

Minutes of the Meeting of Farndon Parish Council held on Monday, 28th June 2021 at 6.30pm
in the Main Hall, Memorial Hall, Marsh Lane, Farndon

Present: **Councillor M Baker, in the Chair**
 Councillor Mrs Bayne
 Councillor Duckmanton (L)
 Councillor Mrs Kingston
 Councillor Parker
 Councillor Teixeira-Gomes (L)

Also present: PC H Shaw and two members of the public. Cllr Mrs Saddington was also in attendance via Zoom (7.50pm)

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, the Chair welcomed all Members to the first face to face meeting since February 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic

FPC21-22 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Councillor Rhodes-Yeomans and District Councillor I Walker.

FPC21-23 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Duckmanton declared an interest in Agenda item 11(d), it was AGREED that any other declarations of interest would be stated by Members as required during the meeting.

FPC21-24 Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council – 4th May 2021

Subject to an amendment to record that Councillor Rhodes-Yeomans was absent and not also present, the minutes of the annual meeting held on Tuesday, 4th May 2021 were accepted as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

With the approval of Members, the Chair brought forward agenda items 11(c) Excessive Waste – Riverside, and 10(c) CCTV Sub-Committee for consideration.

FPC21-25 **Excessive Waste – Riverside**

The Clerk gave an update on the situation with the excessive waste that had been generated in the bins adjacent to the riverside, a large proportion of which was from motorhomes parking on Riverside land. The correspondence with the Directors at the Riverside pub was referred to.

Legislation relating to how long motorhomes could park overnight had been drawn to the Director's attention.

Contact was then received from a resident, expressing concern that the Riverside were going to close the back car park where camper vans were parking, and extend into the grassed area adjacent to Wyke Lane.

The Clerk made enquiries with Planning Enforcement, who confirmed that permitted development allowed for the temporary use of land for a period of not more than 28 days in a calendar year. However, for the period of 1st January 2021 – 31st December 2021 there is a further 28 days of permitted use allowed (a total then of 56 days in a calendar year). Any use in excess of this will require planning permission. The extension into the front car park would be considered permitted development, so after the 56 day period planning permission would be required. This information had been brought to the attention of the Directors, who had then advised that they would just maintain the status quo. The Clerk had requested a site meeting, but that had been declined.

Members noted that the area was on a review site, but accepted that had not been put there by the Riverside actively seeking people to come and park, but by users highlighting that there were no fees or restrictions.

The Chair suspended the meeting at 6.45pm to allow the residents to speak.

The residents explained the noise nuisance that emanated from the Farndon Boathouse and the impact that, and anti-social behaviour as people left the area, had on their enjoyment of their property. The anti-social behaviour included people urinating up their boundary wall, car doors slamming and people shouting.

The residents also reported that there were transit vans and cars accessing the Riverside car park at all times of the day and night, with loud music playing and drug dealing. There was also a strong smell of cannabis in the area. The Police had been contacted on several occasions, but no action appeared to have been taken. On one occasion, when reporting drug dealing, the resident was told that the dealers were not doing any harm to them, and not causing them any trouble. The resident did not consider that to be an appropriate response, especially if there were drug driving offences taking place.

It was noted that there was no signage asking people to respect the area, and leave quietly.

The resident asked if the marquee at the Boathouse would be remaining permanently as it took up most of the car parking spaces, which then impact on the other two car parks and resulted in cars parking on Wyke Lane. Was it a condition of planning that a certain amount of spaces had to be provided?

The Clerk advised that legislation had been relaxed to enable hospitality businesses to extend their outdoor space without requiring planning permission during the pandemic. It was not clear if this would remain in place after 19th July and Licensing had already been asked for advice on this matter. A reply was awaited. There was also the question of the impact on the Right of Way which had previously been raised. The Clerk to seek further clarification.

