

Minutes of the Meeting of Farndon Parish Council held on Monday, 2nd August 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
Councillor Mrs Kingston
Councillor Parker
Councillor Teixeira-Gomes

Also present: County Cllr Mrs Saddington, District Cllr I Walker and five members of the public.

FPC21-38 Apologies for absence
An apology for absence was received and accepted from Councillor Rhodes-Yeomans.

FPC21-39 Declarations of Interest
Councillor Duckmanton declared an interest in Agenda item it was AGREED that any other declarations of interest would be stated by Members as required during the meeting.

FPC21-40 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting – 28th June 2021
The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday, 28th June 2021 were accepted as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

PC21-41 **Public 10 Minute Session**
The Chair suspended the meeting at for the public session.

A resident asked how devolution to councils would affect the Parish Council? The Chair confirmed that no information on devolution had yet been received so was unable to provide any clarity.

A resident referred to the 'No Mow May' initiative, and questioned why this had carried on into August. The Clerk asked for clarification on which area the resident was referring to, and they confirmed it was the meadow behind Sandhill Road and The Meadows. The Chair confirmed this had been discussed at the June meeting, following which a letter had been sent to residents whose properties backed onto the area to explain the reasons behind it not being cut. Positive feedback had been received from a number of residents who had seen an increase in birds, insects and butterflies taking advantage of the variety of grasses and wildflowers. The area would be fully cut at the beginning of September. Advice had initially been taken from Notts Wildlife Trust.

A resident queried why the paths around The Meadows were no longer cleaned. As this area was under the remit of the District Council, Councillor Walker agreed to raise the issue with the appropriate team.

A resident referred to the closure of the Early Years setting. As they cared about the village and the setting, the resident considered that the Parish Council should be involved.

FPC21-42 Parish Council Matters – To consider an assignment of the lease following the closure of St Peter’s Early Yeras

The Chair confirmed that the setting had been resigned from OFSTED with effect from 30th July 2021 so was no longer registered as an educational establishment. The Early Years Charity would remain in place until such time as the assets were disposed of. An expression of interest had been received from a private nursery, Country Kids, to take over the setting who would provide an extended offer to the village.

Another resident expressed concern at the amount of fees that would be charged, which would be out of their reach. The Chair queried how much the resident paid currently at the private nursery attended by their children. The resident took offence at the question, which saw the Chair apologise for causing offence which was unintended, he was trying to understand the difference between the two nurseries. The resident was also concerned that any contract would require them to pay for holidays. The Chair agreed to ask Country Kids about this matter.

A resident asked if the Parish Council would support the setting being taken over as a community nursery. The Chair explained that, according to data provided by Nottinghamshire County Council, there would be insufficient children to make the setting financially viable as an Early Years setting. If the Parish Council agreed to allow investigation of the setting to be taken over as a community nursery, Country Kids interest would likely be withdrawn and there would be nothing available to the community. Country Kids had indicated that they would want the setting to be open, with its extended offer, in September.

Councillor Duckmanton summarised that Country Kids were an established business, with four other settings already running and making a profit. They would be able to generate the financial investment needed to make the appropriate repairs and pull in support from their other sites.

Councillor Parker considered that the setting needed to be run as a business, as schools are run these days.

Councillor Mrs Saddington confirmed that Nottinghamshire County Council could not put money into a building that was not their own, so could not repair the existing building. There would be lots of legislation involved in establishing a community nursery.

Councillor Mrs Bayne noted that the current Early Years Charity had broke even in year one, but had then been running at a loss for the last 4 years. That was unsustainable.

Councillor Duckmanton noted that the Early Years had provided a service to the

village, but had now been closed. There were two options available, to level the site back to how it was at cost to the Parish Council or rent the land to someone prepared to make the building good and register it with OFSTED.

