

SUBJECT TO RATIFICATION AT THE 29th MARCH 2021 VIRTUAL MEETING

Minutes of the virtual meeting of Farndon Parish Council held on Tuesday, 2nd March 2021 at 6.30pm

Present: Councillor M Baker, in the Chair
Councillor Mrs Bayne
Councillor Duckmanton
Councillor Mrs Kingston
Councillor Parker
Councillor Teixeira-Gomes (arr 7.25pm)

Also present County Councillor Mrs Saddington, District Councillor I Walker and Matthew Norton, Business Manager – Planning Policy & Infrastructure, Newark & Sherwood District Council and 2 members of the public (one at 7.40pm)

FPC20-111 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received and accepted from.

FPC20-112 Declarations of Interest

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

FPC20-113 Minutes of the Parish Council held on 13th January 2021

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 13th January 2021 were accepted as a true and correct record.

FPC20-114 **COVID-19 Update**

(a) The Clerk reported that the vaccination roll out continued through the hub at Newark Showground. However, there had unfortunately been some residents lost to COVID-19 recently.

FPC20-115 **County Councillor Session**

The Chair suspended the meeting to allow Councillor Mrs Saddington to present her report.

Councillor Mrs Saddington advised that a payment from her Divisional Fund for a post-COVID village celebration had been approved and should be received shortly.

A meeting had recently been held with Network Rail regarding the ongoing problems with the barriers on the Nottingham to Lincoln line, and the impact failure of the Castle crossing had on the town. Cllr Mrs Saddington would continue to monitor and apply pressure until the problems were sorted. If Members were inconvenienced by the Castle level crossing barriers not working correctly they were asked to keep a log as Network Rail only logged problems if it affected one of their trains.

Nottinghamshire County Council are to receive £80,000 funding from Midlands Connect to bring forward additional investigation work on the feasibility of a Kelham bypass to make sure that a scheme is as ready as possible for delivery should a future funding opportunity arise.

The bypass, which would involve a new bridge across the River Trent south of Kelham, would complement and enhance any improvements made to the A46 and Newark Southern Link road and help provide an end to traffic gridlock around Newark and Kelham.

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

FPC20-116 Nottinghamshire County Council

There was nothing to report.

FPC20-117 District Councillor Session

The Chair suspended the meeting to allow District Councillor Walker to present his report.

Councillor Walker advised Members that an email had been received from the Director of Housing, Health & Wellbeing outlining that a report on the impact of new builds on car parking review would be presented to the Senior Leadership Team next week to discuss the situation and to look at the data within the survey.

The Chair thanked District Councillor Walker for his report and reconvened the meeting.

(a) Impact of New Builds on Car Parking Review

This item had been covered under District Councillor Walker's report.

It was hoped that there would be further information available for Members at the next meeting.

(b) Neighbourhood/Community Plan Presentation

This item would be taken when Mr Norton joined the meeting.

(c) Public Space Protection Order Reviews

The Clerk referred to correspondence received from Newark & Sherwood District Council regarding a review of the Public Space Protection Orders in the district. There were two specific orders that related to Farndon; a dog exclusion order on the play area and a dogs specified maximum on the playing field. There were two district wide orders which related to dog fouling requirements and one that gave officers the authority to require dogs to be put on a lead when requested. The review included a questionnaire for completion.

The Clerk reflected that the effectiveness of any order depended on whether there was any enforcement of the orders that were in place.

Members commented that they were not aware of any visits by members of the Community Protection Team to undertake any enforcement, either on the playing field or for dog fouling.

Councillor Mrs Kingston questioned why dogs were allowed on the playing field. The Clerk advised that the reasons would have been discussed at the time the orders were originally put in place some years ago. It was noted that the field was used a lot by elderly residents to exercise their dogs who would not be able to access the outlying open spaces.

It was AGREED that the Clerk complete the questionnaire and include observations from Members that there needed to be enforcement of the rules that were in place.