The residents also expressed concern at people using the land for overnight fishing, which sometimes resulted in anti-social behaviour. The Clerk to seek clarification on who held the fishing rights, and also to raise with the Environment Agency as there was no provision for human waste with the toilets being closed. This was also a concern with the amount of camper vans and motorhomes using the area.

The resident observed that many of the problems could be solved by putting up a height bar to the back car park, locking the car park overnight and putting signs up advising that overnight parking was not permitted. CCTV would also be a deterrent.

The Chair noted that signage requesting people respect the neighbourhood when leaving could be put up on Parish Council land.

It was AGREED that the Clerk would follow up all matters with Licensing and keep the residents updated. The litter and anti-social behaviour on the Riverside land would also be reported through the Community Support Officers at the District Council. The issue of human waste being disposed of direct into the River Trent would be raised with the Environment Agency.

The Chair invited PC Shaw to give his perspective of problems in the area in the past few months.

PC Shaw outlined that there had been 50-60 incidents over the last six months. As Beat Manager, PC Shaw relied on the community to report incidents as, if not reported, there would be a perception that there weren't any problems in the village so it won't be a priority for policing. There had been 9 anti-social behaviour reports in the last month, 6 of those were around young people jumping in the River Trent. It was recognised that groups of young people swearing were intimidating to residents. PC Shaw had tried to get the area designated as a training area for water exercise but that was not possible due to the risk assessments.

Councillor Parker to do a piece for the residents page reinforcing the need to report incidents, and the best way to do that.

FPC21-26 CCTV Sub-Committee

Members noted the minutes from the CCTV Sub-Committee held on 26th May 2021. Councillor Duckmanton explained the idea of siting cameras at strategic points around the village. There was extensive legislation that governed establishing a system, and it was important that there was a clear understanding of what it would be used for and the reasons behind it.

PC Shaw also outlined the importance of having policies in place to govern any CCTV scheme and for the Parish Council to have a clear reason on why it was considered necessary in the first place. The Parish Council needed to be cogniscent of surveillance legislation, particularly around directed surveillance. The village was well positioned as it only had two routes in and out, so cameras at each junction would be useful, together with one at the riverside.

It was noted that it would not stop vandalism and anti-social behaviour, but it may be able to make a difference and help people feel safer.

One option would be to have a combination of static and moveable cameras, that could be moved around to hotspots. Costs would need to be investigated.

Another option was to establish a list of properties in the village that had a CCTV system. A request had previously been put out on the residents page but response had been very poor. It was AGREED that Councillor Parker put the request out again, and emphasise that the information would not be shared with anyone else.

Councillor Duckmanton understood that some people wanted CCTV immediately, but it was not something that could be rushed into it. Councillor Duckmanton referred to a village network system for wi-fi, provided by Virgin Media and BT, which needed to be researched.

After discussion it was AGREED that the Clerk seek information on a village network provided by Virgin Media or BT.

With the grant now having been agreed towards CCTV on the playing field, further discussion was required by the CCTV Sub-Committee.

FPC21-27 County Councillor Session

The Chair suspended the meeting at 8pm to allow Councillor Mrs Saddington to present her report.

Councillor Mrs Saddington reported that Tetra Pak packages were now being accepted for recycled at Recycling Centres.

1m COVID-19 vaccine doses had now been delivered in the County.

A Transport and Environment Committee had now been formed at the County Council. This was a cross-party committee to look at a review of highways. The review should be complete by the Autumn.

Councillor Mrs Saddington had been appointed as Chairman of the Health Scrutiny Committee. Maternity services at NUH had been in front of the Committee, and had been asked to return in October with a full report. Next month the Ambulance Service would be in attendance.

The Local Improvement Scheme was going to be reviewed. It would remain in its current form until 2022, with the review commencing in September 2021.

A COVID-19 partnership scheme had been created with a £1m fund to help social recovery.

Residents were being asked, via a survey, what they would like the County Council to provide, and priorities for the future.

The Chair to liaise direct with Councillor Mrs Saddington regarding Early Years.

