

SUBJECT TO RATIFICATION AT THE 2nd MARCH 2021 VIRTUAL MEETING

Minutes of the virtual meeting of Farndon Parish Council held on Wednesday, 13th January 2021 at 6.30pm

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

FPC20-095 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor Parker, Councillor Rhodes-Yeomans and District Councillor I Walker.

FPC20-096 Declarations of Interest

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

FPC20-097 Minutes of the Parish Council held on 23rd November 2020

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 23rd November 2020 were accepted as a true and correct record.

FPC20-098 **COVID-19 Update**

(a) HelpMyStreet Initiative

Members had agreed to revisit this issue in the New Year. The Clerk confirmed that the initiative had gone live in North Muskham and Balderton but there were a few bugs that needed to be worked through, especially with regard to requests coming from other areas. Consideration to be put back to the February meeting.

FPC20-099 **County Councillor Session**

This item would be taken if and when Councillor Mrs Saddington attended.

FPC20-0100 **Nottinghamshire County Council**

(a) Condition of Roads and Footpaths

Potholes needed to be reported at:

- Long Lane, opposite the bus shelter

Councillor Mrs Bayne reported that Wyke Lane had deteriorated further with the edges crumbling away. The ruts were quite long and deep.

Both issues to be reported on the highways portal.

FPC20-0101 **District Councillor Session**

No report was presented as Councillor I Walker had given his apologies.

(a) Impact of New Builids on Car Parking Review

The Clerk had circulated to Members the response from the District Council regarding the present position with the review. The matter had progressed slightly, and confirmation had been given of the date Councillor Laughton had attended the meeting, which was 26th March 2018. The Parish Council had been advised that it would be contacted again once the District Council were in a position to consult and update on their findings.

The Clerk advised that a resident from Oak Avenue had also been in contact asking if there had been any progress. They had been advised that the Parish Council continued to chase and would update residents as soon as they could.

Councillor Walker had been kept informed by the District Council.

(b) Free Trees Offer

The Clerk had applied for a pack of 50 mixed whips which could be used in the playing field hedge and at the ponds.

FPC20-0102 Farndon Residents Environment Group

(a) FREG Minutes – 7th December 2020

A copy had been circulated to Members for information.

With the lockdown in place FREG members had been undertaking individual litter picking.

(b) Confirmation of Christmas Tree Collection Fund

Members extended congratulations to FREG on the amount collected for Newark Parkinsons Group through the Christmas Tree Collection Fund. With lockdown in place, FREG had been concerned at how they would generate the funds to support their chosen charity. A sum of £1,125.98 had been donated online, and a further £1,800 in cash donations. This was considered an amazing amount given the circumstances.

Councillor Mrs Kingston enquired if the Parish Council would normally have contributed to the Carols on the Green event. The Chair confirmed contribution was in kind by arranging the road closure and assisting with signage. County Councillor Mrs Saddington would normally support through her funding streams. The Parish Council has supported FREG in the past through grant donations, but no request had been received in recent years.

FPC20-0103 Public 10 Minute Session

There were no members of the public present.

FPC20-0104 Parish Council Matters

(a) A46 Dualling Consultation Response

The Clerk referred to the public consultation that was currently running regarding the A46 dualling proposals. The deadline for response was 2nd February 2021 and the Parish Council had been asked to respond as a consultee.

Members confirmed they had all looked at the two options being proposed.

After discussion Members AGREED that they supported Option 2, which included traffic light control at the Farndon roundabout and the flyover at the Cattle Market roundabout. Members considered it essential to have a flyover to alleviate the problems caused when traffic stopped due to the Castle Level Crossing being down. However, to ensure the problems that occurred on the A1 with traffic queuing to exit the carriageways it needed to be long enough to ensure that similar problems didn't occur.

The Clerk confirmed that a Highways England reference number had been issued (21820964) for the unfinished junction on the B6166 as it met the A46 roundabout. It was considered that Option 2 would mean that the junction would have to be completed as it included traffic lights at each part of the roundabout. The Clerk to include reference to this junction in the response.

The Clerk referred to the two Open Breaks that protected the village around the A46 junction. It was difficult to identify what land would be included in the dualling at this point but it was important to ensure that these areas were protected. The Clerk had also raised the impact loss of habitat would have, given that the landscaping included in the original bypass scheme was now established, when she had attended a webinar with Highways England.