(d) Renewal of Lease – Fairfield Avenue

Documentation had now been received and sent to the Chair for counter-signature. Once received back it would be forwarded to Newark & Sherwood District Council so the lease could be completed.

(e) Open Space Strategy – Briefing Sessions

The Clerk advised that, together with the Chair, an invitation had been received to attend a briefing session on the Open Space Strategy. This would be held at 6pm on Wednesday, 10th March. A report would be brought back to the Parish Council.

(b) (cont) Neighbourhood/Community Plan Presentation

The Chair welcomed Matthew Norton, Business Manager – Planning Policy & Infrastructure with Newark & Sherwood District Council who would be giving a presentation to Members on whether the Parish Council would want to pursue a Neighbourhood or Community Plan for the village.

The Clerk enabled screen sharing so the presentation could be made to Members. A copy would be circulated to Members for information after the meeting.

The Chair thanked Mr Norton for attending and the informative presentation shared to inform Members. Further consideration would now be given to whether or not to progress a Neighbourhood/Community Plan.

FPC20-118 Farndon Residents Environment Group

The Clerk advised that FREG had not been able to meet under the current lockdown restrictions. With the roadmap now published, the Chair was hopeful that they would be able to have a meeting in April or May. Individual litter picks have been continuing.

The group had been chosen as a Co-Op Community Champion through the Albert Street store which could bring in extra funding. Members had been asked to support if they could.

FPC20-119 Public 10 Minute Session

There was a member of the public in attendance for a specific item under Parish Council Matters. The Chair agreed that they would be allowed to speak during consideration of that item.

FPC20-120 Parish Council Matters

(a) Floodbank – Picnic Area

The Clerk advised Members that Councillor Parker had already brought the floodbank to the attention of Council and enquiries had been raised with the Environment Agency. The floodbank runs through the picnic area, extending from the footpath that connects through to North End, going across to the Sea Scouts and on to Farndon Marina.

The Parish Council became owners of the land in 2001 when it was transferred from Nottinghamshire County Council. They had become the owners in 1970 when it was transferred from William Saunders. The floodbank was in place at the time of the original transfer to the County Council.

An enquiry had been raised with the Environment Agency to ascertain where liability for the maintenance of the floodbank lay. Advice had come back that the Environment Agency did not have any assets in the area. The Clerk had then approached Nottinghamshire County Council to see if there was any information regarding the floodbank included in the original transfer from William Saunders. A reply was awaited.

Mr Ainsworth of Farndon Marina had approached the Parish Council expressing concern that the floodbank had diminished in height and could impact on flooding in the area.

The Chair invited Mr Ainsworth to address the meeting.

Mr Ainsworth explained the history to the floodbank which was required as part of a planning application. When the flood level reaches 42ft above Newlyn then there is flooding. There have been three floods in the last two years, with water reaching the top of the marina floodbank then receding. However, the water had breached the floodbank in the picnic area and gone into the marina from the back as the bank had diminished in height over the years.

In response to a query from Councillor Duckmanton, Mr Ainsworth explained the extent of the floodbank from where it entered the picnic area behind North End through the picnic area and Sea Scouts land into the marina. Additionally, the marina had a steel girder that could be installed to continue the flood protection.

Councillor Duckworth queried how much lower the floodbank through the picnic area was, compared to what it should be. Mr Ainsworth considered that it was 300mm lower, but the floodbank was further compromised as it had been burrowed into by vermin which made it more porous.

The marina was further impacted as the footpath that ran behind the floodbank became very boggy and residents/visitors then cut through the marina even though there was no right of way.

Mr Ainsworth referred to a visit recently by contractors retained on behalf of the Environment Agency who were looking to survey flood defences along the River Devon and River Trent up to Cromwell lock. Mr Ainsworth queried whether this had been instigated by the Parish Council or coincidental.