- (a) Temporary Road Closure – Thorpe Lane, Farndon – 28th June to 2nd July
Members noted the temporary closure of Thorpe Lane, Farndon to allow Severn Trent Water to carry out works to repair a defect in a pipe.
- (b) St Peter’s Early Years
The Chair updated Members on the present position with St Peter’s Early Years, which was at risk of closure for a number of reasons, including the lack of parents coming forward to stand on the committee. The existing committee were retiring, and to try and help plan for future provision, both he, and the Clerk, had come forward to join the committee to try and help. The constitution had been changed to allow non-family members of children to be on the committee. The existing committee were aware of the connections with the Parish Council and it was not considered a conflict of interest. Members were asked to note the Chair and Clerk’s appointment to the Early Years committee, so that it was formally recorded.

Members were asked to consider an amendment to a condition on the lease which restricted the opening times that children could attend to between the hours of 8.15am and 3.15pm, 39 weeks of a year. After discussion it was AGREED that this condition should be lifted.

- (c) County Council Civic Service – Sunday, 11th July 2021
Information had been received that the Civic Service would be livestreamed via YouTube at 3pm on Sunday, 11th July 2021. The link will be circulated to Members when received.

FPC21-28 District Councillor Session

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

- (a) Health & Community Engagement Team
Members noted the document detailing the role of the Health & Community Engagement Team.
- (b) Impact of New Builds on Car Parking Review
The Clerk updated Members on the present position. Three areas have been identified in Farndon as having medium issues. A request had been made for the details of the three areas identified, and when an approach will be made to residents. The District Council had indicated that they would only consult with Council tenants, and the Clerk had asserted that all residents needed to be consulted.

The request for details of the three areas had been denied, on the basis that it was felt only fair that the residents directly affected should be the first people to know.

Locations would be shared once initial contact has been made. There was no wider remit for consultation other than council tenants. A wider approach would be dependent upon the proposals which came forward after the initial consultation.

However, the District Council advised they would not be carrying out any consultations with private owners, neither would they be proposing any works on private homes.

Members asked that the Clerk continue to try and obtain information on the areas that have been identified.

- (c) Amended Planning Scheme of Delegation
Members noted the adopted amended planning scheme of delegation. The flowchart provided a good explanation of the process.
- (d) Newark & Sherwood Community Lottery
Consideration of this item was deferred to the August meeting.
- (e) Model Code of Conduct – Adoption & Training
Members noted this was scheduled to be considered for adoption by the District Council on 13th July 2021. Training would be rolled out in due course.
- (f) Adoption of Residential Cycle & Car Parking Standards & Design Guide SPD
Members noted the adoption of the standards and design guide.

FPC21-29 Farndon Residents Environment Group

- (a) June Meeting
Members noted the minutes of the Annual General Meeting.

FPC21-30 Public 10 Minute Session

This item had been taken earlier on the agenda.

FPC21-31 Parish Council Matters

- (a) Village Event
This item was deferred for consideration at the August meeting, as restrictions were still ongoing.
- (b) Speedwatch Training
The Clerk outlined that this had now been put back to Thursday, 15th July 2021 at 5pm. Three members of the public had come forward to volunteer, along with Members. The Clerk to speak to the Sexton about undertaking the training.
- (c) CCTV Sub-Committee Minutes
This item had been covered earlier on the agenda.

- (d) Letter to NSDC re Southern Link Relief Road
Members noted the letter that had been submitted to the Chief Executive at Newark & Sherwood District Council.
- (e) The Queen's Jubilee Platinum Beacons – 2nd June 2022
Members noted the plans for countrywide beacons to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

The item to be considered at a future meeting of the Parish Council.

FPC21-32 Update Reports from Chairs

- (a) Chairman's Report

County Day

The Chair will update Members as further information was received. It was intended that the day be on 23rd August 2021.

- (b) Planning

Links to the applications on the District Council's planning portal had been forwarded to Members prior to the meeting.

