

Farthingstone Parish Council

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

Minutes of the Meeting of Farthingstone Parish Council Monday 18th March 2024 in the Village Hall 8.00pm

Min No		Action
12/24	<p>Attendance: Peter Stanton, Alison Nelson, Richard Russell, Peter Mayne, Stewart Summers Linda Mayne (clerk) Rupert Frost (arrived 8.30) Tony Baker (resident)</p>	
13/24	<p>Declaration of Interests: None</p>	
14/24	<p>The Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 8th January These were reviewed, proposed by PM seconded by AN, as a correct record; all agreed and signed by PS.</p>	
15/24	<p>Matters arising not listed elsewhere</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DHL Development: AN read the message from the Action Group. National Highways have put another hold on the development and no progress is now expected until at least May 22nd. • Farm Track: No progress to date. • Elections: There is considerable confusion on this matter. The Village Hall Committee has received a request to book the hall for an election in May, but The Parish Council has not been informed of the nature of the election. LM will investigate. • Road Maintenance: Some repairs have been carried out on Main Street, but the general condition of most roads in the area is very poor. It is understood that the new equipment, which we were informed would result in an improved service, is currently not in use. • Flood on Maidford Road: LM reported that contacting Anglia Water had been very difficult due to number of incidents being registered. However, once a representative was available, the response was extremely helpful and repair was carried out later that evening. • Knightley Way Footpath leading from Maidford Road: After some investigation it became clear that the fallen tree is across the original route of the Knightley Way which runs alongside the hedge on the left. Over time this path has become so overgrown that walkers have created another path which runs directly from the gate in a straight line towards the next field. LM has thanked Steve Sayers, the footpath warden, for his help in clarifying the issue. There are a number of styles and gates in need of repair on the footpaths around the village, which form part of the route used by Farthingstone Foot Fest. There are 120 registrations, so far, for this year. PS has reported the problems to Steve. 	LM
16/24	<p>Public Forum: Tony Baker expressed his concern about the section of the Knightley Way which runs alongside the pond on the golf course. It transpires that this has now been moved to its original route on the other side of the pond as was proposed in the planning application.</p>	
17/24	<p>Finance: LM presented the budget report for the year to date. The balance on the ledger at March 18th 2024 is £6591.10; current account £2334.22, deposit account £4366.88, the difference of £110 being an uncashed cheque to The Joy Mead. The cost of Green Bin collection has been set at £58 for 2024/25. LM will arrange for the subscriptions for the churchyard and cemetery to be paid. It was agreed that The Parish Council will fund those for The Joy Mead</p>	LM
18/24	<p>Police Liaison: The liaison officer has offered to meet a representative of the council and walk round the village to identify any areas of concern. It was felt that this was not needed, though it could be useful to highlight the problem of vehicles speeding through the village. The Community officer only appears to be available during daytime working hours, so it would be unlikely that many villagers would be available.</p>	
19/24	<p>Cemetery Matters: RD Landscapes have confirmed that they are happy to continue with their mowing of the churchyard and the cemetery at the same price as in previous years; Council expressed its appreciation of their service.</p>	

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	PS has layered the hedge in the cemetery which should make the maintenance easier.	
20/24	Correspondence: Parish Councils have been offered the opportunity of receiving a portrait of King Charles. LM will contact The Village Hall Committee about this as the Hall is the only place one could be hung.	LM
21/24	<p>AOB: John Mole has offered to take residents, who have difficulties with transport or other issues, to hospital or clinic appointments. His telephone number is 07517905134</p> <p>The floor of the Village Hall was much admired following its recent refurbishment.</p> <p>The Joy Mead Committee is urgently in need of a Chairperson, without whom it will be hard to maintain this valuable asset. This highlights a general problem in the village where all four of the organisations, Village Hall, Parish Council, Church and Joy Mead, are find it increasingly difficult to recruit new committee members.</p> <p>PS has approached Mr Haynes about the possibility of purchasing a small plot of land adjoining the rear of the cemetery which could initially be used for allotments and in the future for extension of the cemetery. The proposal is being considered.</p> <p>PS reminded Council that a representative from the village is required for the Local Action Nature Plan and that this would be raised at the AGM in May.</p> <p>AN asked if there had been any response from the Golf Club owners about speed signs. The emails sent by LM have not been delivered, though previous emails were successfully received. AN supplied a telephone number for Sam. LM will try to contact him.</p> <p>The annual Litter Pick last weekend had met with a very poor response. The verges are now clear of rubbish, thanks to the few who did help. As mentioned above, the village needs more volunteers who are willing to contribute to the range of activities and responsibilities of community life.</p> <p>AN Reported that she has not created any issues of Farthingstone Village News for a number of reasons. Contributors have been late and sometimes news items have been duplicated in other formats. AN has also had extra work demands on her time. AN said that she would happily pass on the FVN to anyone that would like to edit further issues.</p>	LM
22/24	<p>Rupert Frost: Rupert gave on update on some issues.</p> <p>Roads: The budget for road repair is under threat as are other services. This is mainly due to 62% of the Councils budget being allocated to Adult and Child Social Care.</p> <p>Planning: There is a reluctance to bring applications to committee and many are being approved by delegated powers which are operating under a somewhat permissive regime.</p> <p>Rupert advised Council to seek his assistance in these matters if there were serious concerns.</p> <p>On a more positive note he reported that we could apply for a Community Service group to tackle specific jobs which did not require skilled workers.</p> <p>Elections: He expressed real surprise about the request to the Village Hall. As far as he knows there are no elections for Farthingstone residents this year.</p>	
23/24	<p>Dates of meetings for the year:</p> <p>AGM May 20th</p> <p>July 15th</p> <p>Sept 16th</p> <p>Nov 18th</p> <p>Outdoor Theatre July 6th James and the Giant Peach</p> <p>Meeting closed 9.00pm</p>	

Signed as a true record:

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Date: