



## Farthingstone Parish Council

*Please note that these minutes are draft until approved at the next meeting of Farthingstone Parish Council*

	<p><b>Other Matters:</b> There will not be a new 30mph sign on Everdon road. The estimated cost of the development is £40-£50 million with a completion date in 2025. The company which was interested in investing in the restaurant facility has withdrawn. The developers want to improve the access road from Everdon Road. The formal planning application is expected by the end of the year.</p> <p>RR has spoken to a representative of The Woodland Trust at Everdon Stubbs about the plans, particularly in respect of the traffic proposals. The Trust were completely unaware of these; RR has forwarded the relevant papers.</p>	
61/22	<p><b>Public Forum:</b> Rupert Frost reported: We can expect budget cuts in some areas of council spending particularly in routine maintenance of roads. Communication problems continue in the planning department and there are significant delays. The Boundary Review is likely to reduce the number of councillors allocated to Farthingstone from 3 to 2.</p> <p>PS and SS expressed their concerns about blocked drains on Everdon Road and Maidford Road. The current contractors say they only have responsibility for the drains within the village boundary and not those in the wider parish boundary. Rupert agreed that this cannot be the case and will follow it up. A formal document of responsibility will be drawn up.</p> <p>Rupert left at 8.40pm</p>	
62/22	<p><b>Street Lighting:</b> Susan Castle raised the possibility of turning off some of the street lights during peak hours to save energy. E-ON maintain our street lights and the cost of this service has remained unchanged for some years. Any alteration in the provision would need to be referred to the company. We have a fixed price contract for the energy supply with Southern Electric, which runs to July 2024. Concerns were expressed about the safety of pedestrians if lighting were reduced. Whilst Council members recognise the need to be energy conscious it was decided not to change the present system.</p>	
63/22	<p><b>Finance report:</b> LM presented the budget report for the year to date. The balance on the ledger at 21<sup>st</sup> November 2022 is £7263.74: current account £3008.08, deposit account £4298.84, the difference being represented by an uncashed cheque of £43.18. The largest expenditure in this period was the annual cost of mowing the cemetery and graveyard. We are indebted to RD Landscapes that there has been no increase for a number of years. It is also worth noting that a significant proportion of the VAT refund comes from this bill.</p>	
64/22	<p><b>Clerk's Wages:</b> PS had asked LM to provide details. In 2018 when LM became clerk the rate of pay was £9.34 per hour and this has not been updated. The new scales recently published give £11.21 back-dated to April. Council agreed that the new scale should be implemented.</p>	
65/22	<p><b>Police Liaison:</b> AN expressed her concern that the current arrangements were not adequate. Information about criminal activity specific to our area does not appear to be coming through on the Northamptonshire Alert Service and contact with our PCSO is poor. AN intends to raise these issues with Sophie Harding who administrates the PLR scheme. She also spoke about the WhatsApp recently set up which enables immediate messages to be sent out by members, for example missing pets. There are currently 19 subscribers; she will promote this facility in the next FVN PM spoke about the continuing delay of the renewing of firearms licences. He has now been sent a temporary licence which permits ownership and use, but he would not be allowed to sell if he wanted to.</p>	
51/22	<p><b>Cemetery/ Graveyard Matters:</b> PS reported that the hedge between Willow Cottage and the Churchyard had been trimmed; PM added that he and LM had pruned back some of the larger rose branches. PS also</p>	

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	commented on the growth of weeds due to the mild autumn. RD Landscapes have now mown for the last time this year and PS commented that once again they have been conscientious and diligent in their work.	
<b>52/22</b>	<b>Correspondence:</b> None	
<b>53/22</b>	<b>AOB:</b> AN reported that the village road sign on Maidford Road has been damaged, probably by a vehicle. PS said he would investigate and report it to Highways/ Fix My Street if necessary. Susan Castle provided information about a collection of clothes and batteries in Towcester for the Ukraine on Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> November. The collection point is Chantry House.	
<b>54/22</b>	<b>Dates of future meetings</b> Monday January 16 <sup>th</sup> at 8pm Meeting closed 9.15pm	

Signed as a true record:

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Date: .....