21/01338/HOUSE – 3 Birchenall Court, Farndon - Proposed two-storey side extension to existing dwelling and removal of 1no. Yew tree under TPO (Re-submission)

After consideration, Members AGREED to support the application.

21/01161/FULM – St Peter's Cross Keys Church of England Academy, Sandhill Road - Extension to form secure lobby, complete with entrance canopy

After consideration, Members AGREED to support the application.

21/01201/LBC – The Annexe, 5 Grays Court, Farndon - Convert existing attached garage into living space, with installation of 2no. windows and replacement of 2no. rooflights

Members noted the comments of the Conservation Officer and AGREED to support the application.

21/00913/HPRIOR – 31 California Road, Farndon - Householder prior approval for single storey rear extension

Members noted the decision notice granting planning permission as outlined.

21/00754/HOUSE – 17 Walters Close, Farndon – Proposed ground floor side extension

Members noted the decision notice granting planning permission as outlined.

21/00743/HOUSE – 76 Fosse Road, Farndon - Two-storey rear extension with partial render.

Members noted the decision notice granting planning permission as outlined.

21/00707/HOUSE – 1 Holmefield, Farndon - Retrospective approval of new timber gates, fencing and car port

Members noted that planning consent had been refused for the retrospective application.

21/00406/HOUSE – 3 Birchenall Court, Farndon - Proposed 2 storey extension to rear of existing family dwelling and removal of tree protected by TPO N45

Members noted that planning consent had been refused for the development as outlined.

21/00693/HOUSE – 136 Marsh Lane, Farndon – 2 Storey Rear Extension

Members noted that planning consent had been refused for the development as outlined.

21/01266/TPO – 6 Westfield Way, Farndon - Undertake works to tree Lime identified as forming part of Group G2 protected by TPO N41; Fell tree as it has died.

Members noted the tree works as outlined.

21/01068/TWCA – 12 St Peter's Close, Farndon - T1 Spruce - section fell tree due outgrowing its position, creating excessive shading and low amenity value. Re-plant Holly T2 Holly - section fell tree due to poor shape and form.

Members noted the tree works as outlined.

(c)

General Purposes

Repairs to Telephone Box

Members AGREED the costs as outlined by the Clerk to replace the glass, leather strap and closer in the sum of £263.55.

Review of 'No Mow May' Initiative

The Clerk explained the areas that had been left unmown during the 'No Mow May' initiative.

These included the verge at Main Street and Fosse Road, the verge at the top of the playing field and the Meadow behind The Meadows and Sandhill Road.

The Sexton had mown a strip along the footpath to maintain access, and also strips up to the gates of adjacent properties. It was disappointing to note that a resident had taken it upon themselves to mow a bigger area behind their property, without asking for permission.

After discussion it was AGREED that a letter be sent to all residents who backed onto the land to explain the reasons behind it not being cut and the benefits to the environment.

A request had been received from a resident to put wild perennials alongside the verge at Main Street. The Clerk had run the request by Via who had not raised any objection, subject to certain stipulations. This would now be progressed.

Excess Rubbish – Riverside

This item had been considered earlier on the agenda.

Wildlife Pond

A quotation in the sum of £7,700 had been received from A V Squires. Contact details for an alternative contractor with the relevant licences to work in the highway were being investigated.

(d)

Playing Field

Extension of Lease – Farndon Cricket Club & Confirmation of Details re New Pavilion

The Chair referred to a request received from the Cricket Club to extend their lease to cover a period of 50 years. The Council's solicitor had confirmed that this would need to be formally agreed by the Parish Council.

After discussion, Members AGREED that they had no objection to the grant of a 50 year lease for the new pavilion and new piece of land, but would want to leave the lease for the bowls club as previously agreed.

