

Minutes of the Meeting of Farndon Parish Council held on Monday, 26th February 2024 in the Memorial Hall at 6.30pm

Present: **Councillor M Baker**
 Councillor Mrs H Bayne
 Councillor Mrs M Bayne
 Councillor B Boyer
 Councillor A Chrimes
 Councillor A Duckmanton
 Councillor Mrs S Kingston
 Councillor P Parker
 Councillor P Rawlings

Also present, Stephen Swanwick (FREG) and District Councillors Allen, Kellas & Haynes and County Councillor Mrs Saddington

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

FPC23-109 Apologies for absence
 There were none.

FPC23-110 Declarations of Interest
 It was AGREED that any declarations of interest would be stated by Members as required during the meeting.

FPC23-111 Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council – 22nd January 2024
 Subject to an amendment to include Councillor Boyer as being present, the minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 22nd January 2024, were accepted as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Councillor Mrs Kingston asked that when the Precept for the 2025-26 financial year needed to be considered it be included earlier on the agenda.

FPC23-112 **County Councillor Session**
 This item would be taken if, and when, Councillor Mrs Saddington arrived.

FPC23-113 **Nottinghamshire County Council**
 To note any items received from Nottinghamshire County Council
 There were none.

FPC23-114 **District Councillor Session**
 This item would be taken when all District Councillors were present.

FPC23-115 Farndon Residents Environment Group

The Chair suspended the meeting at 6.32pm to allow Mr Swanwick to present his report.

Mr Swanwick confirmed that the monthly litter pick had been undertaken. No nitrous oxide cannisters had been found on this occasion. In between the floods, some work had been undertaken on Farndon Park, including clearance of suckers.

A query was raised over the ownership of the Willows along the boundary of Wyke Lane, which required pollarding. The Clerk advised that a query would be raised with Via, to clarify if they formed part of the highway verge.

The Chair thanked Mr Swanwick for his report and reconvened the meeting at 6.34pm.

FPC23-114 District Councillor Session

(cont)

The Chair suspended the meeting at 6.35pm for the District Councillors report.

Councillor Kellas referred to his report. Following the January meeting, clarification had been sought from Newark & Sherwood District Council on the flooding issues raised. Applications for support for those flooded in Storm Henk was now open. Deadline for the receipt of completed applications is 8th April. Applications could be completed online or residents could call in to the District Council offices at Castle House.

The District Councillors had been contacted by Farndon Cub Scouts who were looking for help in doing some work in the community. The District Councillors would be working with them to achieve this.

Councillor Haynes advised that there had been a second meeting at Castle House relating to Urban & Civic and concerns around work at Middlebeck. There were some challenges and those had been passed over to Urban & Civic. It was hoped there would be some improvements. A further meeting was planned in early March.

It had been agreed that there would be a 7.7% increase in rent across Council properties, effective from 1st April 2024.

Councillor Allen advised that a consultation would be going out shortly regarding the Public Space Protection Orders, including dog control orders.

Finally, Councillor Kellas referred to a letter that had recently been issued to residents of The Meadows around privet hedges and maintaining access for pedestrians.

The Chair thanked District Council Members for their report and reconvened the meeting at 6.40pm.

FPC23-112 County Councillor Session

(cont)

The Chair suspended the meeting at 6.41pm for Councillor Mrs Saddington's report.

The Clerk confirmed that emails relating to the situation on North End relating to the drains and the pumping station, from Via and Severn Trent, had been circulated to Members for information.

Councillor Mrs Saddington was trying to establish a meeting to address the problems of flooding in her Trentside parishes and would include Farndon in that.

Councillor Mrs Saddington advised that the resurfacing of Great North Road had been secured and should be completed over the Summer.

The County Council had set their budget, with an increase of 4.84% agreed.

A request for financial support had been received from Newark Sea Scouts for the purchase of equipment. This would be considered in the 2024-25 financial year.

A donation of £265 had been given to the Parish Council from Councillor Mrs Saddington's Divisional Fund. The Clerk had suggested this could be used towards providing trees on the playing field in the area occupied by the old pavilion, which was scheduled to be removed in May 2024.

Councillor Duckmanton referred to the January 2024 meeting when Councillor Mrs Saddington had referred to the road closure at Hawton and meetings that were being held with Urban & Civic to mitigate that closure. Councillor Mrs Saddington updated Members on the present position. Urban & Civic had originally requested a 9 month closure, that had now been reduced to 6 months. The closure was necessary as the new road was 2.5m higher than the existing, and a new culvert needed to be constructed. Given the amount of heavy plant in the area it was not considered safe for there to be any access during this time. A request had been made for temporary traffic lights at the Hawton Road bridge, with a view to a permanent set being installed.

