

**Minutes of Farndon Parish Council held on Monday, 27<sup>th</sup> June 2016 at 6.30pm in the Parish Council Room**

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

**Also in attendance:** County Councillor Mrs Saddington, District Councillor K Walker and Pauline Chambers (FREG), together with 2 representatives from ARENA and 2 members of the public

FPC16-022 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Mr J Dodson of FREG.

FPC16-023 Declarations of interest

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

FPC16-024 Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council – 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2016

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2016 were accepted as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

FPC16-025 County Councillor Report

The Chair agreed that this would be taken if and when Councillor Mrs Saddington arrived.

FPC16-026 District Councillor Report

The Chair suspended the meeting at 6.35pm for Councillor Walker to present his report. Councillor Walker advised that there was very little to report from the District Council.

Councillor Walker expressed his sadness at the recent loss of Councillor Gafney. He described him as a brilliant man, hard working who worked for the benefit of the village. He would be greatly missed.

The Chair thanked Councillor Walker for his report and reconvened the meeting at 6.40pm.

FPC16-027 Presentation by Association of East Notts Authorities

With the agreement of Members, the Chair brought forward item No 8. on the agenda and welcomed Tony Roberts and Kevin Senior from the Association of East Notts Authorities to the meeting.

Mr Roberts gave a brief resume of the aim of the Association which was seeking to replace District Councils and the County Council with a unitary authority to deliver a rural agenda. It was proposed to encompass the A614 to the Lincolnshire boundary to include the towns of Retford and Newark.

The unitary authority would provide a single authority between Government and Parish Councils to deliver a proper rural agenda. It was proposed that the authority would take an amount of responsibility from Districts and the County Council, with Parish Councils taking on responsibility for services where possible.

It was about making localism more than a word and encouraging Parish Councils to take on more local services with quicker identification of problem areas. The authority would be on a non-political basis. Parish Councils would be allocated one representative on the unitary authority.

The Association needed to have the support of 35-40 Parish Councils to enable it to take the idea forward to Government. Parish Councils were, at this stage, being asked to consider supporting the idea in principle. The timeframe depended on when, and if, Parish Councils came on board.

The Chair opened the meeting to questions from the floor which saw questions posed regarding how the unitary authority would be funded.

It was AGREED that the item would be placed on a future agenda of the Parish Council for further consideration.

The Chair thanked the representatives for attending and reconvened the meeting at 6.59pm.

#### FPC16-028 County Councillor Report

With the arrival of County Councillor Mrs Saddington, the Chair suspended the meeting at 7pm to allow her to present her report.

Correspondence was shared regarding the proposed changes to the bus service in the village.

Councillor Mrs Saddington advised that she had attended a meeting regarding the new service 'Via' that would see 600+ staff transfer employment from the County Council on Friday, 1<sup>st</sup> July 2016. The new service would be in charge of network management and maintenance. The County Council would retain civil parking enforcement, the transport plan, safety and risk management and countryside access.

It was the aim of the service to improve the way work was undertaken to drive efficiencies.

The Chair thanked Councillor Mrs Saddington for her report and reconvened the meeting at 7.12pm.

FPC16-029 Farndon Residents Environment Group

The Chair suspended the meeting at 7.13pm to allow Pauline Chambers to present the report.

Pauline advised that a litter pick had recently been undertaken and pulling of the Himalayan Balsam had taken place on Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup> June.

The Clerk advised that a schedule had been received from FREG and it was AGREED that a copy should be circulated to Members for information.

The meeting was reconvened at 7.15pm.

FPC16-030 Public 10 Minute Session

A question was asked regarding the length the grass had reached recently in the meadow at the back of Sandhill Road, as it had also done in previous years.

The Clerk advised that a bi-weekly programme of open spaces was now in place and the meadow will be cut every 2 weeks during the growing season, going forward.

Councillor Duckmanton also explained that the weather had impacted over the last few weeks with the grass cutting.

