

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FARTHINGHOE PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 13th MAY 2009 AT 7.00pm AT THE VILLAGE HALL

Councillors present: Prof. David Mellor - Chairman
Mr David Dashwood
Mr John Grant
Dr Nigel Heywood
Mr Ian Hunt
Mr Martin Wall
Ms Sue Shepard (Clerk)

Apologies: Mrs Jenny Forbes

1. Election of Chairman and Acceptance of Office

Cllr. David Mellor was nominated by Cllr. Ian Hunt. There were no other nominations. Cllr. David Mellor accepted the nomination and signed his acceptance of office. This was also signed by the Proper Officer to the Council.

2. Report from councillor representative on other organisation: Village Hall

Cllr Grant was now recognised as a full member of the Management Committee. Their current balance is approximately £7000 and this includes a £2500 reserve. Fabric had been purchased to replace the curtains in the hall and a new kitchen is to be installed at a cost of £2500 to include a new fridge and cooker. A dinner dance is being held at the hall on 20th June and tickets cost £24.00. The Fox had offered to do the catering but it had been agreed that the same person that did it last year would be doing it again.

3. Appointment of representative to the Village Hall Committee

Cllr Grant was appointed to represent the Parish Council.

4. Finance

4.1 Barclays bank statements as at 30th April

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| Community A/C | £809.82 |
| Business Premium A/C | <u>£9886.88</u> |
| | £10696.70 |

4.2 Income: SNC. Precept - instalment 1 of 2: £3,125
HM Revenue & Customs. VAT repayment £451.94

4.3 Financial report for year ending 31st March 2009

The following is the report that was given to the Annual Parish Meeting.

Opening Balance as at 1st April 2008: £8,799.26

Precept was £6,250 and has remained at £6,250 for 2009 - 10. The Parish Council also received other income: £238.76 VAT refund and interest of £53.76.

Total expenditure £8,222.61 (£5,577.75 in 2008)

Balance £7,119.76 (£8,800.26 in 2008)

This balance is still higher than anticipated because the Parish Council had budgeted £1,800 for the replacement of six of the street lights on Main Road because the electricity cables are to be put

underground. This work was supposed to have been completed by March 2008 and the Parish Council has been informed that the work will now be carried out in the next financial year, so hopefully the balance will be more realistic as of March 2010!

Although the Council paid £2,286 for street lighting and maintenance, this included two new street lights near The Limes and at the Bowling Green. These were funded by a grant through the County Council Empowering Scheme: thanks to Ron Sawbridge. A further £1500 is to be paid for two more street lights in Baker Street and Queens Street. It is anticipated that the one in Baker Street will be covered by an insurance claim.

The administration costs are £2,480.66 (£2,385.73 in 2008) which includes insurance, audit, the Clerk's salary and her expenses. The pay award has only just been finalised for 2008 and although an interim pay rise was awarded half way through the year the Clerk is not claiming to have the final award back dated but it will take effect as of the next quarterly payment.

The Parish Council contributed £590 towards the mowing of the Village Hall grounds, made a donation of £500 to the Almshouses and contributed £762 towards the cost of producing the Farthinghoe Chronicle. Just over £200 has been spent on setting up the website but it is hoped that some sponsorship will be available to offset this cost.

4.3 The following payments were authorised and cheques signed:

100400 Northants CALC - Membership (£114.23) and Internal Audit Service (£138.92) = £253.15
100401 Parkes O&E Solutions Ltd £201.25
100402 Edge2edge (Leo Kempster) £100.00
100403 Allianz Insurance £606.31

4.4 External Audit: Annual Return to be completed by 24th July.

5. Correspondence since 8th April

West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit Public Consultation - Draft Supplementary

Planning Document: Affordable Housing. *Response by 21st May*

HM Revenue & Customs Local Councils & VAT Workshops

Form for re-claiming VAT

VAT recovery in respect of construction, repair or maintenance to village halls, recreation facilities, youth clubs, playgrounds or similar

SNVB "Link Up"

Equality and Human Rights Commission – Public Sector duties

South Northants Homes – Major works briefing paper April 2009 - N/A

Banbury CAB *request for donation*

West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit. Administrative error in the Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document <http://consult.westnorthamptonshirejpu.org>

SNC i) Interim Rural Housing Planning Policy – consultation. A copy of the draft document can be viewed at the following link: <http://www.southnorthants.gov.uk/documents/483.htm>

There will also be a briefing session on 11th May from 2.00pm – 4.00pm at the Council Offices in Towcester. *Consultation until 30th May*

ii) Request to display notices for European and County Elections 4th June 2009

iii) Armed Forces Day 22nd June at Springfields, Towcester

NCC i) Transport and Highways - The Way Forward event on 23rd April in Northampton. *Reply by 14th April*