The Clerk advised that the Environment Agency had not been in contact with the Parish Council and had previously stated that they did not have any assets in the area. Mr Ainsworth advised that a copy of the correspondence received from the Environment Agency would be forwarded to the Parish Council for information. This would enable the Clerk to make further enquiries with the Environment Agency.

It was AGREED that the Clerk approach the Environment Agency for clarification on the work they were undertaking in the area and what implications that may have for the Parish Council. The Clerk would liaise with Mr Ainsworth on any response.

Councillor Parker observed that this needed to be high priority as the flooding had also had more of an impact on Sandhill Road this time.

(b) To Ratify a Right of Access Request

The request circulated round to Members, right of access request for the occupants of 45 The Meadows to use the Council's land to gain access to their rear garden for vehicles. The cost implication in terms of legalities had been agreed by the occupant so after liaising with members the Clerk instructed the solicitor to proceed with the legal documentation.

(c) Community Trees

After the decision taken at the 13th January 2021 meeting, residents of Holmefield whose boundary ran along the cleared plot had been approached with an offer of community trees. Positive responses had been received, with only one declining the offer.

The Clerk would now collate responses and liaise with residents to progress the project.

FPC20-121 Update Reports from Chairs

(a) Chairman's Report

Remote Meetings

The Chair reminded Members that under the new legislation, the power to hold meetings virtually ended on 7th May 2021. The Chair had a meeting with Robert Jenrick MP on 12th March on behalf of NALC to lobby on allowing for them to continue on a flexible basis to use as and when needed.

Nottinghamshire Police

The Chair referred to information he had received from Nottinghamshire Police regarding their priorities for the next three months which will be focusing on anti-social behaviour.

Given the problems experienced in the village during 2020 the Chair queried whether the Parish Council should ask for representation on the outlined partnership meetings that were planned to be held on a fortnightly basis.

Members AGREED that the Chair should seek representation as anti-social behaviour had a profound impact on the village in 2020.

What Three Words

The Chair drew Members' attention to the 'What Three Words' app that some councils were using to identify fly tipping and littering.

After discussion it was AGREED that Councillor Parker promote use of the app on the Residents page, particularly for identifying fly tipping.

The Sexton would be asked to download the app to assist in his duties.

(b) Planning

Decision Notices

20/02427/HOUSE – 17 North End, Farndon - Demolition and replacement of front porch, windows and single storey rear and side extension to incorporate a new snug, store/utility and garage.

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

20/02155/HOUSE – 14 Sandhill Road, Farndon - Single storey rear, single storey side garage and two storey side/rear extensions incorporating first floor over existing side extension. Internal alterations, rear patio, new access drive and front boundary wall

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

(c) General Purposes

There was nothing to report.

(d)

Playing Field

Request for Use of Football Pitch

The Clerk referred to two approaches received regarding use of the playing field for football. One had been a direct approach from Newark Vets who were currently playing at Flowserve. They had advised that their ground was likely to close at the end of the season and were looking for an alternative ground. They played between 8 to 10 home games, plus pre-season friendlies with kick off at 2pm on a Sunday afternoon.

The second approach had come through Newark & Sherwood District Council on behalf of Fernwood Foxes who are looking at pitch requirements. They had also approached Balderton Parish Council. Fernwood Foxes had a number of youth teams who played on a Saturday morning, with an adult team that kicked off at 2pm on Saturday afternoon.

The Clerk reminded Members that there was currently an established football team, Knowhow, that used the playing field as their home ground, with games played on a Sunday morning.

Discussion took place on whether or not the field could accommodate any of the requests made, which would also be dependent on the support of the cricket club for changing facilities.

It was AGREED that Councillor Duckmanton liaise with the Clerk to determine the support that the Parish Council could give, if any.

Councillor Mrs Kingston asked what season rent was currently paid by the football team. The Clerk confirmed it was £150 for 2020-21 but that had been carried forward to the 2021-22 financial year as no games had been played due to the pandemic. A separate fee was charged by the cricket club to use changing facilities.