FPC16-031 Parish Council Matters

(a) **Draft Lease in respect of St Peter's Early Years**

The Clerk advised that the draft lease had been submitted to the Early Years for consideration and comment. A number of points had been raised that needed to be investigated further.

After discussion it was AGREED that the Clerk should review the original documentation and discuss with the Council's solicitors in greater detail with a view to resolving the issues as soon as possible.

(b) **To receive details of the Memorial Bench for HM The Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday**

The Chair referred to, and circulated details of, the proposed design of the memorial benches; one of which would be gifted from the Parish Council, the other by the Farndon Focus.

It was AGREED that the purchase of the benches and engraving be approved at a cost of £1,540 (inc VAT).

It was further AGREED that the Clerk should liaise with the supplier on the appropriate fixing kit and to agree installation.

FPC16-032 Update Reports from Chairs

(a) **Planning & General Purposes**

**Decision Notice – 16/00615/LBC – Chestnut Farm, 36 Main Street, Farndon – Lime repointing and renovation of brickwork to be carried out on one side of the property as well as to the garden wall which surrounds the building**

Members received and noted the decision notice granting permission for the works as outlined.

**To note the application for tree works in St Peter’s Church Yard**

The Clerk advised that an acknowledgement had been received from the District Council regarding the application for tree works at St Peter’s Church. A response should be received within 6 weeks.

**16/00944/FUL – 37 Brockton Avenue, Farndon – Householder application for proposed two storey side extension**

It was AGREED that this application be supported.

**16/00807/FUL – 77 fosse Road, Farndon – Demolish Bungalow and outbuilding and erect 4 bedroom replacement dwelling**

It was AGREED that this application be supported but comment should be included that the Parish Council would not support any development in the land designated as open break in the Newark & Sherwood Local Development Framework Allocations & Development Management Development Plan Document which butted up to the application boundary.

(b) **Playing Field**

**Weed Spray of Playing Field**

Councillor Duckmanton advised that, subject to weather conditions, the field would be sprayed on Tuesday, 28<sup>th</sup> June.

**Fence behind Goal Posts**

The area had been inspected by the original contractors, however, further questioning had identified that the goal posts rather than the fence behind had been reviewed. A further inspection had been requested by the Clerk.

**Play Area Equipment**

The Clerk advised that a representative from Wicksteed Leisure had visited the play area. A response was awaited with a way forward to make the required repairs.

**Playground Inspection**

The Parish Council had been asked to confirm whether or not it wanted the play area to be inspected as part of the annual playground inspection arranged by the District Council.

It was AGREED that this invitation be accepted at a cost of £43.50 plus VAT.

**Newark Castle Cycling Club**

Councillor Duckmanton referred to correspondence received from Newark Castle Cycling Club seeking a new venue to coach their Junior team on a Tuesday evening.

The Club were looking for a:

- large open field
- toilet facilities
- place to sign in/out for safeguarding practices
- lockable storage facility

Members were agreeable to the use, in principle, but requested that the Clerk arrange a meeting between the Club and Councillor Duckmanton to discuss requirements in greater detail.

(c) **Cemetery**

**Changes to Severn Trent Water**

The Clerk advised that notification had been received from Severn Trent Water that they had joined forces with United Utilities to form Water Plus, specifically for business customers. This would take effect from April 2017.

**Update on Cemetery Regulations**

The Clerk apologised to Members that this work had not yet been completed.

It was AGREED that the Clerk would meet with Councillor Mrs Bayne, within the next two weeks, to make the required amendments.

(d) **Ponds & Riverside**

**Further information on request to place geocaches**

The Clerk circulated photographs of examples of the geocaches it was proposed to place in the Ponds.

It was AGREED that permission be granted, but that it be made clear permission can only be given for the Ponds which are within the ownership of the Parish Council.