The Clerk referred to the report and backing papers circulated to Members which outlined the offer made by Country Kids:

- The day nursery would operate from 07.30am until 18.00pm, five days a week,
- The day nursery would be open 52 weeks per year closing only on Public Bank Holidays,
- The day nursery would provide care for children ages from 3 months to 5 years all year round,
- The day nursery would run a school holiday club which would operate 13 weeks per year and provide childcare for children aged 5 – 11 years,
- The day nursery would also run wrap around care, again for children aged 5 to 11 years which would include drop off and collection at the local school. This would be available if there was sufficient local need.

The Clerk explained that the current lease terms allowed the setting to open for 39 weeks a year (closed in school holidays), with opening hours of between 8.15am and 3.15pm.

Consideration would need to be given to the impact these extended hours may have on access to and from the setting, especially if the wider playing field was being used for any other purpose.

Members were asked to consider whether they would wish to enter into a new lease with Country Kids, with terms and conditions to be determined by each parties legal representatives.

The setting has been valued for rental purposes and that would be the amount that would be put forward as the rent payable.

After discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Baker, seconded by Councillor Mrs Kingston, that the expression of interest put forward by Country Kids be accepted. This was unanimously AGREED.

The Clerk was asked to instruct the Council's solicitors to enter into a new lease agreement with Country Kids.

FPC21-43 County Councillor Session

The Chair suspended the meeting at 7.10pm to allow Councillor Mrs Saddington to present her report.

Councillor Mrs Saddington reported that the Local Improvement Scheme was being reviewed. Information on a revised scheme should be available by October.

The new leader of the County Council was Ben Bradley, who was also MP for Mansfield. This was a huge advantage for the County as there was now a direct link into Government.

Devolution was in its early days and the County Council would be looking at the implications in due course.

The Councillor's Divisional Fund was now open, so if the Parish Council required any funding they would need to make a request.

Councillor Mrs Saddington continued in her role as Chairman of the Health Scrutiny Committee. Maternity Services, changes within NUH and primary care would be reviewed, as would mental health

Residents were being asked, via a survey, what they would like the County Council to provide, and priorities for the future. The link was now available on the County Council's website.

Councillor Mrs Kingston referred to the changes in bus passes for children attending Newark Academy. Councillor Mrs Saddington noted that the catchment school for Farndon was now the Magnus, not Newark Academy, which had caused the confusion.

The Chair thanked Councillor Mrs Saddington for her report and reconvened the meeting at 7.31pm.

(a) Bus Service Improvement Plan

Members noted that there was a survey now running to find out how local people would want their bus service improved. It was AGREED that the link be circulated on the Farndon Residents page.

FPC21-44 District Councillor Session

The Chair suspended the meeting at 7.32pm to allow Councillor I Walker to present his report.

Councillor Walker congratulated Councillor Mrs Saddington on her recent appointment as Vice-Chairman of Newark & Sherwood District Council.

The District Council were looking for a number of traveller sites, none were located in this area.

COVID-19 hospital admission rates were rising, with 82 two weeks ago, compared to 103 in the last week.

Councillor Parker expressed concern at the standard of finish of the new build at The Meadows and asked if Councillor Walker could investigate.

(a) Impact of New Builds on Car Parking Review

Information had been received from the District Council advising that they were in the process of finalising their Action Plan and would then be starting the consultation with tenants in due course. Any plans would be subject to internal authorisation as there was no budget set aside for any works arising.

The question had been asked whether the Parish Council knew if any proposals put forward by the District Council would be linked to any steps that the Parish Council might be taking around the parking situation generally in Farndon.

After consideration, Members views were that, as no information had yet been released about the proposals, it could not comment. Further, the parking situation had been caused by the District Council developing garage sites, so it needed to provide a solution for residents.

(b) Newark & Sherwood Plan Review – Options Report Consultation.

It was AGREED that the Clerk review and put together a response to the consultation, circulating to Members before submission.

(c) Member Code of Conduct

Newark & Sherwood District Council had adopted the Model Code of Conduct at Council on 13th July 2021. Training would be rolled out in due course, to include Parish Councils.

(d) Newark & Sherwood Community Lottery

Consideration of this item was deferred to the September meeting.

