

SUBJECT TO RATIFICATION AT THE 23rd NOVEMBER 2020 VIRTUAL MEETING

Minutes of the virtual meeting of Farndon Parish Council held on Monday, 26th October 2020 at 6.30pm

Present: Councillor M Baker, in the Chair
Councillor Mrs Bayne
Councillor Duckmanton
Councillor Mrs Kingston
Councillor Parker
Councillor Teixeira-Gomes

Also in attendance District Councillor Walker

FPC20-063 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from County Councillor Mrs Saddington.

FPC20-064 Declarations of Interest

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

FPC20-065 Minutes of the Parish Council held on 28th September 2020

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 28th September 2020 were accepted as a true and correct record.

FPC20-066 **COVID-19 Update**

The Clerk confirmed that Nottingham and parts of Nottinghamshire had now been moved to tier 3, but Newark & Sherwood remained in tier 2.

Members were sorry to learn that resident, Alec Sutton, a veteran of WW2 had recently passed away. Minimal support had been given to him during the lockdown.

FPC20-067 **County Councillor Session**

No report was presented as County Councillor had given her apologies. An email relating to issues with Network Rail and level crossings had been forwarded to Members for information.

FPC20-068 **Nottinghamshire County Council**

(a) LGR Focus Group Feedback

The Clerk reported that both she and the Chair had attended the LGR Focus Group on devolution. It was understood that the County was not in the first tranche for devolution.

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(b) Farndon Village Green
Following the September meeting, further information had been sent to Councillor Mrs Saddington and the Rights of Way team for information.

(c) Roadworks Bulletin – Hawton Lane, Farndon
Notification received that Hawton Lane would be closed from 7.30am on 9th November, to 5pm on 21st November.

The first week would be for resurfacing, the second week would be work to repair safety barriers near the Car Dyke bridge. For the duration of the work period access to Honey's Lane will only be available from Farndon. The road will remain closed during night time hours.

(d) Consultation on Admission Arrangements – Newark Academy
A consultation had been opened, which would run to 4th December 2020. It was understood that there were proposed changes to the Newark Academy catchment area.

It was noted that Farndon St Peter's is a linked primary school with the Newark Academy.

It was AGREED that the consultation be promoted on Farndon Residents page and the Chair to make enquiries if it could be included in the next issue of the Farndon Focus.

FPC20-069 District Councillor Session

Councillor Walker referred to the increase in fly tipping, which was a major problem. Senior Managers at Newark & Sherwood District Council, and the MP, were currently reviewing the best way forward. The correct surveillance cameras were key.

Councillor Duckmanton asked if the Parish Council had purchased the bracket when the camera had been located at the top of the unmade part of Long Lane, as it was now no longer there. The Clerk confirmed that it had been purchased, at a cost of £400. Enquiries would be made to locate it and have it returned.

Councillor Walker commented that the District Council were still heavily involved in providing support for the COVID-19 pandemic.

(a) Bid to Parish and Town Council Initiative Fund
The Clerk confirmed that the bid had been submitted, with the two main documents circulated to Members for information. The panel had met earlier this afternoon and it was hoped that confirmation would be received soon on whether or not the bid had been successful.

(b) Impact of New builds on Car Parking Review

The Clerk gave background on the timeline to the car parking review that was understood to have been completed but no information had been fed back to the Parish Council. The issue had been discussed at the May 2018 Parish Council meeting and the Clerk referred to the minute from that time. The matter had been chased since that time and, more recently, reference had been made to the survey in the Parish Council's response to the development at The Meadows.

The Director of Planning had been contacted and asked for an update prior to the meeting this evening. However, he was on leave and colleagues had not been able to provide any information in the timeline.

The Chair advised that the matter had been raised at planning training he had attended recently, and also with an officer at a recent site meeting at The Meadows.

Councillor Walker AGREED to take this matter up on behalf of the Parish Council.

A discussion took place on what would happen if cars parked correctly on the affected roads and whether that would elicit a quicker response.

Councillor Duckmanton sought confirmation on the use of the word 'unanimous' in the comments submitted on the development at The Meadows. The Clerk confirmed this referred to the number of Members present at the time the application was considered.

The Chair confirmed that work would commence shortly, with notice having been given to those that had garages.

Councillor Duckmanton expressed his concern at the lack of support being given to the village. There were a number of issues that impacted on the built environment but when these issues were raised the relevant authorities appeared to be powerless to act.

After discussion it was AGREED that the Clerk forward relevant information to Councillor Walker.

FPC20-070 Farndon Residents Environment Group

(a) FREG Minutes – 5th October 2020

A copy had been circulated to Members for information.

FREG continued to do work in the outer areas with social distancing in place. A calendar was planned for 2022 and requests for photographs had been posted on social media.

