

SUBJECT TO RATIFICATION AT THE 26th OCTOBER 2020 VIRTUAL MEETING

Minutes of the virtual meeting of Farndon Parish Council held on Monday, 28th September 2020 at 6.30pm

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

Also in attendance County Councillor Mrs Saddington and 1 member of the public

FPC20-047 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Councillor Parker, District Councillor I Walker and Mr J Dodson, FREG.

FPC20-048 Declarations of Interest

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

FPC20-049 Minutes of the Parish Council held on 27th July 2020

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 27th July 2020 were accepted as a true and correct record.

FPC20-050 **COVID-19 Update**

(a) Response from Buddy Volunteers

The Clerk advised that, with the uncertainty of rising cases in the area, the buddies had been contacted to identify what support they would be able to give if there was a local lockdown. All replies had been positive and the Clerk was confident that the scheme would be easy to reinstate if there was a need.

It was understood that more funding was available through the Local Improvement Scheme but not confirmed. The Clerk to make enquiries.

(b) Update on Meetings

The Clerk reminded Members that under the new regulations the Parish Council could continue to meet remotely until May 2021. After discussion, Members confirmed they were content to meet virtually in the current climate.

(c) NHS Track & Trace

The Clerk advised Members that the Parish Room had been registered on the NHS Track & Trace database and QR codes downloaded. They were available should there be a need to use the office.

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Signature _____ Date _____

FPC20-051 County Councillor Session

Councillor Mrs Saddington referred to continued problems with Network Rail and particularly the barriers at the Newark Castle level crossing. She confirmed that she had managed to contact Senior Managers in Network Rail regarding the barriers and problems experienced down the line.

Network Rail had been asked to inspect all crossings down the line. It was understood that problems had been found at Fiskerton, Morton and Rolleston with Staythorpe and Newark Castle now inspected. The results of the inspections were awaited.

FPC20-052 Nottinghamshire County Council

(a) Local Improvement Scheme – Signage Installation

Members noted the installation of the signage had taken place on Thursday, 24th September. All were agreed they looked lovely in position and had been worth the wait.

Members were asked to consider if they wanted the old ‘Farndon’ signs returning. They were currently with Via for storage. It was agreed that the Clerk request the return of the signage. A decision could then be taken on what to do with them.

Publicity needed to be arranged in line with the Local Improvement Scheme conditions. A photograph of the sign with the winning designer had been taken and would be shared with the County Council.

Members wished to publicly thank Sophie McCreery for her design, that provided a vibrant and unique entrance to the village.

(b) Devolution and Local Government Review

The Chair referred to correspondence received from Anthony May, Chief Executive at Nottinghamshire County Council, regarding a report and letter that had been presented to Policy Committee on 16th September 2020 where Councillor Kay Cutts, Leader of the County Council, sought authority to write to the Secretary of State for a single unitary council. It was understood that the report had been agreed and the letter sent.

The report and letter, in addition to the correspondence received from Anthony May, had been circulated to Members for information.

If the Secretary of State agreed, then there would be consultation and engagement cascaded down. It was noted that no consultation had been undertaken in advance of the report to Committee.

A discussion took place with Councillor Mrs Saddington around the services that the County Council delivered which were not statutory, and the potential for cost saving that could come from amalgamating all authorities (apart from Nottingham City) in to

a unitary authority.

(c) Farndon Village Green

Members were reminded that the letter from a previous clerk had been sent to Rights of Way. Photographs of the area had been forwarded by Councillor Duckmanton and Councillor Mrs Bayne, and, as agreed, a further request for people to come forward had been included in the September focus. The Clerk confirmed that no-one had come forward after publication of the article, and photographs had been submitted to the Rights of Way team, including Cllr Mrs Saddington.

The Chair referred to a pre-war photograph of the area, that shows the different surfaces, which it was considered would be of benefit.

Councillor Mrs Saddington would forward correspondence received from Rights of Way to the Clerk for information.

(d) West End, Farndon

Discussion took place around the present situation with stones on the verges at West End.

The Chair referred to site meetings he had attended and conversations with Via. Further advice was awaited.

(e) Roadworks Bulletin – The Willows, Farndon

Members noted that the works to resurface the Willows and Hawthorne Crescent would now take place on 23rd October

(f) Autumn Hours – Recycling Centre

Councillor Mrs Saddington had circulated the revised opening times for the recycling centre for Autumn.