FPC21-45 Farndon Residents Environment Group

(a) July Meeting

Members noted the minutes of the Annual General Meeting.

FPC21-46 Parish Council Matters

(a) Village Event

It was AGREED it was not yet the right time to arrange an event. Consideration to be put back to a future meeting.

(b) Speedwatch Training

Thanks were extended to those residents who had come forward to volunteer for speedwatch training. The scheme could only work effectively if other residents came forward. It was AGREED that a request be made on the Farndon Residents page.

(c) Notification of Maintenance Works – A46

Members received and noted correspondence from Highways England regarding planned maintenance works on the A46.

FPC21-47 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.

21/01488/HOUSE – 4A School Lane, Farndon, NG24 3SL – Proposed Integral Garage.

After discussion, Members AGREED that the application be supported.

Decision Notice - 21/00315/HOUSE and 21/01201/LBC – The Granary Annexe, 5 Grays Court, Farndon - Convert existing attached garage into living space, with installation of 2no. windows and 2no. rooflights

Members noted the decision notice granting planning permission as outlined.

21/01383/TWCA – Farndon Lodge, 4 Church Street, Farndon - Maple (T1) - Remove dead wood and crossing and damaged branches. Maple (T2) - Remove dead wood and crossing and damaged branches. Lime (T3) - Crown lift to 5m from ground level over the gravestones. Sycamore (T4) - Crown lift to 5m from ground level. Sycamore (T5) - Crown lift to 5m from ground level and reduce 2m away from property. Maple (T6) - Reduce crown by 5m from ground level to reduce the stress in the cavities. Nearest branch to the church reduce by 5m.

Members noted the application for tree works as outlined.

(c) General Purposes

There was nothing to report.

(d) Playing Field

Request to use field for mini football training – Wednesday evening

Members AGREED to the request to use the football training for young children on a Wednesday evening. No charge would be levied at this time.

Football nets (deferred from June meeting)

It was AGREED that the Clerk progress the replacement of the ball stop netting through M H Goals at a cost of

To consider the plans for a new cricket pavilion

Members noted the plans that the Cricket Club had produced which outlined the proposed new cricket pavilion.

Members were aware that the Cricket Club had a thriving community, with over 90 children training on a Friday evening.

After discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Mrs Kingston, seconded by Councillor Parker, that the Parish Council support the plans for a new pavilion. It was noted that the Cricket Club would now have to proceed through the planning process at Newark & Sherwood District Council

(e) Cemetery

Report on Cemetery Training – 23rd June 2021

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

Cemetery Memorials

It was AGREED that the Clerk issue letters to all grave grant holders in the

(f) Ponds & Riverside

Farndon Ponds Fishing Permitholders What's App Group

The Clerk confirmed that the group had now been created and was proving a good way of interacting with permitholders.

Parish & Town Council Initiative Fund Works

Work would be progressed during the Autumn months.

FPC21-48 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.

FPC21-49 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.

FPC21-50 Correspondence

There was nothing to report.

FPC21-51 Items for Notification

With the approval of the Chairman, a resident asked a question regarding the proposal to put a boundary fence up at the play area and expressed concern at the financial cost.

The Chair explained the reasoning behind the proposal. The Parish Council would look at the Village Way boundary initially.

Councillor Teixeira-Gomes asked the Clerk to review the level of cut on the picnic area, and asked when the picnic benches would be installed.

The Clerk agreed to inspect the area with the Sexton. Benches were in the process of being made and would be installed as soon as they were ready.

Councillor Parker asked if the Horse Chestnut and Willows on the picnic area could be inspected. The Clerk confirmed that the Willows were coming up to the time to be pollarded. An inspection would be arranged with the Council's tree surgeon.

Councillor Mrs Bayne noted that it had not been possible to arrange a commemoration for VE Day and asked if consideration could be given to a memorial bench.

FPC21-52 Date of Next Meeting
Monday, 27th September 2021

The meeting closed at 9pm.