

Minutes of the Farndon Parish Council held on Monday, 4th December 2017 at 6.30pm in the Parish Room

Present: **Councillor M Baker, in the Chair**
 Councillor Mrs Bayne
 Councillor I Millner
 Councillor M Oldham
 Councillor J Teixeira-Gomes

Also in attendance: **District Councillors I Walker, K Walker and 4 members of the public**

FPC17-91 Apologies for absence

Received and accepted from Cllrs A Duckmanton, Mrs J Gafney, County Cllr Mrs Saddington and District Cllr Mison.

FPC17-92 Declarations of interest

It was AGREED that any declarations of interest would be stated by Members as required during the meeting.

FPC17-93 Minutes of the Parish Council – Monday, 23rd October 2017

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 23rd October 2017 were accepted as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

FPC17-94 County Councillor Session – Cllr Mrs Saddington

No report was presented as Cllr Mrs Saddington had given her apologies.

FPC17-95 Nottinghamshire County Council

(a) **Nottinghamshire Minerals Local Plan – Consultation**

Members noted that the Plan was now out for consultation. It was AGREED that the Clerk would review and complete, as necessary, with Councillor Oldham.

(b) **Conference for Parish and Town Councils – 12th December 2017**

Members received and noted the invitation to the Conference for Parish and Town Councils organised by the County Council.

The Clerk advised that she was attending from North Muskham Parish Council and would report back to a future meeting.

(c) **Consultation on NCC Validation Document**

Members received and noted the consultation on how the County Council will validate planning applications they receive.

(d) **Local Improvement Scheme 2018-21**

Members noted that the County Council had launched the new Local Improvement Scheme which could provide grants of up to £50,000 to support local community

organisations.

Closing date for any applications is 8th January 2018.

(e) **Farndon Boathouse – Diversion of Footpath**

The Clerk updated Members on the correspondence with the County Council regarding a temporary closure of the bridleway for an event at the Boathouse.

No application had been made, with a visit by the Rights of Way Officer confirming that the path was fine for walkers, albeit horse riders may have had to dismount. Therefore, a full path closure for the duration of the event was not required.

(f) **Village Gateway Sign**

The Clerk reminded Members of the correspondence with Nottinghamshire County Council earlier in the year regarding a gateway sign. A non-standard 'Heritage-style' village name plates vary in price up to £2,500 per sign plus installation by an approved contractor. Additionally, future maintenance, repair and replacement would fall on the Parish Council.

An offer had been made by the County Council too install a sign to replicate the one at the Newark end of the village (subject to a suitable location and compliance). This would be installed, maintained and repaired by Via Ltd.

The Chair suspended the meeting at 6.43pm to allow a resident to speak. A group of residents were keen to submit an application to the Local Improvement Scheme for a Village Gateway sign. Costs were £2,500 for one sign, £4,000 for two plus installation.

The resident was confident that donations would be made by villagers, and an appeal for support could be made in the Farndon Focus, if grant funding was not forthcoming.

Cllr Mrs Bayne asked if it would be possible to establish ongoing costs for repair and maintenance from a Parish Council that already had a village gateway sign. It was AGREED that the Clerk would make enquiries and report back to Members.

After discussion it was proposed by Cllr Baker, seconded by Cllr Gomes, that delegated authority be given to the Clerk to liaise with the residents in submitting an application to the Local Improvement Scheme.

(g) **Carols on the Green – Road Closure Notice**

The Clerk confirmed that the temporary prohibition of driving for Church Street for the Carols on the Green event had been confirmed. Restrictions would apply from 5.30pm until 7.30pm on Wednesday, 20th December.

The Carols on the Green event would commence at 6.15pm for a 6.30pm start. Newark Town Band would be in attendance. Proceeds would be shared between the Newark Town Band and Newark Dementia Carers Group. Members were welcome to

attend.

FPC17-96 District Councillor Session

The Chair suspended the meeting at 6.51pm to allow for reports from the District Councillors.

Councillor K Walker, advised he had nothing to report, but wished Members a Happy Christmas and New Year.

Councillor I Walker, also extended his best wishes to Members for the Festive Season.

He also referred to an article in the Newark Advertiser that highlighted Newark as a bad place to live. The article was not specific to Newark as a town, but the area as a whole. Successive Governments had reduced the amount of money given to local authorities over the years which had not been beneficial.

Councillor Gomes said that, for a small town, Newark, and the surrounding area, had a lot to offer.

The Chair thanked the Councillors for their report and reconvened the meeting at 6.54pm.

FPC17-97 Farndon Residents Environment Group

The Chair suspended the meeting at 6.55pm for a report from FREG.