(g) Proposed Bus Stop Clearway – Marsh Lane, Farndon

The Clerk referred to correspondence outlining proposals for two bus stop clearways on Marsh Lane; one on the left hand side just past Village Way and one diagonally opposite. A response was required by Friday, 9th October.

After discussion, the Clerk was asked to enquire if adjacent properties had been notified. Members raised no objection to the proposal.

FPC20-053 District Councillor Session

No report was presented as District Councillors had given their apologies.

(a) Consultation on Draft Residential Cycle and Car Parking Standards & Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document ('SPD') 2020

The Clerk advised that the consultation was open until 11th November for a response. There were a series of questions and space for additional comments. Given the

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experience of some residents in terms of the developments built on the former garages, it was AGREED that delegated authority be given for the Chair and Clerk to respond to the consultation.

Recent problems on Westfield Way had been reported to Councillor Walker and Newark & Sherwood District Council.

- (b) Virtual Parish Council Conference – 14th October 2020
The 2020 conference was being held virtually on Wednesday, 14th October. The link had been circulated to Member should they wish to register to attend. The Chair and Clerk would be attending.

FPC20-054 Farndon Residents Environment Group

- (a) FREG Minutes – 2nd August 2020
A copy had been circulated to Members for information.
- (b) FREG Minutes – 7th September 2020
A copy had been circulated to Members for information.

FPC20-055 Public 10 Minute Session

There were no members of the public present.

FPC20-056 Parish Council Matters

- (a) Review of Dog and Litter Bins
The Clerk referred to the report circulated to Members regarding the review of dog and litter bins owned and maintained by the Parish Council throughout the village. This report tied in with the location map and spreadsheet also circulated to Members which listed all litter and dog bins, their condition and usage.

In summary, there were four dog bins and five litter bins that need replacing and an exercise undertaking to clean out all bins to remove build up in the liners and underneath the bags to ensure maximum capacity.

After discussion it was AGREED that the replacement of the bins be factored in to the 2021/22 budget preparations.

The Clerk to arrange for the Sexton and part-time handyman to undertake a bin clean and clearance exercise

Councillor Duckmanton advised that he had received a request for another bin in the far corner of the playing field. It was noted that there were two bins easily accessible in that area of the field.

(b) Review of Parish Council Mowing Equipment

The Clerk referred to the report circulated to Members regarding the recent review of the Parish Council's mowing equipment.

As outlined in the report, a commercial z series ride on mower was considered the best machine. A quotation had been received for an ex-demo ride-on mower in the sum of £6,849 plus VAT.

In terms of the replacement of the vehicle used for the litter round, a quotation had been received for an ex-hire utility vehicle in the sum of £12,750 plus VAT. A vehicle of this type would be used on a daily basis by the Sexton in the outer areas, not just for the litter round.

The Clerk advised that, since the report was compiled, information had been received regarding two items of equipment that could be available at Newark Town Council. One was a ride-on mower, the other a utility vehicle. Confirmation was awaited on what price the Town Council would want for these two pieces.

Information had also been received from Newark & Sherwood District Council regarding their Parish & Town Council Initiative Fund. Initial contact had been made to ascertain if an application would be supported for improvements to the ponds, installation of the duck pond and an extension of the litter round. Confirmation was awaited if these would fit in to the greener category of the fund.

It was AGREED that the Clerk submit an application to the Parish and Town Council Initiative Fund if initial advice were that it met the criteria.

Further, information on the amount required for the used equipment from Newark Town Council would be circulated to Members for information once received.

(c) Anti-Social Behaviour – Community Survey

Members noted the circulation of a questionnaire around the village, and on social media, asking residents to outline their experience of anti-social behaviour. The closing date was 1st October 2020.

Members also noted the letter of apology from a young person who had caused damage to Council equipment.

(d) Parish Council/Village Website

The Clerk outlined that there had been some technical difficulties in making the website live. It was hoped to resolve them shortly.

The Chair referred to new email addresses that the Clerk would circulate to Members. They should be used for all Parish Council business going forward.

(e) Neighbourhood Watch Scheme

The Clerk had contacted the Notts Watch Co-Ordinator to establish what the present position was with establishing Neighbourhood Watch schemes in the village.

The scheme had moved on slightly with interest from residents on Orchid Drive, Fosse Road and Marsh Lane. A second public meeting would be beneficial when COVID-19 restrictions allowed.