Lease to Cricket Club

The Clerk advised that the legal process for the Cricket Club extension to their lease to include the bowling green was coming to an end. Documentation for signature was expected shortly.

Playing Field Weed Spray

A quotation in the sum of £410 had been received to weed spray the playing field from Long Bennington Football Club. This was significantly lower than that received previously.

Members AGREED that the quotation be accepted.

(e)

Cemetery

Boundary Tree

The Clerk had met on site with the arboriculturist who would provide a specific report on the tree.

Request for Memorial Seat

A request had been received from a resident for a memorial seat in memory of their mother who was interred in November 2020. They would like to install one similar in design to one already in place and would accept responsibility for ongoing maintenance. It would be located along the boundary to the right hand side so as not to interfere with burial plots.

After discussion, Members AGREED to the request.

(f)

Ponds & Riverside

Timescale of Works

Members were aware that grant funding had been given through the Parish & Town Council Initiative Fund for improvements in the ponds and for the installation of a wildlife pond on the verge at Main Street.

A request for a site meeting had been made with Via for the wildlife pond to plan a way forward. However, officers were only doing essential face to face site meetings so a meeting could not be held until lockdown restrictions were lifted.

In terms of the work in the ponds, the water levels remained too high for any work to clear the channel and nursery safely.

It would be necessary to defer the works until the water had receded and, as bird nesting season was approaching, it was considered that work should not start until the Autumn.

A discussion had been held with Newark & Sherwood District Council to update them on the delay in starting the project. There would be no detrimental impact on the grant as it was an allocation and did not have to be used within a specific time.

The Clerk would now liaise with the Sexton to plan a work schedule over the summer due to the changed priorities.

FPC20-122 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 schedules dated 31st January 2021 and 28th February 2021.

(b)

To note any receipts in accordance with the circulated schedule

Members received and noted the receipts as outlined in the circulated schedules dated 31st January 2021 and 28th February 2021.

- (c) To note the Council's financial position as at
Members noted that the closing balance as at today £57,492.64 with another month to go in financial year.

FPC20-123 Nottinghamshire Association of Local Councils

- (a) Training
The Chair referred to online learning being organised by the Association at a cost of £16.80 per topic. This enabled learning to be at the pace of the student.

FPC20-124 Correspondence

There was nothing to report.

FPC20-125 Items for Notification

- (a) Play Area Fencing
Councillor Mrs Kingston asked what the present position with regarding the fencing around the play area. The Clerk apologised for not re-sending the link to the fencing provider. This would be addressed.
- (b) Picnic Area Bench
In response to an enquiry from Councillor Teixeira-Gomes, the Clerk confirmed that the picnic benches for disabled people were not currently being produced. The company were aware that the Parish Council wanted one when production restarted.
- (c) Litter Bins – Ponds
Councillor Teixeira-Gomes referred to the condition of some of the litter bins in the ponds. The Clerk reminded Members that litter bins had been included in the bid to the Parish & Town Council Initiative Fund but these had not been supported. The Parish Council would need to purchase new bins separately.
- (d) Planters
Councillor Teixeira-Gomes asked if all planters could be reviewed by the Sexton.
- (e) Picnic Area Path
Councillor Teixeira-Gomes referred to the very wet condition of the footpath in the picnic area.
- (f) School Lane
Councillor Mrs Bayne referred to damage to the road outside 10 School Lane, where a significant hole had appeared next to a drain. The Clerk to report on the County Council's portal.
- (g) Wyke Lane
Councillor Mrs Bayne observed that the surface on Wyke Lane continued to erode. It had been reported on the portal previously. The Clerk to resubmit on to the portal.

(h)

1 School Lane

The Chair asked the Clerk to investigate whether there were any comments needed on the application for 1 School Lane, other than the discharge of conditions.

FPC20-126 Date of Next Meeting

Monday, 29th March 2021

The meeting closed at 8.20pm