**Farndon Ponds – loss of fish**

The Clerk advised that notification had been received from fishermen and via the Bailiff and Village Handyman that fish skeletons were being found around the Ponds.

The Environment Agency had been contacted for advice and the Rural Crimes Team of Nottinghamshire Police had been notified.

**Farndon Ponds – part time employee/bailiff**

It was AGREED that the Clerk should undertake further research on the feasibility of employing a part-time handyperson/bailiff to be based at the Ponds. This research to also include expanding the use of the facility as a Nature Reserve.

**Vandalism of Picnic Bench**

The Clerk advised that a bench had been vandalised in the picnic area. The Village Handyman was aware and had effected a repair.

FPC16-033 Financial Matters

(a) **To consider accounts for payment in accordance with the circulated schedule as at 27<sup>th</sup> June 2016**

The Clerk apologised to Members for not circulating the schedule of payments. It was AGREED that the schedule be emailed to Members and, subject to any queries, it be included within the minutes.

To	Amount	Description
EON Electricity	16.80	Mortuary Electricity
D Lyne	156.00	Mow 9/5 & 19/5
RBS Software	90.00	End of Year Account Assistance
Snowdin Accountancy Services	200.00	Internal Audit 2015/16
Screwfix	84.98	Helmet & Stepladders - Insurance
Screwfix	79.98	Boots - Handyman
Zurich	1622.10	2016/17 Premium
NS Homes	455.52	Annual Garage Rent
Various	2131.02	Wages
	<b>£4,836.40</b>	

(b) **To note any receipts in accordance with the circulated schedule as at 27<sup>th</sup> June 2016**

The Clerk apologised to Members for not circulating the schedule of receipts. It was AGREED that the schedule be emailed to Members and, subject to any queries, it be included within the minutes

From	Amount	Description
Early Years	333.33	June Rent
	<b>£333.33</b>	

(c) **Internal Audit Report – Year Ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016**

The Clerk advised that the Internal Auditor had completed his inspection of the annual accounts and had signed them off as complete. However, there were a couple of amendments were required to the petty cash entries.

It was AGREED that, after the amendments had been made, delegated authority be given to the Chair to sign the Annual Return as approved and submit to the External Auditor.

(d) **To note amendments to the Local Council Policy Schedule**

The Clerk advised that the changes to the schedule relating to the asset register and the removal of the public toilets had been completed. A new schedule had been received as confirmation.

(e) **To consider requests for financial assistance:**

Members were requested to consider applications received for financial assistance from the following groups in the village:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Farndon Brownies
- Farndon St Peter's C of E Controlled Primary School
- Farndon Guides

After consideration it was AGREED that a donation of £100 be made to each group.

FPC16-034 To receive any correspondence

(a) **Footpath No 15**

The Clerk referred to correspondence received via the MP's office seeking to establish ownership of Footpath No 15.

It was AGREED that the response from the Area Rights of Way Officer be circulated to Members for information.

(b) **Requirement for Planning Permission**

Further information had been forwarded to Newark & Sherwood District Council seeking to establish whether or not planning permission was required for the mobile pizza van, particularly around advertisement consent.

(c) **Enforcement Enquiry**

Confirmation had been received of the enquiry on whether planning permission was required on works being undertaken at 20 School Lane.

FPC16-035 To receive items for notification

(a) **Co-Option on to Parish Council**

The Chair asked whether or not the two members of the public present, who had expressed an interest in joining the Parish Council, would like to be co-opted on to the Council.

Both confirmed that they would like to be co-opted.

The Chair, Councillor Baker, proposed that Mrs Jean Gafney and Mr Iain Millner be co-opted on to the Parish Council, seconded by Councillor Duckmanton. This was AGREED unanimously.

The Clerk confirmed that she would prepare the required paperwork for completion.

FPC16-036 **Date of Next Meeting**

Monday, 1<sup>st</sup> August 2016 at 6.30pm

The meeting closed at 8.45pm