FPC20-071 Public 10 Minute Session

There were no members of the public present.

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FPC20-072 Parish Council Matters

(a) Parish Council/Village Website

The Clerk advised that it was hoped to have the website live by the end of this week.

(b) Speedwatch Training

The Clerk confirmed that a post had been placed on the Farndon Residents Page to ask for volunteers to come forward to register for training.

A response was awaited from the Community Protection Team on when the training could be undertaken with the current tier 2 restrictions.

A number of Members were happy to undertake the training when it was arranged.

(c) Remembrance Sunday

Members noted the information which had been circulated from Reverend Murray regarding arrangements for Remembrance Sunday on 8th November 2020. The wreath for the Church memorial would be laid as part of the service. The wreath for the memorial in the Memorial Hall would just be placed.

Wooden crosses had been ordered for the Commonwealth War Graves in the Cemetery, which would be placed by Councillor Mrs Bayne.

Enquiries had been made of the Royal British Legion to see whether the Silent Soldiers were still available. It had been confirmed that these were only available during 2018 for the Centenary of the end of WW1. Further, it was not possible to acquire any new Lamp Post Poppies as, due to Legion warehouse staff having to work in a very confined environment whilst remaining socially distanced, they were only available in huge bulk orders this year due to the restricted capacity.

As an alternative to the Silent Soldier the Clerk had identified a 4ft metal soldier silhouette that was available at a cost of £85, with a donation to the Royal British Legion as part of the price. It was AGREED that one be purchased and it be sited in the Cemetery.

The Clerk advised that, if any Lamp Post Poppies were remaining, they would be limited in number. Councillor Mrs Kingston suggested an approach be made to Farndon St Peter's School to make poppies that could be used to decorate the Cemetery, if no Lamp Post Poppies were available.

It was noted that the co-ordinator of the craft tree was leaving the village, with a replacement co-ordinator taking over at Christmas.

FPC20-073 Update Reports from Chairs

(a) Chairman's Report

Land at Main Street

The Chair advised that the owner of the land at the junction of Fosse Road and Main Street had been identified and a visit made. A site meeting had been held at the land with the Chair, Clerk and Sexton to view its condition.

The Chair advised that the owner was content for the Parish Council to undertake work to tidy the land and sought the views of Members.

The Clerk expressed concern that this was private land and, as such, the owner should take responsibility for it. The Parish Council was responsible for its land, which it managed and maintained and it would not expect anyone else to undertake that responsibility.

It was recognised that the land was valuable habitat and was perhaps that was because it was untouched.

A discussion took place with Members having different views on how to approach the land.

It was noted that, from a visual aspect at the entrance to the village, there would be a benefit to it being tidied, but it was recognised that it was private land. The Chair confirmed that the owner would not gift it to the Parish Council, neither would they sell it.

It was AGREED that the Parish Council approach the Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust to establish if they would be able to survey the land to identify its value as habitation as a starting point.

(b) Planning

The link to applications on the District Council's website had been forwarded to Members for consideration in advance of the meeting.

Applications

20/01866/FUL – 1 School Lane, Farndon - Demolition of an existing dormer bungalow, and the erection of two farmstead style dwellings

Members noted the application submitted for 1 School Lane. The Clerk confirmed that there was an objection submitted by the occupant of 3A School Lane, which was read to Members.

Members noted that, as part of the preparation for the application, the applicant had sought advice from both Planning and Conservation at Newark & Sherwood District Council, who were supportive of the proposals.

After discussion it was AGREED that the Chair and Councillor Parker be given delegated authority to determine the Council's response after a site meeting had been held.

Decision Notices

20/01162/FUL – Land at The Meadows, Farndon – Retention of 6 of the garages and erection of 2 no 1 bed flats

Members noted the decision notice granting planning permission as outlined.

The Chair referred to a site meeting regarding a query on whether or not a piece of land belonged to the Parish Council.

20/01567/HOUSE – 1 Prebends Close, Farndon – Proposed extensions to the property

Members noted the decision notice granting planning permission for proposed extensions to the property.

20/01823/CMA – St Peter's Early Years, Playing Fields, Marsh Lane - To renew the existing planning permission for the existing 30 place pre-school nursery

Members noted the existing planning permission for the nursery had been renewed.