(b) Community Trees & Tree Protection Orders

The Clerk referred to the work that had been undertaken on land between Staveley Court and Holmefield last week, with actions taken and background to the site outlined in an email to Members.

The Clerk had been contacted by residents expressing their dismay at the removal of established trees and habitat.

A discussion took place regarding the opportunity to offer residents community trees to plant in their gardens to put some of the habitat back. It was AGREED that the Clerk pursue this with residents to identify interest and report back to Members. The cost of the trees would be met by the Parish Council, with residents asked to maintain them.

The Clerk referred to the small number of trees that were protected by a Tree Preservation Order, outside of the Conservation Area. In discussion with the Planning Enforcement Officer it had been mentioned that the District Council could perhaps look to work with the Parish Council to review trees in the wider regions of the village

to establish if they could be covered by a TPO. Members AGREED that the Clerk look to pursue this initiative.

Embers (c) Neighbourhood/Community Plan

The Clerk referred to a discussion recently held with the Business Manager – Planning Policy & Infrastructure regarding a Neighbourhood/Community Plan for the village. An offer had been made to attend a future meeting of the Parish Council to make a presentation to Members so they understood the difference between the two and how to move them forward.

It was AGREED that an invitation be extended to attend the 22nd February 2021 meeting.

(d) Parish Council/Village Website

The Clerk advised that the Hugo Fox website was live. The link ([Farndon Parish Council, Farndon, Newark \(hugofox.com\)](http://Farndon Parish Council, Farndon, Newark (hugofox.com))) would be circulated to Members for information.

FPC20-0105 Update Reports from Chairs

(a) Chairman's Report

The Chair had nothing to report.

(b) Planning

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

Applications

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.

After discussion, it was AGREED this application be supported.

AMENDED - 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

This application had previously been considered by Members, who had supported the proposal. The Planning Officer had advised that the proposal had been slightly amended with some external walls being rendered. Members had no objection to the proposals. The Clerk to liaise with Councillor Parker for a final response.

Decision Notices

20/02198/HOUSE – 15 Linton Close, Farndon - Proposed flat roof single storey rear extension

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

20/02138/HOUSE – 6 St Peter’s Close, Farndon – Replacement of existing conservatory to rear of property

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

20/02203/FUL – 98 Fosse Road, Farndon - Formation of new vehicular access to serve existing dwelling

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

20/02149/HOUSE – Mill House, Crees Lane, Farndon - Proposed boundary fencing and access gates (Retrospective)

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

(c) General Purposes

There was nothing to report.

(d) Playing Field

Play Area Perimeter Fence

After the last meeting, the Clerk had circulated the link to the company that had quoted for the perimeter fencing for Members to review.

It was AGREED that the link be resent for Members to review.

Tree Works

The Clerk confirmed that the contractor had started work on the playing field trees this week. Wood was being chipped and left for habitat in the back of the hedge.

Weeds

Councillor Duckmanton asked the Clerk to schedule in the weed killing of the playing field.

Football

A request had been received from Newark & Sherwood District Council to determine whether there was capacity on the playing field to accommodate a junior team on a Saturday.

Councillor Duckmanton was of the view that a team could be accommodated, depending on availability of the cricket club for changing rooms, but use of the field would have to be managed.

The Clerk to chase on whether any further information was available.

Councillor Duckmanton noted that Knowhow had only been able to play limited matches during the season. It was proposed that the rental paid be returned to the club, or carried over to next year. This was to be considered as part of the budget

setting.

(e) Cemetery

Boundary Tree

At the previous meeting the Clerk was tasked to get in touch with the arboriculturist to inspect the tree and provide an individual report. A visit was expected within the next week. The report would be circulated to Members if it was received before the next meeting.

The Clerk noted that the ground was very wet in the Cemetery at the moment, which restricted the work that could be undertaken.

(f) Ponds & Riverside

Parish & Town Council Initiative Fund

The Clerk advised that it was hoped contractors would start mid to late January. A message to be put out on the Residents page to inform the village about the successful bid from the fund and outlining the work to be undertaken.

FPC20-090 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 30th November 2020 and 31st December 2020.

The Clerk referred to the payments made in November, which were higher than normal due to the purchase of capital equipment.

