

Farthingstone Parish Council

Extraordinary Meeting
Thursday 14th May 2015 at Farthingstone Village Hall

Present:	Jennie Miller (Chair) Stephen Batterby Susan Castle Peter Stanton Sarah Hyatt	ACTION POINTS
Apologies:	John Church	
	<p>JM reported that she had called this meeting, following the re-election of Farthingstone Parish councillors, in order to discuss a single matter that she had been considering and had discussed informally with a number of councillors regarding the requirement or necessity to continue to employ a Parish Council Clerk.</p> <p>The Parish Council Clerk is employed at a cost of £500 per annum which is one of the biggest single expenses that the Council incurs each year, with the exception of mowing expenses.</p> <p>JM suggested that, as we have experienced councillors who have been re-elected, there could be an opportunity to reduce our expenditure so that the funds currently spent on a clerk could be reinvested elsewhere within the Parish.</p> <p>JM reported that it is possible for a councillor to be the Clerk, as long as they are not paid for that position. She suggested that the work of the Clerk could be shared out between the existing councillors thus spreading the workload. This would mean, as an example, that one councillor would be responsible for, say road repairs, another for meeting notes and correspondence, and another for the cemetery and so on. A number of councillors were now retired and had a little more time to take on these commitments.</p> <p>She asked the meeting for views on this proposal and it was supported unanimously. The Chair asked for a proposer and seconder and Susan Castle proposed and Peter Stanton seconded the motion. A vote was taken and carried unanimously by all councillors present.</p> <p>It was agreed that the Chair (JM) would approach Stewart Summers, who is a newly elected councillor to brief him on the decision taken as soon as possible and before the next scheduled meeting on Tuesday 19th May.</p> <p>It was also agreed that the Chair (JM) would arrange to meet with Mrs Becky Chambers to advise her of the decision taken and that her services would no longer be required with immediate effect. This to be done as soon as possible and before the meeting on Tuesday 19th May. All councillors agreed that Becky should be formally thanked for all her hard</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">JM</p> <p style="text-align: right;">JM</p>

work as Clerk to Farthingstone Parish Council in the past. It was also unanimously agreed that, as a gesture of goodwill and to recognise her hard work, she should be paid for 3 months (pro-rata to the £500 per annum payment) in lieu of notice.

It was agreed that a single councillor should be nominated to act as “Clerk” to be a single point of contact for DDC and any other parties. Sarah Hyatt agreed to undertake this role and to deal with agendas, minutes and other correspondence.

Further discussion will be needed to identify councillors to take on other key roles. This can be dealt with at the next Parish Council Meeting on 19th May 2015 as part of the election of officers and committees.