

Minutes of the Meeting of Farndon Parish Council held on Monday, 4th December 2023 in the Parish Room, Memorial Hall at 6.30pm

Present: **Councillor M Baker (Chair Arr 6.45pm)**
 Councillor Mrs H Bayne
 Councillor A Chrimes
 Councillor Mrs S Kingston
 Councillor P Rawlings

Also present, Stephen Swanwick (FREG) and District Councillor Haynes

As Councillor Baker was delayed, the first part of the meeting was Chaired by the Vice-Chair, Cllr Mrs Kingston.

- FPC23-76** Apologies for absence
Received and accepted from Cllrs Mrs M Bayne, Boyer, Duckmanton and Parker, together with County Councillor Mrs Saddington and District Cllrs Allen & Kellas
- FPC23-77** Declarations of Interest
It was AGREED that any declarations of interest would be stated by Members as required during the meeting.
- FPC23-78** Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council – 23rd October 2023
The minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 23rd October 2023, were accepted as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.
- FPC23-79** **County Councillor Session**
No report was presented as Cllr Mrs Saddington had given her apologies.
- FPC23-80** **Nottinghamshire County Council**
There were no items to receive or that required notification.
- FPC23-81** **District Councillor Session**
The Chair suspended the meeting at 6.31pm to allow Councillor Haynes to present the District Councillors report.

A meeting with the Director of Planning was scheduled for 13th December when issues previously raised around planning enforcement would be discussed. Matters relating to the Southern Relief Road would also be raised to establish an overview of what's happening.

Concerns around privet hedges were being raised by Cllrs Allen & Kellas with the Director of Housing.

The Community Grant Scheme was now open for any organisations that met the criteria. Parameters had been changed which meant that Parish Councils were not eligible to apply.

Notification had been received that the ticket office at Castle station would remain open. No information had yet been received from LNER regarding Northgate station.

The glass recycling compound on Great North Road has been so it is hoped that the kerbside recycling programme will be introduced in the New Year.

The District Council free weekend and Bank Holiday parking in car parks run by Newark & Sherwood has begun and carries on until 31st December. It is hoped this will support local shops and businesses and encourage residents into the town centres.

Finally, the Palace Theatre is running its Snow White panto this year starting on the 8th of December through to the 31st. Please support the Theatre and enjoy this great Christmas tradition.

The Chair thanked Councillor Haynes for his report and reconvened the meeting at 6.35pm.

FPC23-82 Newark & Sherwood District Council

(a) Feedback on the Storm Babet Flood Event

Discussion took place around the Storm Babet Flood Event in October.

The Clerk had raised concerns with Newark & Sherwood District Council regarding the lack of communication with the Parish Council, particularly around the visit to properties advising that flooding was imminent. Some of these properties were on Marsh Lane which it was understood had never experienced flooding.

A response had been received outlining that Storm Babet was a relatively fast changing event with some of the highest levels of rain fall for 70 years. The computer predictions from the Environment Agency were complex and subject to wide variations in possible outcome. The most severe outcome would have led to significant inundation to levels that would have been beyond the experience of most current residents.

Reference had been made to the Environment Agency flood maps that indicated areas and roads that may be flooded in the event of a 1 in 100 year event and a 1 in 1000 year event. This included Marsh Lane which, in the case of such an event, had over 60 homes that could be at risk of flooding, as well as other streets.

The District Council were in the process of conducting a debrief on the Storm Babet event, which will include how they communicate with at risk communities in the future. However, they stood by the decision and method used during the recent event.

Members expressed concern that, as the Memorial Hall, which was located on Marsh Lane, was the evacuation centre, should Marsh Lane flood where would the community be evacuated too.

Councillor Haynes offered to discuss the Parish Councils concerns with Councillors Allen and Kellas to request a review of actions taken in order that improvements could be made, particularly in terms of communication. This offer was accepted.

FPC23-83 Farndon Residents Environment Group

The Chair suspended the meeting at 6.54pm to allow Mr Swanwick to present his report.

FREG had undertaken a litter pick since the last meeting. Nitrous oxide cartridges continued to be found on School Lane, which the Clerk had again reported to the Police.

FREG were due to undertake a project at Farndon Park but it had been cancelled due to a lack of volunteers.

It was noted that work had been undertaken by Severn Trent to cut back foliage around the pumping station. However, the cuttings had not been removed by the contractor. The Clerk to log with Via to get the cuttings removed.

The Chair thanked Mr Swanwick for his report and reconvened the meeting at 6.57pm.

(a) Minutes – October & November 2023

Members received and noted the minutes from the Main Meetings held in October and November.

FPC23-84 Public 10 Minute Session

There were no questions raised.

FPC23-85 Parish Council Matters

(a) To receive reports from representatives on outside bodies

Councillor Mrs Kingston advised that the monthly Coffee Mornings continued, with the next one on 9th December. It was pleasing to note they were well attended.

(b) To consider a request to support the Climate and Ecology Bill

The Chair noted the work undertaken by Cllr Rawlings on this matter in producing an Environmental Policy. It was AGREED that the document produced would be placed on the agenda of the January meeting for consideration.

Councillor Rawlings advised that the document had been based on templates from other Parish Councils that had already adopted a Policy.

(c) To note correspondence from National Highways regarding Essential Maintenance Works on the A52 Saxondale – 8th January to 14th February 2024
Members received and noted the correspondence outlining the planned maintenance works.

(d) To discuss communication routes in emergencies
This matter had been covered under Minute No FPC23-082.

Councillors Mrs Kingston and Mrs H Bayne offered to assist the Clerk with the completion of the Community Flood Plan.

(e) To receive details on the Carols on the Green event
This would take place on Wednesday, 20th December 2023 on the green at the junction of Main Street, Church Street & Chapel Lane.

FPC23-86 Update Reports from Chairs

(a) Chairman's Report

CCTV

The Chair had recently attended an anti-social behaviour summit arranged by Robert Jenrick MP. The Police & Crime Commissioner had outlined assistance given to Balderton Parish Council in providing grants for CCTV at Balderton Lakes. The Chair had enquired if there was any support that could be given to Farndon.

The Clerk referred to an offer made by Farndon Marina to donate CCTV cameras. After discussion, Members wished to thank the Marina for their kind offer which, subject to a review of the specification by Cllrs Chrimes and Parker, they were happy to accept.

Farndon Focus

The Chair referred to concerns expressed by the Farndon Focus Trustees of the impact on income by businesses promoting their services for free on the Farndon Residents Facebook page.

After discussion, Members considered this was a matter for the administrators of the page and not the Parish Council. The Chair confirmed that an approach had been made to the administrator.

Anti-Social Behaviour Summit

At the recently attended summit, the District Council had indicated that they would be increasing their CCTV coverage.

(b) Planning

Prior to consideration of the Planning applications, Councillor Mrs H Bayne removed herself from the meeting.

Applications

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

After discussion it was AGREED that no objection be raised to the application as outlined.

Councillor Mrs H Bayne rejoined the meeting.

Decision Notices

There were none to receive.

Tree Works

Members received and noted the following tree works:

- 23/01793/TWCA – The Old Coach House, West End, Farndon - Fell 1 No. conifer tree
- 23/01606/TWCA – 1 Marrison Court, Farndon - T1 Maple and T2 Cherry - Reduce to an end height of 8m, reduce side to provide clearance of between 1-2m from the neighbouring dwelling, mirroring amount all round to balance each tree. T3 Beech - Reduce to an end height of 7m, reduce side to provide clearance of between 1-2m from the neighbouring dwelling, mirror all round to balance. T4 Maple - Reduce to an end height of 6m, reduce side to provide clearance of between 1-2m from greenhouse and mirror all round to balance – NO OBJECTION
- 23/01651/TWCA – Chestnut Farm, 36 Main Street, Farndon – Re-pollarding 1 No Horse Chestnut tree (to previous points) to the rear of property – NO OBJECTION
- 23/01665/TPO – 3 Birchenall Court, Farndon – Undertake works to tree protected by TPO N45 as Part of Group 2 Fell 1 No. dead Lime Tree – NO OBJECTION
- 23/01765/TWCA – 7 St Peter's Close, Farndon - T1 Eucalyptus - remove tree to allow more sunlight to garden and replace with more suitable native tree. T2 Silver Birch - reduce by maximum 3 metres all-round to clear BT lines and allow more light to front of property – NO OBJECTION

Any Other Planning Matters

This item had been considered during the District Councillor Session under Minute No FPC23-081.

(c)

General Purposes

To consider new signage at the slipway and on the picnic area

Consideration of this item was deferred to the January meeting.

(d) Cemetery

To consider a replacement fence on the rear boundary

The Clerk advised that the rear boundary fence at the Cemetery had deteriorated and required replacing. It was AGREED that quotations be sought to be considered at the January meeting. The Clerk would advise residents on Oak Avenue who would be affected.

To receive information on a Cemetery software package

It was AGREED that this be deferred for consideration at the January meeting.

(e) Playing Field

To note works required to an item of equipment in the play area

The Clerk reported works that were required to an item of equipment in the play area. Replacement parts had been ordered and would be installed shortly.

To note recent vandalism on the playing field

The Clerk highlighted to Members recent incidents of vandalism on the playing field. This had been to the old cricket pavilion, and also to the electricity meter box. The Police had been made aware and CCTV footage reviewed which had resulted in identification of those involved.

In light of the vandalism, the Clerk was asked to raise this with the Cricket Club and seek a firm understanding of when the old pavilion would be removed.

(f) Ponds & Riverside

To note an application submitted to Newark & Sherwood District Council for Tree Works in the Conservation Area

Members noted that the application had been submitted to Newark & Sherwood District Council for the works required to the trees in the picnic area.

FPC23-87 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 October 2023 and 30th November 2023

Members received and noted the Council's financial position as 31st October and 30th November 2023.

- (d) To consider an outline budget report and priorities for the 2024-25 Precept
The Clerk referred to the outline budget report which demonstrated the Parish Council's financial position as at 30th November, and a projection of spend up to 31st March 2023.

Members were asked to review consider the documents in advance of budget setting at the January meeting.

FPC23-88 Notts Association of Local Councils

Parish Councils were being asked to promote the White Ribbon initiative, and also the Jo Cox Foundation, both of which sought to highlight domestic and sexual abuse. After discussion, it was AGREED that this be considered at the February meeting.

The Chair referred to a recent visit to London as Chair of the Notts Association for the Local Council of the Year Awards which had been held in the House of Lords. Opportunity had been taken to speak to local MPs to try and establish a combined Notts MP Group to fight BESS applications.

FPC23-89 To receive any correspondence

- (a) There was none.

FPC23-90 Items for Notification

- (a) There were none.

FPC23-91 Date of Next Meeting

Monday, 22nd January 2024 at 6.30pm.

The meeting closed at 8.05pm.