Councillor Parker referred to the yellow markings that had been placed on Long Lane highlighting areas where work was required. Unfortunately, they had now washed off due to the persistent rainfall. Councillor Mrs Saddington advised this would be followed up with Officers and any update sent to the Clerk for information.

In response to a question, Councillor Mrs Saddington explained the process for the Elected Mayor and the benefits that would bring. It was suggested that Members ask candidates to confirm how they would invest in transport, if the opportunity arose. The funding attached to the role would be from Central Government.

The Chair thanked Cllr Mrs Saddington for her report and reconvened the meeting at 7.08pm.

FPC23-116 Newark & Sherwood District Council

(a) To receive Action Points from the Flood Warden meeting

Members noted the Action Points from the Flood Warden meeting held at Castle House on 15th January 2024.

Councillor Mrs H Bayne asked the Clerk to seek clarification on whether the District Council had fed any information back to residents. Given the information received from Severn Trent and Via referred to under Minute No FPC23-112, the Clerk was asked to produce a summary and circulate to residents so they were aware that action had been taken since the January meeting.

FPC23-115 Farndon Residents Environment Group

(cont) Members received and noted the Minutes of the FREG Main Meetings held in January and February.

FPC23-117 Public 10 Minute Session

There were no questions raised.

FPC23-118 Parish Council Matters

(a) To receive reports from representatives on outside bodies

Councillor Mrs Kingston advised that the monthly coffee mornings at the Memorial Hall were going well, with the next one scheduled for Saturday, 9th March. Another charity boxing match had been arranged for 28th April, and Robert Jenrick MP had booked the Hall in April for a meeting with constituents.

Councillor Mrs Kingston referred to recent damage to the posts along Marsh Lane, one of which had been removed as it had been damaged. The Memorial Hall Trustees had asked whether the Parish Council would be prepared to cover 50% of the cost of replacement, in the sum of £400.

After discussion, it was AGREED that this request not be supported. Additionally, the Clerk was asked to formally request that the gate be reinstated to prevent any unauthorised usage.

Councillor Boyer asked whether there were any vacancies on the Memorial Hall Trustees. The Clerk confirmed that the Parish Council could nominate and it was AGREED that Councillor Boyer be put forward.

The Chair referred to the introduction of 'Martyn's Law' that will have an impact on village halls. The Clerk would forward the link to relevant Members.

(b) To note the completed request for the Official King's Portrait

Members noted that the Clerk had completed a request for the Official Portrait of King Charles III.

- (c) To receive an update on the Community Emergency Plan
It was AGREED that this be deferred for consideration at the March meeting.
- (d) To consider introducing a 'Citizen of the Year' Award
Consideration took place of Councillor Rawlings suggestion that a 'Citizen of the Year' Award, or some other form of appreciation for residents that have enhanced the village in some way, be introduced.
- After discussion it was AGREED that, should it be considered that a resident has contributed to the village by their deeds or actions, a letter of thanks be sent to them on behalf of the Parish Council.
- (e) To consider entering the 'Best Kept Village Competition 2024'
After discussion, Members confirmed they did not wish to enter the reintroduced Best Kept Village Competition this year.

FPC23-119 Update Reports from Chairs

- (a) Chairman's Report
The Chair referred to the National Beacon Lighting Initiative that was scheduled for Thursday, 6th June to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of D-Day. The Clerk was asked to liaise with the organiser of the John Clark Fun Run and the Cricket Club to establish if a joint celebration could be arranged.
- The Chair reminded Members about the NALC Newsletter that would now be issued on a monthly basis. If Members had any feedback or comments they were asked to let the Chair know.
- (b) Planning
Prior to consideration of the Planning applications, Councillor Mrs H Bayne removed herself from the meeting at 7.43pm.

Applications

24/00013/LBC – 16 Main Street, Farndon - New boiler flue through roof.

Members considered the application and raised no objection to it.

Decision Notices

23/01845/FUL – Hardys Farm Shop, Hawton Lane - Proposed external upgrades including new roof covering, and wall cladding (Resubmission)

Members noted the decision notice granting planning permission for the development as outlined.

23/02270/HOUSE – 14 North End, Farndon – Alteration and extension to front dormer window to two dual-pitched dormers, two ground floor front extension, application of render to all external walls and replacement of windows and doors

Members noted the decision notice granting retrospective planning permission for the development as outlined.

