

Minutes of the Farndon Parish Council held on Monday, 25th September 2017 at 6.30pm in the Parish Council Room

Present: Councillor M Baker, in the Chair
Councillor Mrs Bayne
Councillor A Duckmanton
Councillor Mrs J Gafney
Councillor I Millner

Also in attendance: District Councillors K & I Walker, County Cllr Mrs Saddington and 2 members of the public

FPC17-55 Apologies for absence

Received and accepted by Cllr M Oldham, Cllr J Teixeira-Gomes and District Cllr N Mison.

FPC17-56 Declarations of interest

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

FPC17-57 Minutes of the Parish Council – Monday, 14th August 2017

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 14th August 2017 were accepted as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

FPC17-58 Updates from the Minutes

The Clerk fed back to Members on matters that had been raised in the August minutes.

Hawthorne Crescent to California Road

The County Council's online portal had shown that the land was not their responsibility so the Clerk had contacted Newark & Sherwood Homes. However, their information was that the roads and footpaths were adopted and Officers had contacted the County Council for them to update their records. A response was awaited.

Mirror – Hawton Bridge

Enquiries had been made of the Highways Authority regarding the potential of positioning a mirror on the bridge at Hawton. Confirmation had been received that mirrors were not authorised by Highways as they can distort both images and distance and can dazzle oncoming drivers in darkness and give the impression of another oncoming vehicle.

External Audit

The external auditors had requested further information on the increase in the Council's fixed assets. The Clerk had responded and no further questions had been raised. It was anticipated that the audit would be completed shortly.

Stopped Up Highway – Main Street Crossroads, Farndon

Confirmation had been received from the Highways Authority that the road (old Hawton Lane) is not stopped up, but still maintained at public expense. That being the case, no permission could be given for bottle banks.

BT Adopt a Kiosk

Confirmation had been received that ownership of the telephone kiosk on Main Street had been transferred to the Parish Council. Notices would be placed in the kiosk to inform the public of the transfer. An item would be placed on the October agenda to consider how to utilise the kiosk.

FPC17-59 Proposals for Bus Shelter & Installation of a Bus Stop – Main Street, Farndon

The Clerk referred to correspondence received from Nottinghamshire County Council regarding proposals for the bus shelter at Church Street on Main Street Farndon, which had arisen from the initial notification of damage to the roof.

The County Council had originally proposed to repair the shelter, but were now proposing to replace it with a wooden 'Guildford' shelter which would have windows, a solar powered internal light and seating.

It was noted that a member of the public was concerned about the potential fire risk with a wooden shelter being placed immediately in front of a transformer. The Chair advised that this would be drawn to the County Council's attention.

After discussion it was AGREED that Members would support the replacement of the brick shelter with a wooden shelter.

It was noted that work would be completed by 31st March 2018.

The County Council had advised that they were also handling a complaint about the bus stop opposite the bus shelter on Main Street, which was currently not marked with a bus stop pole. Residents were concerned that passengers block their driveway when waiting for a bus and believed this increases the risk of a pedestrian accident.

It was proposed to move the bus stop to an alternative location away from the drive, which would require a 19m bus stop clearway to be installed, using primrose hatching as an alternative to yellow as the area was in the Conservation Area.

It was considered that public consultation could be undertaken between June and October 2018, with a view to completing the works by 31st March 2019.

Members were supportive of the proposals put forward by the County Council but were concerned that the location may impact on traffic exiting Cross Lane. It was AGREED that the Clerk would raise this with Officers at the County Council.

FPC17-60 County Councillor Session – Cllr Mrs Saddington

The Chair suspended the meeting at 6.53pm for Cllr Mrs Saddington to present her report.

The meeting with Jo Horton, County Highways, was confirmed at 10.30am on Tuesday, 26th September to discuss problems around the bus stop on Main Street. The Chair could not attend, but the Clerk would be present.

Cllr Mrs Saddington confirmed that she had requested an interactive speed sign on Marsh Lane from the current round of funding.

The Chair thanked Cllr Mrs Saddington for her report and reconvened the meeting at 6.59pm.

FPC17-61 Nottinghamshire County Council

Advance Roadworks Bulletin – Closure of B6166

The overnight closure of the B6166 from 8pm on Thursday, 28th September to 5am on Friday, 29th September 2017 for a drainage survey was received and noted.

FPC17-62 District Councillor Session

The Chair suspended the meeting at 7.02pm to allow for the District Councillors to present their report.

Cllr K Walker reported that the District Council were now back from their Summer break and have moved in to their new building, Castle House.

