will be made available on the website?

Which will be available to councillors via Dropbox?

This item was carried over to October’s meeting.

12. The Local Plan – call for sites

This was not discussed.

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

Cllr van Geest had drafted a strategy document which includes Aims and Objectives. The PC has little power to do things but is a listening body and can react to what the village is asking the PC to do. The villagers are the stakeholders and two or three key things have been identified including a Communication Policy to include an e mailing list.

Councillors round the table.....

1. Cllr Hunt will resign after October's meeting.
2. Cllr Downing also announced his intention to resign as of the end of this meeting because of a change of job. A new Chair will need to be elected at the next meeting.

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 9th October 2014 at 7.00 pm in the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm
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