The Cricket Club had also requested confirmation and approval for:

1. The new pavilion to be built between the bowling green and current pavilion (now proposed as adjacent to the bowling green as recommended by the parish council)
2. The new pavilion would not be permitted to be more than 9.4 metres high (as per the design of the previous plans)
3. The current cricket pavilion would be demolished and the site cleared once the new pavilion is completed

After discussion, Members confirmed and AGREED the three points listed above.

The Chair had agreed that the pavilion could be made slightly wider to give more room in the changing rooms to enable representative matches to be held at the club.

Councillor Duckmanton updated Members on the meeting held with Via regarding the possibility of an entrance to the field from Fosse Road.

Confirmation of New Football Team 2021-22 Season

Members noted that a second team would be using the playing field during the 2021-22 season. Councillor Duckmanton to arrange a meeting on site with the team and the Sexton to outline the use of the nets with them.

Outcome of Parish & Town Council Initiative Fund Bid

Members noted that the Parish Council had been successful in its bid to the Parish & Town Council Initiative Fund.

Play Area Fence & Play Area Boundary Hedge – Request from Resident

The items had been listed separately on the agenda, but the Chair considered they should be discussed at the same time.

Members noted the request from residents regarding the boundary hedge at the play area, and the problems experienced over a number of years with anti-social behaviour.

After discussion, it was AGREED that the Clerk further investigate the provision of fencing, directly behind the hedge but at a distance of 1.5m from the boundary of the properties adjacent to Marsh Lane.

Football Nets

This item to be deferred for consideration at the August meeting.

(e) Cemetery

Report on Cemetery Training – 23rd June 2021

This item to be deferred for consideration at the August meeting.

The Clerk advised that it had been recommended that the Parish Council become a member of the ICCM (Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management). The annual membership fee was £95. This was AGREED.

Cemetery Memorials

This item to be deferred for consideration at the August meeting.

(f) Ponds & Riverside

Picnic Area Flood Bank

The Clerk updated Members on a recent conversation with an officer from the Environment Agency. A response was expected prior to the next meeting, which would be circulated to Members on receipt.

The Officer recognised that it was important to understand the reasons behind the flood bank being there, and to understand the modelling of the River Trent

Picnic Area Tree Planting

The Clerk referred to the removal of trees in the picnic area that had been identified during the recent tree survey. A resident had asked if it would be possible for replacement plantings to be made. Members AGREED that the Clerk could progress.

Replacement Picnic Benches

Members AGREED that the Clerk progress the purchase of two benches, one of which to be accessible for wheelchairs.

FPC21-33 Financial Matters

- (a) To consider accounts for payments in accordance with the circulated scheduled
Members noted the circulated schedule detailing accounts for payment.
- (b) To note any receipts in accordance with the circulated schedule
Members noted the circulated schedule detailing receipts.
- (c) To note the Council's financial position as at 31st May 2021
Members noted the Council's financial position as at 31st May 2021.
- (d) To note completion of the Internal Audit & the Internal Auditor's Comments
The Clerk confirmed that the accounts for the financial year 2020/21 had been reviewed by an internal auditor.
- (e) To consider the Annual Governance Statement as at 31st March 2021
Members received and approved the Annual Governance Statement as at 31st March 2021 and AGREED that it should be signed by the Chairman.
- (f) To consider the Accounting Statements as at 31st March 2021
Members received, noted and agreed the Accounting Statement as at 31st March 2021 and AGREED that it should be signed by the Chairman.
- (g) Grant Funding Requests
Members noted a request for funding had been received from St Peter's Academy. The Clerk was asked to seek clarification on what the Archbishop of York Awards were, at a cost of £300 per class.

The Clerk to also circulate to Members the grants awarded over the last two financial years.

FPC21-34 Notts Association of Local Councils

- (a) Utility Aid Review
Members AGREED that the Clerk could progress a review of the utilities through the Utility Aid scheme.

FPC21-35 Correspondence

There was nothing to report.

FPC21-36 Items for Notification

No items were raised.

FPC21-37 Date of Next Meeting

Monday, 2nd August 2021

The meeting closed at 9pm.