A meeting had been held with the MP, Robert Jenrick, regarding the new southern relief road. New funding was available which could result in the road being built in 2-5 years time.

The Chair thanked Cllr Walker for his report and reconvened the meeting at 7.04pm.

FPC17-63 Parish Council Matters

While Cllr Mrs Saddington was present, it was AGREED that item 10(c), Extension of Duration of Christmas Tree lights – Carols on the Green, be brought forward.

The Clerk explained that FREG were seeking to extend the duration that the lights for the Carols on the Green were erected, from two weeks before the event to over the Christmas season.

Following discussion it was AGREED that the Clerk should discuss this in greater detail with the Council's insurers, and County Highways, to ensure the extended period would be covered and permission granted as appropriate.

Cllr Mrs Saddington offered to provide extra funding from her budget if it was required.

FPC17-64 Farndon Residents Environment Group

The Chair suspended the meeting at 7.07pm to allow Mr Dodson to present his report.

The monthly litter pick had been held in August and members had also helped out at the Notts Wildlife Trust open day, providing refreshments. This had raised £88 which will be given to a local charity.

On Sunday, 8th October, the small willow trees and brash near the concrete car park at the ponds will be cut back which will allow the trees to breathe.

The Chair thanked Mr Dodson for his report and reconvened the meeting at 7.10pm.

FPC17-65 Public 10 Minute Session

The Chair suspended the meeting at 7.11pm for the public session.

A resident questioned whether the Parish Council had recharged the Farndon Boathouse for clearing the straw following the recent fire.

The Clerk advised that, as the straw had been moved on to the Parish Council's land, liability lay with the Council to remove. However, the Boathouse had been advised that they should take action in future years to ensure that any straw used was removed immediately.

The Clerk had also contacted Newark & Sherwood District Council to ensure that licence requirements were being complied with in terms of the number of attendees and firework displays.

The Chair reconvened the meeting at 7.15pm

FPC17-66 Parish Council Matters

(a) **Remembrance Sunday Arrangements**

It was AGREED that the Clerk should liaise with the Church Wardens on arrangements for Remembrance Sunday on 12th November and notify Members accordingly.

An invitation to be extended to Dave Everington to undertake the reading.

(b) **Change of Meeting Dates**

The Chair proposed a change in the meeting dates, with the November meeting moved from 27th November to 4th December, and for the 2018/19 schedule, a meeting to be planned for mid-August, rather than the end of July. This would shorten the length of time between meetings during the two recesses.

This change was AGREED by Members.

The Clerk was asked to notify the Farndon Focus so the changes could be included in the magazine.

(c) **Extension of Duration of Christmas Tree Lights – Carols on the Green**

This item had been taken earlier on the agenda.

(d) **Free Community First Aid Courses – Newark Community First Responders**

Members received and noted the request from Newark Community First Responders for supporting in paying for a venue to allow for free training to be offered in first aid.

It was AGREED that this would be supported and the Clerk would liaise with the Village Hall Committee and Community First Responders Training Manager on a suitable date.

FPC17-67 Update Reports from Chairs

(a) **Planning & General Purposes**

17/01314/TWCA – 3 Prebends Close, Farndon - 1 No. Silver Birch - reduce height by up to 3m and sides to match & 1 No. Cherry Plum - Reduce by up to 2m all round

Members noted the application for work to trees in the conservation area at 3 Prebends Close had been approved.

Update on Enforcement Issues

The Clerk updated Members on the issues that had been investigated by the District Council's Enforcement Team.

Footpath to Thorpe

The Chair referred to finger signposting for the public footpath to Thorpe from the old A46. Given that the bypass was now in use, the Clerk was asked to liaise with Officers in the Rights of Way section regarding the validity of this footpath.

Footpath Inspection

It was AGREED that the Clerk would liaise with Members to find a mutually convenient date to inspect the footpaths in the village.

(b) **Playing Field**

Enquiry to use playing field by football team - update

Cllr Duckmanton advised that the Cricket Club had confirmed it would be willing to work with any new football team in providing changing facilities, especially as this would assist with the need for a new pavilion. However, they would not be able to store the goal posts because of their length.

A cost of £100 initially had been received from a contractor to mark out the pitch. Thereafter the lining could be undertaken by Council employees.

It was AGREED that the Clerk would confirm the rental previously applied to football teams using the field to Cllr Duckmanton, who would liaise with the team and the cricket club in terms of a start date.