24/00153/LDCP – 29 Brockton Avenue, Farndon - Certificate of Lawfulness for proposed single-storey side extension to replace conservatory
Members received the decision notice.

Councillor Mrs H Bayne rejoined the meeting at 7.45pm.

Tree Works

Prior to consideration of this item, Councillor Boyer declared a personal interest in 24/00079/TPO and removed herself from the meeting.

Members received and noted the following tree works:

23/02147/TWCA – Land off North End, Farndon - T17-T21 Willow - re-pollard to the original pollard points; T28 and T29 - Willow - re-pollard to the original pollard points; T2, T4, T8 and T10 Ash – deadwood; T25 and T27 Horse Chestnut - crown lift to 5.5m to 6m and deadwood; T12 Poplar – deadwood; T32 and T24 Oak – deadwood; T6 Lime – deadwood; T30 and T31 - crown lift to 5.5m to 6m and deadwood; G3 Willow - re-pollard to the original pollard points; Various mixed trees – deadwood - APPROVED

24/00342/TWCA – Rose & Crown, 25 Main Street, Farndon - T1 Ash, sectional fell to ground level. The tree is situated on the boundary between the two properties. The tree is causing excessive shading to the public space below and causing root damage to the boundary fencing – DECISION AWAITED

24/00079/TPO – 3 Jackson Court, Farndon - Undertake works as described within Tree Survey to 3 Lime trees, protected by TPO N41 identified as part of G3 – DECISION AWAITED

Any Other Planning Matters

There were none to consider.

(c) General Purposes

There were no matters to consider.

(d) Cemetery

To receive a report on the meeting arranged by Newark Town Council regarding Newark Cemetery and Future Burial Provision in Newark

Councillor Mrs M Bayne updated Members on the meeting attended on 31st January 2024. Representatives were present from local Funeral Directors and representatives from the Town Council and other Parish Councils that held burial grounds. A representative from the ICCM was also present.

The Town Council have limited space and no additional land available for an extension. The meeting had been called to establish what capacity there was in other areas and whether there was any appetite for the joint purchase of land.

There was no legal obligation for Councils to provide burial grounds, but it was accepted that morally there should be provision.

The Clerk would establish if any notes from the meeting would be circulated.

(e) Playing Field

The Clerk was asked to liaise with Councillor Duckmanton to source sand to use on the football pitch.

An inspection of the play area would be undertaken by Councillor Duckmanton, with the Sexton and Clerk, to review the recent report. Members would be advised of any actions that might need to be taken.

(f) Ponds & Riverside

Councillor Parker referred to horses being ridden along FP2, that connects the unmade part of Long Lane to the River Trent adjacent to the ponds. The Clerk would advise the Rights of Way Team and establish if any signage could be provided.

FPC23-120 Financial Matters

(a) To receive 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 31st January 2024

Members received and noted the Council's financial position as 31st January 2024, with a balance of £65,883.43 across the accounts.

(d) To consider areas where cost savings could be made for the 2024-25 budget

At the request of the Clerk, this item was deferred for consideration at the March meeting when there would be a clearer indication of the Council's financial position.

(e) To confirm the appointment of the Internal Auditor for the 2023-24 Accounts

BMB Financial Services Ltd were confirmed as the Internal Auditor for the 2023-24 Accounts.

FPC23-121 Notts Association of Local Councils

(a) Notts ALC February 2024 Newsletter

Members noted the circulated Newsletter.

FPC23-122 To receive any correspondence

(a) There was none to receive.

FPC23-123 Items for Notification

- (a) Councillor Duckmanton asked the Clerk to investigate whether goal nets could be attached to the permanent goalposts on the playing field.
- (b) The Clerk confirmed that the car on Almond Grove had been reported to PCSO Munro, in response to a question from Councillor Mrs Kingston.
- (c) Councillor Mrs H Bayne asked if the Parish Council had any land it could sell for benefit it kind. The Clerk advised that all the Parish Council's land was protected in perpetuity with Fields in Trust.

FPC23-124 Date of Next Meeting

Monday, 25th March 2024 at 6.30pm.

FPC23-125 To consider the exclusion of the press and public:

That pursuant to the provision of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 the Public and Press be excluded from the meeting due to the confidential nature of the business to be discussed.

2024-25 Budget & Staffing Considerations

(FPC23-126)

The meeting closed at 8.31pm.