In the meantime, the Parish Council could include it within the next issue of the Farndon Focus.

(f) Speedwatch Training

The Clerk advised that speedwatch training could be organised through the Community Protection Team at Newark & Sherwood District Council.

After discussion it was AGREED that a post be put on the Residents' page to ask for volunteers to come forward.

(g) Remembrance Sunday

It was noted that advice currently was that there were to be no Remembrance Sunday services this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

After discussion, it was considered that there should still be wreath laying at the memorials, but no service. The Clerk to liaise with the Church Wardens.

The Clerk to investigate how many lamp post poppies were still useable and to order more if necessary. An enquiry also to be made if the Silent Soldiers were still available and, if so, at what cost.

Councillor Mrs Bayne asked the Clerk to obtain the wooden crosses to be placed on the Commonwealth War Graves in the Cemetery.

(h) Carols on the Green

FREG had confirmed that there would be no event this year due to COVID-19 restrictions, however, they would like to proceed with the lights.

Members AGREED and noted the intention to install the lights from 1st December 2020 to 5th January 2021.

FPC20-057 Update Reports from Chairs

(a) Chairman's Report

Notification of Essential Maintenance Works – A1 southbound Newark to Gonerby Moor

Members noted information from Highways England regarding the overnight closure of the A1 southbound between Newark and Gonerby Moor from 9pm to 6am on

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Monday, 19th October.

(b)

Planning

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

Government White Paper on Planning

The Chair advised this was just for noting at the present time but the Parish Council needed to be aware. The District Council have been consulted as the Planning Authority and would be responding.

The Chair referred to the District Council's Planning Committee where an application for PA freight was considered. The decision notice was awaited and would be circulated to Members on receipt.

Applications

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

After discussion it was AGREED unanimously that this application be supported.

Decision Notices

20/01203/FUL – 2 Birchenall Court, Farndon – Householder application for proposed first floor extension over lounge

Members noted the decision notice granting permission for a first floor extension over the lounge.

Tree Works

- 20/01635/TWCA – Oak Avenue, Farndon – Undertake a managed crown lift (removal of epicormic growth, crown clean, dead wood, target prune and lift to no more than 6m from ground level where required) of; 1 No Lime
- 20/01575/TWCA – 7 Marrison Court – No 1 Robinia Pseudoacacia – Remove as overgrown and creates excessive shading
- 20/01477/TWCA – Wyke Lodge, Church Street, Farndon - Cherry Tree 1 – Crown_lift up to 5.5m measured from ground (road) level to give clearance over road and crown reduction up to 2 metres to re-shape. Cherry Tree 2 - Crown thin to remove up to 15% of branches to provide strength and shape to tree Apple Tree - Crown thin to remove up to 15% of branches to provide strength and shape to tree Pear tree 1 - Crown thin to remove up to 15% of branches to provide strength and shape to tree Pear Tree 2 - Crown thin to remove up to 15% of branches to provide strength and shape to tree Pear Tree 3 - Crown thin to remove up to 15% of branches to provide strength and shape to tree

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

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(c) General Purposes

Gate across Footpath No 3

The Clerk advised that Rights of Way had been approached regarding the installation of a gate across Footpath No 3, to ensure there was no conflict with the access. A response was awaited.

(d) Playing Field

Farndon Cricket Club & Bowls Club

Discussions had been ongoing with the cricket club regarding the extension of their lease into the bowls club. An increase of £100 per season, starting from 2021-22, had been suggested, together with a contribution of £250 towards the Council's legal fees to amend the lease.

Councillor Mrs Kingston proposed, seconded by Councillor Teixeira-Gomes, that the proposals regarding costs be ratified. This was unanimously AGREED.

Our Parks

After discussion it was AGREED that the Clerk investigate the scheme further on how it worked and report back to a future meeting.

Play Area

The Clerk confirmed that work had been undertaken to the Tayplay net. Thanks extended to Councillor Parker and the Sexton for their work to resolve this.

The manufacturer of the slide was no longer in business but Councillor Parker had reviewed it and could undertake the repairs. After discussion, the Clerk was asked to investigate costs to replace this piece of equipment.

Boundary Fence

The Chair referred to people climbing over the boundary fence near the cricket club. The Clerk to arrange for the Sexton to visit and review and make changes as required.

