

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FARTHINGHOE PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 11th SEPTEMBER 2013 AT 7.00pm AT THE VILLAGE HALL

Councillors present: Mr John Grant – Chair for meeting
Mr Ian Hunt
Mrs Jenny Forbes
Mr Neil Downing
Ms Sue Shepard (Clerk)

Public Time:

Two villagers attended to express their concerns about anti-social behaviour in the playground. Bad language and under-age drinking is obviously unacceptable and something needs to be done. This is the third time this has happened. Could the field be fenced, gated, open during day light hours and then locked at night? There needs to be something in place to prevent a further occurrence.

A number of village children had been involved, the Police had been notified and had visited the ringleader. It is hoped that the early intervention by the Police will have served as an appropriate and timely deterrent. There is no intention to publicise what had happened in the playground.

Hope is not good enough. The Parish Council needs to take responsibility. As we are the only people who have to put up with this we are also concerned that any improvement to the playground will attract more undesirables and therefore more inappropriate behaviour. Signage could advise that the playground should only be used, by say, the under 7's and will only be open from dawn until dusk. We bought the house and have no problem with development of the playground but the timing of all this has been unfortunate.

Volunteers working to improve the playground, **Beste Bragg, Mary Scarff and Louise Reid** wanted the two villagers and the Parish Council to know that due consideration had been given to the proposed placement of equipment in the playground and no final decision would be made without consultation. There is no intention to bar teenagers from the playground and if any late night activities are causing a nuisance then the Police need to be told.

One of the villagers replied by stating that the problem is they never know what time it is going to stop. Can this issue be addressed?

Beste, Mary and Louise wanted to know if they still had the support of the Parish Council to continue with trying to make improvements to the playground. The Parish Council assured them that they did.

Sally Thomas had expressed an interest in becoming a parish councillor. She is married and lives at Abbey Lodge Farm. Recently retired, having taught at Magdalen and Chenderit and finally Blessed George Napier where she was Head of Science, she would now like to give some time to village life. Sally stayed as an observer for the remainder of the meeting. Sally will be formally co-opted at the next meeting.

1. Apologies: Prof. David Mellor and David Dashwood

2. Minutes of previous meeting on 10th July had been circulated and were taken as read, signed and adopted.

7. Abuse of Children's Playground – this agenda item was brought forward.

A villager had contacted Cllr Grant who had phoned the Police. It is a law and order issue and therefore a Police matter and not the responsibility of the Parish Council. Anti-social behaviour is not usually a problem and this was the first time in 8 years that it had arisen. The Police had visited the ring leader which appeared to have dealt with the situation.

Several villagers had picked up all the bottles and other rubbish left in the field after the incident. Should a notice be erected to advise that the field should not be used after dusk? Anti-social behaviour is unacceptable wherever it happens and it is the Police that need to be contacted as soon as possible.

3. Matters arising:

Neighbourhood Watch. There had been some confusion between Neighbourhood Watch and a Neighbourhood Watch Support Team which was looking for financial support. Diane Jones is the Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator and this has not changed.

Solar Panels for the Village Hall. The Village Hall Committee is getting quotes and looking at fund-raising but nobody is looking at sources of funding. Recent correspondence from SNC regarding grants may be relevant and District Cllr Breese may be able to offer advice. The electricity bill for the Village Hall is the highest bill it receives but the meter should operate at a level to cover the cost. Does it do that?

4. Finance:

4.1 Barclays Bank statements at 30th August 2013

Business Saver	£200.20
Community Account	<u>£2765.75</u>
	£2965.95

4.2 Expenditure:

The following payments were authorised and cheques signed:

Cheque	Payee	Amount	Power
100577	Texprep	£132.60	Local Government Act 1972 s142
100578	Clerk's Salary and expenses	£355.00	Local Government Act 1972 s112 and s111
100579	HMRC	£70.00	
100580	Jon Hampson	£260.00	Open Spaces Act 1906 s 9 and 10

4.3 Conclusion of Audit for year ended 31st March 2013

There were no matters that came to the attention of the external auditors and the Annual Return was approved and accepted by the Parish Council. The Notice of Conclusion will be posted on the noticeboard and the Annual Return will be publicised on the web site.

5. Correspondence since 10th July

e-mail snvb NCC future investment in VCS – survey

e-mail NCALC Pay award and offer of 20% discount on the 9th Edition of Arnold Baker on Local Council Administration

e-mail NCALC Confirmed salary scales

e-mail West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit. West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy Local Plan (Part 1) Sustainability Appraisal/ Strategic Environmental Assessment Addendum Report – Scoping Report Consultation

CPRE Countryside Voice Summer 2013

e-mail NCALC eUpdate July/August 2013
 e-mail David Mellor – street light survey
 e-mail Lady Connell re: Cockley Road junction - *Cllr Mellor had replied*
 NCALC “Update” July - August 2013
 Northants 50+ - magazine and directory for the Over 50’s
 Community Consultation Ltd has become Community Lines Insurance Services
 e-mail David Mellor 10.00am – 11.00am 25th October Autumn Bypass Campaign
 e-mail NALC Friday mini update- funding, war memorials, broadband etc.
 e-mail NCALC notice of AGM 19th October
 e-mail Ron Sawbridge is standing as the Conservative candidate in the forthcoming by election
 e-mail Ann Kirkland, Northants CALC Training Courses
 e-mail Northamptonshire Highways – members’ newsletter x 2
 e-mail Information from snvb x 5
 e-mail NCALC Promote Superfast Broadband in your Community

SNC i) e-mailed casual vacancy notice to SNC
 ii) e-mail alterations to electoral register
 iii) e-mail advising that there is a level 3 heat warning in place
 iv) e-mail asking if when a planning notice has expired and has not been removed, could the Parish Council help and remove
 v) e-mail confirming that Parish Council can co-opt to fill vacancy
 vi) e-mail New Homes Bonus Grants
 vii) Grants at South Northamptonshire Council
 viii) e-mail Parish Clerk’s Forum planned for 8th November at 10.00am
 ix) e-mail Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)
 x) e-mail Pest Control Services – charges

NCC i) e-mail Northamptonshire Consultations Minerals and Waste Development Framework Partial Review
 ii) e-mail Street Doctor Marketing Campaign

6. Traffic Issues:

Cllr Mellor had received a letter from Andrea Leadsom and she had enclosed a copy of her letter to Head of Transport and Highways, David Farquhar at NCC.
 Cllr Mellor had scheduled a meeting with Andrea Leadsom MP for 11th October.

7. Abuse of Children’s Playground

This agenda item had been dealt with after Public Time

8. Street Lighting

Although the Parish Council pays an agreed amount (£137.25) per quarter for an unmetered supply of electricity, it is believed that the use of LED lamps for the street lights may well produce a cost saving. Cllr Mellor has asked E.On to provide a quote for the next meeting.

9. Planning Matters:

Application number	Address	Details	Status/Decision
S/2013/1097/ FUL	Manor Farm, Steane	Change of use of stable building to dwelling. <i>The Parish Council supported the first application and supports this on the basis that the objections placed by SNC against the original application have now been addressed.</i>	Re-submission, first application refused
S/2013/1100/ FUL	Shenna House, 1 Cockley Road	Proposed single storey porch extension. <i>The Parish Council supported the application.</i>	
S/2013/1108/ FUL	Glebe Farm	New agricultural grain store/drying building <i>The Parish Council supported the application.</i>	

Councillors round the table.....

Date of Next Meeting

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

The meeting closed at 8.40pm
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