Tree Works

- 20/01821/TWCA - 4 School Lane, Farndon - T1 Silver Birch - Fell dying tree. T2 Lime - Re-pollard to 4 metres. T3 Magnolia - Remove north east limb to fence line T4 Laurels - Crown lift to achieve 2.5m clearance over path and 5.2m clearance over road. T5 Ash - Fell poor specimen to give growth space to adjacent smaller trees.
- 20/01855/TPO – 3 Birchenall Court, Farndon - Fell 1no. Yew tree protected by TPO N45 identified as being within G1 of the Order
- 20/01889/TPO – 21A Orchid Drive, Farndon - T1 Silver Birch - Fell due to root damage of neighbours garden (possibly protected by TPO N333)
- 20/02033/TWCA - Manor Barns, Main Street, Farndon - Removal of Leylandii hedge - approximately 15mts
- 20/01740/TPO – Birch Cottage, 50 Long Lane, Farndon – Works to trees protected by TPO N333 identified as forming part of Group G1; Silver birch (T1) reduce by 1m overall because of excessive shading and damage to lawn.

Members received and noted information regarding work to trees at various locations in the village as outlined above.

(c) General Purposes

There was nothing to report.

(d) Playing Field

Winter Maintenance Programme

The Clerk advised that, together with the Sexton, a winter maintenance programme
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was needed in all areas.

For the playing field, the white bollards and gates needed to be painted (weather dependent), the bowls club hedge needed to be cut (outside would need to be by contractor, inside could be undertaken by the Sexton), and the painting of the play area fence needed to be completed.

Councillor Duckmanton referred to problems experienced during lockdown with people accessing the play area when it was closed by climbing over the railings or using access gates from their gardens.

After discussion it was AGREED that a quotation be sought for a 1.8m fence a metre away from the back boundaries of the adjoining properties and brought back to the November meeting.

(e) Cemetery

Winter Maintenance Programme

In terms of winter maintenance for the Cemetery, other than normal duties, the major job would be to remove the epicormic growth from the centre of the pollarded Limes before 1st April.

The boundary fence would also need to be painted. This could be done in blocks. The Clerk to discuss with the Sexton in greater detail.

The Clerk referred to correspondence from residents at 5 Almond Grove concerned at the size of the Norway Maple on the boundary of their property. This was a mature tree that was over 50 years old, the residents had lived at the property for 26 years. At the time of the survey, the tree was identified as needing deadwood and lower branches removed. This work was undertaken.

It was AGREED that the Clerk arrange for the tree to be inspected again to identify if any further work could be undertaken which would keep the tree balanced. A report would be brought back to the November meeting.

(f) Ponds & Riverside

Winter Maintenance Programme

The Clerk advised that a lot of the work that would be undertaken in the ponds would be as outlined in the bid to the Parish and Town Council Initiative Fund. This work would be undertaken in conjunction with FREG.

The Clerk confirmed that the clapper gates were listed structures under the responsibility of the Canals and Rivers Trust. The Trust had been asked to inspect them and confirmation had been received that they had been added to the Inspector's list. A reminder would be sent.

FPC20-074 Financial Matters

- (a) To consider accounts for payments in accordance with the circulated schedule
Members received and noted the accounts for payments as outlined in the circulated schedule.

- (b) To note any receipts in accordance with the circulated schedule
Members received and noted the receipts as outlined in the circulated schedule.

- (c) To note the Council's financial position as at 30th September 2020
The Clerk confirmed that the summary sent through was the Council's financial position as at 22nd October. The full precept had now been received and finances were balancing at the moment, with another six months remaining of the financial year.

- (d) To receive a half year budget report
Reports outlining income and expenditure for the year, and also a copy of the forward budget, had been sent to Members for information.

Letting income for the Farndon Recreation Ground was under slightly, but not a huge amount as Early Years had continued to pay throughout the pandemic. The Parish Council were picking up the electricity and water rates for the bowling club and a budget line had been included for that.

There was an overspend on grass cutting which should level itself out. More work had been undertaken by Contractors throughout the year.

Cemetery fees were lower than budgeted as there had been a reduction in burials during the year, despite being in a pandemic. Members were reminded that the Cemetery regulations were amended at the start of the pandemic so that burials were restricted to Farndon residents only. That restriction still remains, and that has slowed the take up of space.

FPC20-075 Nottinghamshire Association of Local Councils

- (a) 75th Annual General Meeting – 19th November 2020
A response was required by Friday, 30th October, if any other Members wished to attend as a voting delegate. Councillor Teixeira-Gomes confirmed he would like to attend with Councillor Baker.

FPC20-076 Correspondence

There was none to report.

FPC20-077 Items for Notification

Councillor Teixeira-Gomes asked if the telephone box could be brightened up as

it was looking a little untidy. The Clerk to review.

Councillor Teixeira-Gomes advised that flowers would be needed for the planters. It may be possible to save the bulbs from the planters if they were picked before the frosts. The Sexton to be asked to find space to store them in the Mortuary.

FPC20-078 Date of Next Meeting
Monday, 23rd November 2020

The meeting closed at 8.30pm

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Signature _____ Date _____