

Farthingstone Parish Council

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

Minutes of the Farthingstone Parish Council AGM held in the Village Hall on Monday 20th May 2024
at 8.00pm

Item		Action
24/24	<p>Attendance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillors: Peter Stanton, Peter Mayne, Richard Russell • Clerk: Linda Mayne • Rep for Village Hall: John Acres, Jennie Acres <p>Apologies:</p> <p>Councillor: Alison Nelson Wards: Rupert Frost, David Smith</p>	
25/24	<p>Declaration of interests:</p> <p>None</p>	
26/24	<p>Minutes of AGM 15th May 2023</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting, were proposed by RR and seconded by PM, as a correct record: all agreed and signed by Peter Stanton.</p>	
27/24	<p>Matters arising:</p> <p>Speed Signs: Update recorded in item</p>	
28/24	<p>Finance:</p> <p>The annual accounts for the financial year 2023/24 were presented. The accounts have been audited by John Mole. Council approved the accounts and PS, as chair, and LM, as financial officer, signed the documents required by AGAR. The Certificate of Exemption for small authorities will now be submitted. The accounts will be available for public view for a period of 3 weeks to be confirmed. The date will be published on the Parish Board.</p> <p>PS thanked LM for preparing the annual accounts and asked her to write to John Mole expressing appreciation of his continued support as auditor.</p>	LM
29/24	<p>Annual Reports</p> <p>The Village Hall: John Acres, chair of the committee, reported that the AGM had taken place on March 22nd. John described the year as one of 'renewal'.</p> <p>The bell tower, which had become unsafe, has been repaired at some considerable cost. The bell itself has not been re-installed as it would have led to unnecessary strain on the tower and would not have been safe to use. After consultation with residents of the village it has been agreed that it will be displayed in the village hall in a purpose-built wooden presentation case. A new floor has been laid, but it will need protection for some activities, in particular when used as a venue for Farthingstone Foot Fest. Damp patches on the walls have been treated and repainted. The kitchen has been upgraded.</p> <p>The cost of all these improvements has been met by the grants provided to cover the loss of income due to covid restrictions. It is now hoped that more bookings for individual events and regular use will provide sufficient income for continued maintenance. Future plans include a new kitchen floor, upgrade of the committee room and consideration of energy saving projects.</p> <p>John expressed his concern about the age profile of the committee and hoped that younger residents of the village would come forward to serve the community.</p> <p>This comment was echoed by all those present and should be taken very seriously if the village is to remain a thriving and inviting place to live.</p> <p>Joy Mead Charity: PS reported briefly on behalf of the committee. The main structural repair was to the fence between the gardens and John Church's property.</p> <p>The Church: The AGM took place on May 7th. Attendance had been much the same as in</p>	

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	<p>previous years with small numbers at the regular services, but much larger congregations at Harvest and Christmas. The Harvest Supper, harvest celebration at the home of Richard and Wendy Russell and a concert in the church raised considerable funds, but the finances of the church remain a serious concern as it is unable to meet its portion of the Parish Share. This is a problem for many small churches.</p> <p>The floor boards in the pews have been repaired.</p> <p>There is an on-going problem with the readings from the electric meter which are not being transmitted automatically. LM is in negotiation with E-ON.</p> <p>Sheppard Trust: The trust was set up to help the poor of the village, but no payments have been made for some years. LM was contacted by the Charity Commission and, following their advice, the accounts are in the process of being closed and the balance of around £2700 will be paid to Farthingstone Parish Church.</p> <p>Knightley Trust: There is £130 in the account. The Trust was set up to support the Sunday School at a time when education was limited, but it no longer functions. It was felt the trust should be wound up and closed. LM will write to the trustees to discuss this</p>	
30/24	Public Forum: No further business was added.	