Brochures: Queensbury Shelters – bus shelters

6. Traffic Issues

6.1 Rightracks

Report from the meeting on 23rd March 2009

Some of the proposed engineering works:

- Two routes, A361 and A422 will be a pilot study for a 50mph trial throughout their entire length.
- Solar powered cats-eyes will be utilised to define the road on routes where night time collisions have occurred.
- A new high-grip surface will be used as a trial on bends.
- Illuminated bend-markers will allow motorists to better determine the severity of bends.
- VAS (vehicle activated signs) will be upgraded
- A range of junction improvements are also planned at sites with a collision history.

These key strategies would be common throughout the zone.

As part of the project some of those funds are being used to organise car craft courses for young drivers who have been identified as the group most at risk. The first group, 16 -17 year olds who have not started driving, and 17 – 24 year olds who hold a full driving license will have the opportunity to apply for a place on either of these courses. This information will be forwarded to Marjorie Tolchard for inclusion in the Chronicle. **Action: Cllr Grant**

The whole project will be evaluated to find out if any of the measures have been effective in reducing the number of casualties.

6.2 Signs

The road signs have cleaned but the work had been carried out by Cllr Dashwood and not Highways. There is some concern about the message that the new signs were trying to convey: “Think Bike” and “Welcome to Northamptonshire – Let yourself grow”.

6.3 Reconfiguration of triangle at the junction of Cockley Road and Main Road.

Cllr Grant agreed to write to Highways for an update.

Action: Cllr Grant

6.4 By pass

After a lengthy discussion it was resolved that there is still division within the parish as to where the by pass should go and may be the only way to reach a decision is to say, yes, you can have a by pass if you accept the proposal for one route. If the bypass were to be built it is likely that development would take place between the bypass and the village.

Cllr Grant agreed to re establish contact with Highways and Tim Boswell MP. It was suggested that a meeting with Tim Boswell might be beneficial.

Had letters been sent to local businesses? There appeared to be no effect to date. It is believed that the recession may have seen a reduction in the number of lorries on the roads. Cllr Grant would write to District Councillor Breese. Had she resumed some of her duties since her accident?

Cllr Grant also agreed to write to John Trimble about signage. Was traffic now being directed from the Middleton Cheney roundabout along the B4525 to join up with the A43 to Northampton?

6.5 The speed camera on Main Road is not operational at present.

Action: Cllr Grant

7. Review of Annual Parish Meeting

Under Cllr Mellor’s chairmanship the meeting had gone smoothly and the meeting had been well attended, approximately 30 villagers. Many of the issues that might have been raised, resulting in lengthy discussions, had been dealt with in the reports given by the officers.

8. Hinton Road and meeting with Area Engineer

Unable to make the first scheduled meeting, Cllr Forbes has contacted the Area manager for another appointment.

9. NCALC membership

The Council agreed to continue its membership at a cost of £114.23.

10. Insurance

The Council had been invited to renew its cover with Allianz Insurance at a cost of £606.31. The Council agreed that it would pay the premium.

11. Interim Rural Housing Planning Policy – consultation

SNC had recently lost two appeals against development on green field sites outside of existing village confines and it is intended that the above policy will be used as a material consideration in determining planning applications for new residential development in the District until such time that the Council has achieved a five year housing land supply or that the Joint Core Strategy has progressed. Much of the extra housing that the district is required to provide is likely to be additions to larger villages. Development outside of the Farthinghoe confines would be considered in the same way as if it was within the village. The deadline for responses to the consultation is 30th May 2009.

Action: Cllr Wall

12. Planning Matters

S/2008/0884/P and **S/2008/0885/LB** for the Farm Shop at **Limes Farm** has been granted permission.

S/2009/0264/A for three free standing **signs advertising** The Fox is still under consideration.

Councillors round the table.....

1. Cllr Wall will instruct contractor to mow the playground.
2. How often is the village grass cut? Does it need more than the three cuts carried out by County?
3. The parked trailer at the junction of Charlton Road and Queen Street has prompted some comments. It would appear that there is more opposition than support for the suggestion to provide extra car parking space at this location. This will be on June's agenda.
4. Noisy aircraft and low flying aircraft are still a problem over the village.
5. Can users really expect a better broadband service than that which is being provided by BT? There had been a lot of response from Middleton Cheney but little from Farthinghoe to Cllr Wall's request for feedback. Those who are not using BT are getting a worse service. Two house holds had been cut off completely

Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday, 10th June 2009 at 7 p.m. in the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.25pm