

FARTHINGSTONE PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES – DRAFT

A Parish Council meeting was held on Monday 20th January 2014 in the Village Hall at 8.00pm.

Present – Mrs Jennie Miller in the chair, Dr Stephen Batterby, Mrs Susan Castle, Mr John Church, Mr Chris FitzGerald, Mrs Sarah Hyatt, Mr Peter Stanton, County Councillor Robin Brown & 2 parishioners.

Apologies – None

The Chairman welcomed Cllr Robin Brown to the meeting and thanked him for attending.

Declarations of Members Interest

Personal	Sarah Hyatt & Peter Stanton declared an interest in the Joymead
Prejudicial	None

The minutes of the last meeting were read, agreed and signed.

Matters Arising

SB asked if anyone had shown any interest in being the Highways Warden. At present no one has. He will circulate a leaflet regarding this.

SB reported that he has heard nothing more regarding the Highways Consultation.

DDC are happy for our VDS to be used as part of the new neighbourhood plan. SC has a further meeting with DDC on 30th January.

The water running down the left hand side of Weedon Road, out of Farthingstone, appears to be run off from the field due to the ditch being blocked. This is the responsibility of the land owner. JM suggested that the Parish Council contact the land owner, Mr Harry Brown, to get this matter resolved. In due course, if nothing is done to remedy this over flow, contact will be made with Northamptonshire Highways and Daventry District Council.

Parish Council to contact County regarding the supply of a grit bin for Weedon Road. Councillor Brown asked to be copied in on correspondence and he will try to get one provided free of charge.

Joymead Funds for Repairs

Jennie Miller welcomed Debbie Mason to the meeting and asked her to report on this as her role as Chairperson for the Joymead. Debbie circulated her report regarding the current repairs that are needed in the Joymead and also plans for long term repairs.

This was discussed and all Councillors agreed that the Parish Council would support the Joymead in all aspects including financial.

SC asked Councillor Brown for his thoughts on this and the funds to be raised. He responded that he likes to know how much the monies that are being donated by the community involved, together with the Parish Council's financial support, is going to be in total. He is prepared to match the figure put on the table, and is therefore prepared to put forward up to £700.

Paul Justice has kindly offered to donate £500 from an organisation with which he is involved this year.

It was also suggested that English Heritage is made aware of the Joymead maintenance situation. JM recommended that this Parish Council should contact them and other interested historical parties. Councillor Brown wholeheartedly agreed with this approach.

JM thanked everyone for their input but suggested that we should not be looking at increasing the Parish Precept to fund this.

JC proposed £250 from FPC. This was seconded by PS and agreed unanimously by all members. Community funds together with the Parish Council input amounts to £700.

JM thanked Councillor Brown for his advice and general assistance saying it was much appreciated. She suggested that Cllr Brown might like to attend future events in Joymead and mentioned Joymead Tea in the summer might be a good celebration for him to bring his family to. He appeared to welcome the idea. Debbie will forward the dates of future events and invite him to attend.

JM thanked Debbie for her clear and concise appraisal and information regarding Joymead fund.

SC proposed that thanks should be made to Paul Justice for securing the generous donation from an organisation with which he is associated, and for his commitment to continue to assist with Joymead's ongoing projects. This was seconded by CF.

Neighbourhood Watch

Following a recent accident on the A361 near Badby in which the driver died and the passenger is seriously ill in hospital, police are asking for any witnesses to come forward.

There have been 2 recent burglaries in Blakesley, similar to the one at Walnut Lodge Stowe Nine Churches just before Christmas.

People are reminded to be extra vigilant.

Parish Precept

This was discussed and Councillors agreed unanimously that it should remain the same as last year. CF proposed £3,250 as before. This was seconded by JC.

Annual Audit - Asset Register Update

Following the recent external audit asking for the Asset Register to be updated, the clerk has prepared a map of the location of the street lights as additional information. This will now be used in line with the annual audit. The clerk will forward copies of the map to Members.

Planning Applications

None

Correspondence

SB commented on the results of the recent questionnaire completed by parishioners, regarding the upgrading of Broadband within the village. Farthingstone is marked down for sometime before the end of the project in 2017. SC suggested that FPC contacts other Parish Councils, on the Preston Capes exchange to see if we could apply more pressure, jointly, to hasten the date of installation.

SB to enquire as to where Farthingstone came in a recent questionnaire regarding this service.

PS has received some complaints regarding the local footpaths. There are some stiles that are broken which he has asked the authorities if he can repair himself. Due to Health and Safety rules this is not possible. When the work is done they will be replaced with kissing gates. PS has passed this matter over to Colin Wicks the officer at Northamptonshire CC responsible for footpath maintenance.

A.O.B

PS informed the Council that over the Xmas period Chris Tate and family cleared the pull in and path at the cemetery. Letter of thanks to be sent.

PS asked what if anything the village would like to do for the WW1 commemoration. If anyone has any ideas please let PS know. He is waiting to hear back from the NCC Story Teller.

PS asked, following the recent accident on the Litchborough Road where two cars were written off, if FPC should write to DDC asking for the vacant council owned land adjacent to the bungalows to be turned into hard standing for residents cars. The proposal was agreed by the Members. Contact also to be made with the District Councillors to ask for their support in this.

Paul Justice asked which authority is responsible for sweeping the roads within the Parish. He has never seen the road outside Fernhill Lodge swept. JM informed him that DDC organise this themselves and suggested that he contacts them, NCC Highways and the Police as well as FPC over future problems and ongoing concerns.

It was asked what are the piles of grey matter that have been tipped in several locations within the Parish. There were several suggestions but no accurate information. PC to contact DDC and ask their advice.

Date for next meeting Monday 17th March 2014 (TBC).

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.26pm.