Mr Swanwick advised that FREG had undertaken their usual litter pick and had also undertaken tree pruning at Farndon Park.

The Chair thanked Mr Swanwick for his report and reconvened the meeting at 6.56pm.

FPC17-98 Public 10 Minute Session

The Chair suspended the meeting at 6.57pm for the public session.

Mr Swanwick asked if it would be possible to have a copy of the Environment Agency report when received.

The Clerk advised that the report would be available in January or February and would then be presented to Members. The report would then be shared if Members felt it appropriate.

The Chair thanked the members of the public for their questions and reconvened the meeting at 6.59pm

FPC17-99 Parish Council Matters

(a) **Feedback on Remembrance Sunday 2017 and Arrangements for 2018**

The Chair informed Members of the confusion that had surrounded the arrangements

for Remembrance Sunday, with no service being held at the Church.

An email had been received from the Church explaining the reason behind the lack of a formal service and extending the apologies of the Lay Readers who had not appreciated the significance of the second service in church.

It was AGREED that the Clerk should liaise with the Church on the 2018 service.

- (b) **Newark Healthcare Consultative Group – notes from meeting on 29th September**
Members noted receipt of the notes from the meeting held on 29th September. It was AGREED that the Clerk would forward a copy to Members for information.

- (c) **Village Policing**
The Chair reported that he had recently become aware that there was no Beat Manager allocated to the village. He had asked for clarity from the Assistant Chief Constable at the recent NALC AGM and been advised that the force were currently recruiting.

It was AGREED that a letter be sent to the Police & Crime Commissioner, Paddy Tipping, to ask for his comments.

FPC17-100 Update Reports from Chairs

- (a) **Planning & General Purposes**

Planning Enforcement Matters

Members received and noted correspondence from the Planning Enforcement Officer regarding the fencing at 11 Chapel Lane.

It had been confirmed that the fencing would constitute permitted development under Schedule 2 Part 2 Class A (means of enclosure) of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 2015 and, as such, the Enforcement Case had been closed.

17/02048/TWCA – Alderbrook House, 2 Howitts Field, Farndon – T1 Cryptomeria Japonica ‘Sekkan-Sugi’ tree – Remove tree as it is approximately 9 metres tall and presents a possible risk to the adjacent building. Replace with smaller specimen elsewhere

Members received and noted the decision notice granting permission for tree works at Alderbrook House, 2 Howitts Field, Farndon.

17/01934/TWCA – 7 Marsh Lane, Farndon – Lime Tree (T1) – Crsown lift branches overhanging the highway to provide no more than 5.3 metres clearance from ground level to allow adequate clearance for high-sided vehicles – remove deadwood and reduce back 2 No. branches facing 5 and 7 Marsh Lane by no more than 1 metre

Members received and noted the decision notice granting permission for tree works at 7 Marsh Lane, Farndon.

17/01972/TWCA – 3 Marsh Lane, Farndon – Crown lift/reduce branches of Yew and Conifer trees overhanging the highway to provide no more than 5.3 metres clearance from ground level to allow adequate clearance for high sided vehicles

Members received and noted the decision notice granting permission for tree works at 3 Marsh Lane, Farndon.

17/02015/TWCA – 5 Marsh Lane, Farndon - Lime tree – Crown lift/reduce branches overhanging the highway to provide no more than 5.3 metres clearance from ground level to allow adequate clearance for high sided vehicles

Members received and noted the decision notice granting permission for tree works at 5 Marsh Lane, Farndon.

New date for Footpath Inspection Walk

After discussion it was AGREED that this should now be arranged for a date in March 2018.

It was AGREED that the Clerk should contact the Rights of Way team at the County Council to raise concerns at the condition of Footpath No 3 that runs behind the school.

(b) **Playing Field**

Play Area Inspection

The Clerk advised that a representative from Wicksteed had visited the play area on 16th November. A quotation had been received to replace the hand holds on the climbing wall that had previously been vandalised. It was AGREED that these should be purchased.

In terms of the other work, it was AGREED that the Clerk should contact an alternative supplier who specialised in wooden play area equipment to see if they could supply the parts required.

Cllr Millner asked if it would be possible to investigate providing lights at the play area. It was AGREED that the Clerk would contact Western Power Distribution to discuss supply to the area and report back to a future meeting.

Play Area Inspection Training

It was AGREED that two places should be booked on the course arranged by Rural Community Action Nottinghamshire on Tuesday, 1st May, at a cost of £70 per delegate.

(c) **Cemetery**

Report from Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust

Members received and noted the report from Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust. It was AGREED that the Clerk should investigate costs and report back to a future meeting.