(b) To note any receipts in accordance with the circulated schedule

Members received and noted the receipts as outlined in the circulated schedules dated 30th November 2020 and 31st December 2020.

Receipts in December reflected the increase in fees for interments in the Cemetery.

(c) To note the Council's financial position as at 10th January 2021

Members noted that the closing balance as at 10th January 2021 was £59,383.13.

(d) To ratify completion of the External Audit Review

Members noted and ratified the completion of the External Audit Review of the 2019-20 financial accounts.

(e) To set the 2021-22 budget and Precept

The Clerk referred to the areas that brought in income, in addition to the Precept. During the current financial year a decision had been taken to suspend the rental for the cricket club due to the pandemic. The season rents were reviewed bi-annually and were due to be increased in the 2021-22 financial year, and the lease for the Early Years allowed for an annual review.

After discussion it was AGREED that no increase in rents be applied. Further, it was AGREED that Knowhow be asked if they wanted to move the fee paid for 2020-21 into the next financial year or refunded.

It was noted that the Early Years had continued to pay their rent throughout the year. The Clerk was asked to establish if the nursery's finances had been affected by the closures and report back to the February meeting.

Cemetery fees were up on budget by £695 currently.

Exceptionally during the year there had been additional income from Nottinghamshire County Council to provide support through a COVID-19 grant. This has been ring fenced and not considered in the 2021-22 budget for expenditure as it was vital for the Parish Council to be able to provide assistance if required. A further £1,000 will be received from Newark & Sherwood District Council as part of the winter grant scheme to provide support for individuals and couples.

The Clerk advised that funding was also expected from the Parish & Town Council Initiative Fund which would be offset against the expenditure against recent capital equipment purchases.

The Clerk advised that the tax base for 2021-22 was £823.06.

After discussion it was proposed by Councillor Baker from the Chair, seconded by Councillor Mrs Bayne that an increase of 2% be applied to the Precept. This was AGREED unanimously.

The Clerk confirmed that this would increase the Precept to £56,018, giving a Band D rate of £68.06, against £67.55 in this financial year.

FPC20-091 Nottinghamshire Association of Local Councils

(a) Consultation – Standards Matter – Public Consultation and Public Sector Survey

It was AGREED that the Clerk and Chair review the consultation and reply as appropriate.

(b) Donate 2 Educate Laptops for Students Appeal

The Chair referred to an email received from the Association today regarding an initiative by Cloudy IT, Microsoft Partners, who have set up a charitable arm which is getting involved in the provision of laptops to assist children studying from home. If any Members had one that could be donated, please contact the Clerk.

(c) Federation of East Midlands Association of Local Councils (FEMALC)

The Chair advised that the Nottinghamshire Association had taken over the Chair of the above Federation for a year.

(d) Training

Information had been received regarding online training that was being delivered on planning via Nimble. It was AGREED that Councillor Parker be asked if he would like to attend. Councillor Teixeira-Gomes also expressed an interest in completing the training.

The Clerk to progress.

FPC20-092 Correspondence

The Clerk advised that a brochure had been received from GENCOM CCTV, who provided fly tipping solutions, but systems were extremely expensive.

FPC20-093 Items for Notification

Gate to Ponds

Councillor Duckmanton asked if a solution could be found to prevent drivers from driving around the gate to access the ponds.

After discussion it was AGREED that the Clerk liaise with the landowner to identify a solution, either by putting in a ditch or a post and rail fence.

The Clerk to progress the matter of a gate at the other end with the Rights of Way team.

Speed Traps

The Chair referred to recent speed monitoring that had taken place in East Stoke by Nottinghamshire Police. After discussion it was AGREED that the Clerk enquire if a similar exercise could be undertaken in Farndon, with Marsh Lane and Fosse Road identified as problem areas. It was understood that there was a speed awareness initiative running until the end of March.

COVID-19 Vaccinations

Councillor Mrs Baynes asked if it were possible to seek clarification from Councillor Mrs Saddington on when vaccinations would start in Newark as there appeared to be very little progress.

The Chair advised that it was understood the Newark Showground was ready to open once in receipt of vaccines. Marshalls Coaches would be running a shuttle service.

FPC20-094 Date of Next Meeting

Monday, 8th February 2021

The meeting closed at 8.30pm