(e) Cemetery

Caring for God's Acre

The welcome pack had been reviewed by Councillor Mrs Bayne. It focused on volunteers looking after cemeteries and Church yards, and how to set up a voluntary group to do that. Ours are managed in a completely different way so it doesn't fulfil in the way it might. However, there were good suggestions for increasing wildlife and how some small areas could be wildflower planted.

Councillor Mrs Bayne had been asked to convey thanks on the way the Church yard is being looked after and maintained. The Church Wardens had received many compliments. The Clerk confirmed this was maintained by contractors and would be conveyed back to them.

Compliments also extended to the Sexton for the maintenance level of the Cemetery.

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Attempted Break-In.

The Clerk referred to an attempted break in at the mortuary which had been notified to Members at the time. Discussions had been held with the Sexton about improving the camera coverage to the rear of the building.

(f) Ponds & Riverside

Visit to Attenborough Nature Reserve

The Clerk referred to the recent visit to Attenborough Nature Reserve with the Sexton and our volunteer. It had been interesting to see what the Trust do in terms of wildlife and reed beds and it put in to context how good Farndon ponds are in terms of bio-diversity.

Maintenance Review of Ponds with FREG & Notts Wildlife Trust

The Clerk referred to a recent review of the ponds with FREG and Chris Kennedy from the Notts Wildlife Trust, together with Councillor Parker, the Sexton and Clerk. It had been interesting to get the perspective from the Trust and to exchange ideas on what the Parish Council could do, particularly with regard to weeds.

Discussion had taken place on cutting back trees to let in more light, and clearance of the creek to aid the flow of water. Going forward the Clerk would report to Members on the work to be undertaken, most of which would be winter work out of bird nesting season and when leaves have dropped.

FPC20-058 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 31st July and 31st August 2020

Members noted the Council's financial position as at 31st July and 31st August.

The Clerk advised that a half year report would be circulated after 30th September 2020.

(d) Request for Financial Support

The Clerk referred to two requests for financial support that had been received since the agenda had been put together. These had been circulated to Members for information.

After discussion it was AGREED that the request for financial support towards kit for a junior football team based in Newark, but which included five individuals from the village, could not be supported.

The council does have the ability to make grants, but it was difficult for Members to support this request as the Parish Council cannot support individuals. Grants would normally be made to an organisation but Members did not feel they could support the team as they are not based in the village. Members did discuss whether there was any other way they could assist but felt that if it did there could be requests for support from other individuals who play for teams or were members of other sports clubs that were not based in the village.

A request for financial support had also been received from St Peter's Cross Keys Church of England Academy towards a residential visit and also towards the Year 6 DARE programme.

After discussion it was AGREED that a sum of £350 be donated to the school to assist with costs.

FPC20-059 Nottinghamshire Association of Local Councils

(a) 75th Annual General Meeting – 19th November 2020

The 75th AGM would be held virtually on 19th November 2020. There would be space for two Members from each council. There would be no election to the Executive Committee, all those currently elected would continue until the 2021 AGM

As Councillor Baker would be attending in his capacity of Chair of the Notts ALC, there would be space for one other attendee. Members to advise the Clerk if they wished to attend.

(b) 2020-21 National Salary Award

Members noted correspondence from the National Joint Council for Local Government Services (NJC) of the agreed new pay scales to be implemented from 1 April 2020.

FPC20-060 Correspondence

(a) Letter from Robert Jenrick MP

Members noted correspondence received from the MP thanking the Parish Council, through the Chair, for the hard work and crucial role played in response to the Coronavirus.

FPC20-061 Items for Notification

Councillor Teixeira-Gomes referred to a number of items:

- A bench was broken in the picnic area. It was suggested that this be replaced with one that could accommodate wheelchairs. The Clerk to obtain a price prior to the next meeting.
- Repairs were required to the clapper gates. The Clerk advised these were listed structures under the care of the Canals & Rivers Trust. A request would be made for them to be inspected.
- Overgrown nettles around the knee rail at the slipway needed to be cut back,

as did the foliage around the information board. The Clerk would arrange for the Sexton to do this.

- There was a dog bin in the meadow, near the school, that needed replacing. The Chair confirmed this had been included within the bin review discussed earlier.

FPC20-062 Date of Next Meeting
Monday, 26th October 2020

The meeting closed at 8.30pm