Feedback from Meeting with Parochial Church Council

Councillor Mrs Bayne reported back on the recent meeting held with members of the

Parochial Church Council. The Church were looking at a 5 year plan for the Church and Church yard, so it was an appropriate time for both the PCC and the Parish Council to be having a discussion on its future.

It was AGREED that a further meeting be arranged to decide the way forward.

Management of Soil from Interments

The Clerk advised that an alternative management of excess soil had been investigated. A contractor would come in and remove the soil at a cost of £170 per load. This was cheaper than a skip and less time intensive. It was AGREED that one load should be booked and then reviewed.

Article in Farndon Focus

The Chair referred to an article in the Farndon Focus regarding a resident of Farndon, who served in the RAF, that had died in 1940. Cllr Mrs Bayne was aware of the grave in question, it was not known why there was no Commonwealth War Grave headstone but a presumption could be made that it was because he was not killed in action.

(d) **Ponds & Riverside**

Picnic Area

Cllr Gomes confirmed that the new picnic bench and bins had been installed on the picnic area.

Riverside Car Park

Cllr Gomes requested that the leaves be removed from the car park as they were beginning to build up.

Environment Agency – Visit to Survey Ponds

The Clerk confirmed that the Environment Agency had completed their survey of the ponds on Wednesday, 22nd November.

As reported earlier in the meeting, it was expected that the findings would be received in January/February.

Receipt of Memorial Bench

The Clerk advised that the memorial bench had now been received and would be installed shortly in the ponds.

FPC17-101 Financial Matters

- (a) **To consider accounts for payments in accordance with the circulated schedule**
Members received and noted the accounts for payment to 4th December 2017.
- (b) **To note any receipts in accordance with the circulated schedule**
Members received and noted the receipts received to 4th December 2017.
- (c) **To note the Council's financial position as at 31st October 2017**

Members noted the Council's financial position as at 31st October 2017.

(d) **Notification of External Auditor Appointments for the 2017/18 Financial Year**

The Clerk advised that notification had now been received of the External Auditor Appointments for the 2017/18 Financial Year. PKF Littlejohn LLP had been appointed for Nottinghamshire.

(e) **To consider the Council's budget and Precept for the 2018/19 Financial Year**

The Clerk advised that inflation at September 2017 was 2.8%. No increase had been made to the Council's Precept for the last two financial years and it was felt prudent to consider increasing the Precept by the level of inflation.

Discussion took place around the potential for a 3% increase in the Precept, which would see it increase to £52,530. A projected increase of £1.91 per annum on a Band D property.

It was AGREED that the Clerk would put together a draft budget and circulate to Members for consideration at the 22nd January meeting.

The Clerk advised that there was an amount of £14,631 currently held by Newark & Sherwood District Council. This was Section 106 monies that could be used towards a relevant project in the currently held by Newark & Sherwood District Council. It was AGREED that the Farndon Cricket Club be advised that a sum of monies was held which could be used towards ensuring their application for grant funding could be progressed.

It was AGREED that the Clerk should request the money be returned to the Parish Council.

FPC17-102 Notts Association of Local Councils

(a) **Data Protection – Feedback on Training Event**

The Clerk reported on the recent training event attended on the new Data Protection regulations. There was still some confirmation required in terms of whether the Clerk could be both the officer and controller. Information would be circulated when this was known.

After discussion it was AGREED that the Clerk should investigate providing specific email addresses for Members, separate to their personal addresses.

(b) **Report from Chair on Executive Committee**

The Chair confirmed he had been re-elected to the Executive Committee of NALC at the Annual General Meeting.

A tree survey company had exhibited at the Annual General Meeting. It was AGREED that the details be shared with the Clerk.

(c) **Best Kept Village Competition Feedback**

The Chair had been presented with a Certificate and cheque in the sum of £125 as winner of the Best New Entrant.

Feedback had been received on why the entry had not been taken forward to the next round. It was AGREED that this be forwarded to Members for information.

FPC17-103 To receive any correspondence

(a) **Greenwood Community Tree Planting Grants**

Grants were now available for tree planting schemes, that also included hedgerows.

(b) **Potential Development**

The Chair referred to correspondence from GPS Planning & Design Limited requesting attendance at a Parish Council meeting to share information on a development proposal they were working on.

After discussion it was AGREED that the Clerk should extend an invitation to the 22nd January meeting.

FPC17-104 To receive items for notification

None were received.

FPC17-105 Date of Next Meeting

Monday, 22nd January 2018

The meeting closed at 8.17pm.