

## Farthingstone Parish Council (DRAFT)

Minutes of the Meeting of Farthingstone Parish Council held in the Village Hall  
on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2015

Item No		Action
	<p><b>Attendance and Apologies:</b> Present: Jennie Miller, Susan Castle, John Church, Peter Stanton, Stewart Summers, Stephen Batterby and Sarah Hyatt Apologies: None One member of the public present</p>	
1/15	<p><b>Election of Chairperson:</b> One nomination was received. Peter Stanton proposed and Susan Castle seconded. Resolved that following the proposal Jennie Miller was elected as Chairperson for 2015/16. Jennie Miller agreed to accept the position.</p>	
2/15	<p><b>Election of Vice Chairperson:</b> As in previous years it was agreed that in the event of the absence of the Chairperson, another councillor would take the chair, but no formal Vice Chairperson would be elected.</p>	
3/15	<p><b>Election of Planning and Cemetery Committees:</b> As in previous years, it was agreed that all councillors would participate any planning or cemetery discussions/decision and these would take place at full Parish Council Meetings. This proposal was made by John Church and seconded by Susan Castle.</p>	
4/15	<p><b>Members Disclosable Pecuniary and other Disposable Declarations of Interest in agenda items:</b> None declared</p>	
5/15	<p><b>Minutes of Last Meeting:</b> The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2015 were agreed with one correction which was noted in Election and Resignation paragraph 2 which should read "As the Parish Council is due for re-election this year it was decided to wait until the elections to fill his vacant position." The Minutes were then signed as a true and accurate record.</p>	
6/15	<p><b>Matters Arising:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) AOB Paragraph 2 – Susan Castle reported that she had seen someone working on the Everdon Road and had asked about the potholes on the Maidford Road. He told Susan that these needed reporting to South Northants Council as they are responsible for the road above the bridleway. It</li> </ul>	



	2015/16.	
10/15	<p><b>Superfast Broadband Update for Farthingstone:</b></p> <p>Steve Batterby reported on the current situation which is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A questionnaire under the banner of CPRE has been circulated to all councils. Steve has not yet reported back to CPRE in detail so broad feedback only but many councils reported similar concerns to ourselves regarding broadband and mobile phone connectivity.</li> <li>• The Superfast Northamptonshire Team are managing the rollout of SFB but commission the work from providers who in the case of Farthingstone will be BT.</li> <li>• There are other commercial providers who have worked directly with communities but for a very small community like Farthingstone this is not a viable economic proposition.</li> <li>• There is a pot of money nationally to support connectivity for small rural areas, however Farthingstone is not an area which will be easily connected so has not been a high priority. We are included in the phase of work to commence in September 2016 to be completed by the end of 2017 (although BT have asked for more time to complete this phase – by September 2018).</li> <li>• Steve’s view is that there is a clear plan to deliver SFB to Farthingstone – but a lack of clear communication has led to a rather “ramshackle” approach and a feeling of confusion and lack of trust in plans. He now feels more confident about what and how but still concerns about when and the benefits.</li> <li>• BT’s delivery of SFB would follow the existing infrastructure – that is from the Preston Capes exchange. Farthingstone is the last village on this line. New cabling through existing ducting (wherever possible) would come to the box by the church. The existing copper cables would deliver service to each home. The further from the box you are – the slower the service will be. If you are a kilometre from the box there will be no significant benefit from SFB.</li> <li>• There may be opportunities for satellite broadband for some of these properties but the main rollout will be completed first.</li> <li>• Steve also reported that there may be problems with the existing ducting between Preston Capes and Farthingstone but until the work starts – the extent of this won’t be known, and may cause further delays.</li> <li>• Steve recounted his personal experience of line problems to his home which clearly showed how weak the infrastructure is to the village.</li> <li>• There is a lot of information on the website which is not always easy to find - <a href="http://www.superfastnorthamptonshire.net">www.superfastnorthamptonshire.net</a></li> <li>• Steve suggested that the village nominate a SFB Champion who</li> </ul>	

	<p>could keep the village informed in simple terms about progress. There is a lot of interest in the village for business and domestic reasons.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Steve reported that 2mb/sec is seen as a critical speed below which no one should fall. His home speed records at between 0.75 and 1.8. Speeds in the village are very slow and often well below this critical level.</li> <li>• Steve reported that he had emailed Colin Benham about the work to look at alternative options but had not had a response to date. So it seems like we are left with the BT solution which is not perfect but does have a plan for implementation. He feels as a village we have little influence and the contract has already been awarded. The surveys which were completed appear to have been ignored and there has been no consultation with end users.</li> <li>• Alternative options will cost us and are unlikely to economically viable for such a small community. GigaClear was mentioned with a question about whether we should contact them. However, the two issues seem to be critical mass (which Farthingstone does not have) and a very strong driving force to make it happen (in some cases setting up legal bodies to deliver) which is not present. It seems unlikely that directly working with a provider could be a solution for the village. Steve agreed to speak to Colin for a progress report and also agreed to become the Farthingstone SFB Champion.</li> <li>• John Church asked how much this is costing – indirectly through public and local government funding and directly to users if you decide to take up SFB through your contract with your internet providers where costs will vary by provider.</li> <li>• Ian Cramb reported that his children (and many others) are now using web based educational platforms and the poor service in Farthingstone is a real issue. He reported real concerns about BT Openreach where he has had 10 months of problems with a work telephone issue.</li> <li>• Ian also reported that he has work connections who may be able to supply more information about satellite broadband – he will investigate and report back.</li> </ul>	
11/15	<p><b>Planning Applications:</b> None</p>	
12/15	<p><b>Funding from Councillor Robin Brown:</b> The Chair requested that this be added as an additional item. She reported that Councillor Brown had contacted her as the Council's Cabinet Member for Public Health and Wellbeing. He has supported Farthingstone in the past with funding and there are further opportunities to secure funding in the next few months. The Chair will contact his PA details. Previously funds have been</p>	JM

	granted with match funding from the Parish Council funds and it was agreed to proceed on a similar basis in 2015/16, as the Joymead has many projects which require funds.	
<b>13/15</b>	<b>Correspondence:</b> None	
<b>14/15</b>	<p><b>Any Other Business:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Susan Castle reported that a cemetery clean-up had been done successfully – could we do one for the churchyard. All agreed – date to be sorted out.</li> <li>b) Susan Castle raised concerns about the church wall deterioration. Need to check whose responsibility it is but could provide some funds towards repairs. Susan to telephone ACRE for advice about workmen – and to try and find out who did work many years ago. To liaise with Betty Orr and Linda Mayne (Churchwardens).</li> <li>c) Steve Batterby recommended a letter of thanks to Becky Chambers and Chris Fitzgerald (minuted under 6/15 and 7/15 above).</li> <li>d) Steve Batterby noted that the village was suffering many infrastructure problems with broadband, phone, water and electricity in recent months. Suggested we keep a log of all incidents and agreed to do this if all email him as they occur.</li> <li>e) Stewart Summers raised a concern about the state of a group of chimneys on the Kings Arms which appear to be leaning out towards the street and could be a danger if they did fall. Agreed that John Church or Steve Batterby would try and speak to the landlord, but if someone else does please email round so we don't ask twice.</li> </ul>	<p><b>SC/PS &amp; SB</b></p> <p><b>SC</b></p> <p><b>SB/ALL</b></p> <p><b>JC/SB &amp; ALL</b></p>
	<b>Date of the Next Meeting:</b> Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> July 2015 8.00pm Farthingstone Village Hall	
	The Meeting closed at 9.30pm	