Play Area Repairs

The Clerk advised that the play area inspection report had not yet been received. It would be reviewed with Cllr Duckmanton and any actions necessary, including new equipment, implemented and reported back to a future meeting.

(c) **Cemetery**

Visit by Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust

Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust had confirmed it would be able to assist the Council with ways to encourage wildlife in the Cemetery. Available dates for a meeting were awaited.

The Clerk would liaise direct with Cllr Mrs Bayne when dates had been received.

Church Yard

It was AGREED that the Clerk should request a meeting with the Parochial Church Council to discuss the best way of maintaining the Church Yard going forward.

Potential Land for New Cemetery

It was AGREED that the Clerk would follow up correspondence sent to the land owner as no reply had as yet been received.

(d) **Ponds & Riverside**

Repairs to Revetment

A quotation was still awaited.

Environment Agency – Survey of Ponds

The Clerk referred to email correspondence and a meeting held on site with the Environment Agency's Fisheries Technical Officer, Dr Twine.

A response was awaited on whether the ponds could be surveyed as part of the Environment Agency's winter netting scheme. This would provide information on species, numbers, length and growth rates which would help provide a report and fisheries management advice. The Environment Agency would also include other issues of concern, i.e., weed growth.

The Clerk would advise Members when any date was confirmed.

Works by FREG

Cllr Gomes had agreed to FREG undertaking some works in the ponds to clear some dilapidated willow scrub and provide light to growing trees.

A meeting to be arranged with the Council's contractor to discuss the winter maintenance.

To consider provision of more seating

Cllr Mrs Gafney if investigation could be made in to putting more seating in the ponds, especially by the marina

It was AGREED that the Clerk would investigate and report back.

Road to the Ponds

It was AGREED that the Clerk should contact the owners to ask if there were any plans to make repairs to the road, which was becoming increasingly difficult to use.

FPC17-68 Financial Matters

(a) **To consider accounts for payments in accordance with the circulated schedule**

Members received and noted the accounts for payment in accordance with the circulated schedules.

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

Members received and noted receipts received in accordance with the circulated schedules.

(c) **To note the Council's financial position as at 25th September 2017**

In a change to the agenda item, Members received and noted the Council's financial position as at 25th September 2017.

FPC17-69 Newark & Sherwood District Council

(a) **Parish Event – 16th October 2017**

The invitation to attend a Parish Event, organised by Newark & Sherwood District Council for Monday, 16th October 2017 at Castle House, was received and noted.

It was AGREED that the Chair and Clerk would attend the event as representatives of the Parish Council.

In response to a question raised by Cllr Mrs Bayne, it was AGREED that the District Council would be asked to confirm why the NHS Mansfield and Ashfield CCG had been invited to attend rather than the NHS Newark & Sherwood CCG.

FPC17-70 Notts Association of Local Councils

(a) **Annual General Meeting and Nomination to Executive Committee – 15th November 2017**

It was AGREED that Cllr Baker would again be nominated to serve on the Executive Committee of the Nottinghamshire Association of Local Councils.

The event would be attended by Cllr Baker and the Clerk, other Members were welcome to attend too if they so wished.

(b) **Report from Chair on NALC Executive Committee**

Cllr Baker reported on matters recently discussed at the NALC Executive Committee.

One key issue was changes to the way the Council handled data. While advice was awaited, the changes may mean that the Clerk could not be the nominated data controller. Implications would be fed back to a future meeting of the Parish Council.

The Rt Hon Kenneth Clarke MP was no longer Chairman of the Nottinghamshire Association. He had been replaced by Robert Jenrick MP who would retain the position for a period of 3 years.

(c) **Government Consultation on Broadband**

Members noted the work NALC were undertaking on the Government's consultation on broadband.

FPC17-71 To receive any correspondence

(a) Thank You Letter

A thank you letter had been received from the resident who had been sent a bouquet for their 100th birthday.

(b) RCAN Wheels to Work

Members received and noted the initiative. The Clerk would put the posters supplied on the village noticeboards.

(c) Data Protection Registration Renewal

The Clerk advised that the renewal had been received for the Data Protection Registration.

(d) Winter Service – Offer of Assistance

Members received and noted the offer from Nottinghamshire County Council for 5 free 20kg bags of salt. It was AGREED that this offer be accepted.

(e) Newark Healthcare Consultative Group

Correspondence had been received for the next meeting on 29th September 2017.

FPC17-72 To receive items for notification

None were raised.

FPC17-73 Date of Next Meeting

Monday, 23rd October 2017

The meeting closed at 8.26pm.