

Farthingstone Parish Council

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

Minutes of FPC Meeting Monday 15 September 2025

Village Hall 8.00pm

Min No		Action
45/25	Attendance: Councillors: Peter Stanton, Richard Russell, John Acres Parish Clerk: Debbie Mason Ward Councillor Alison Eastwood Apologies: Sarah J Skinner, Ward Councillor David Smith	
46/25	Declaration of Interests: None	
47/25	Minutes of meeting 21 July 2025: Agreed as a correct record and signed by PS	
48/25	Matters arising not listed elsewhere <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Golf Club: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PS reported that an update meeting had taken place with Sam Edwards from the developers 55 Hospitality. Works are proceeding as planned on the access roads. The latest 'Non Material Amendments' (NMA) proposals put forward by the developers to Planning were discussed. JA said he had gone through the NMA and the amendments proposed were indeed small. In response to questions, Sam confirmed that the planned opening date is Spring 2027 and the intention is to reinstate the public bridleway in its original location (and without fencing). Tony Millyard asked from the floor if proposed traffic signage round the village could be added to the agenda for the next meeting with the developers. Village News: DM reported that she and SJS were working on developing a new model. FPC Email change: DM advised that a new Email address has been issued to the Parish Council but implementation was taking longer than expected. Road repairs: PS noted that the contractors carrying out works for the golf club have been efficient and helpful and seem to be doing a good job. He contrasted this with the performance of 'Kier' who carry out general road repairs under contract from WNC. It was particularly noted that any complaints are handled by Kier themselves rather than someone from WNC. After a lengthy discussion, it was agreed that FPC would send Councillor Eastwood a list of local roads that still need repairing: she said she would liaise with Councillor David Smith (our designated Ward Councillor) and see what can be done to improve the situation. 	DM DM/SJS DM PS/DM
49/25	Public Forum: Councillor Eastwood apologised that no Ward Councillor had been able to attend a Parish Council meeting since the Election in May. She talked about the practical issues of running the new Council with its huge change of political composition. She said that WNC had managed to balance its books for the last 4 years but the future held big challenges. After a frank and wide-ranging discussion, on the particular subject of housing she encouraged us to do a Local Housing Plan (LHP): the overall WNC target is 49,000 houses and we might need to prepare for 8 – 10% growth so to have prepared our own LHP would be useful.	
50/25	Finance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DM presented the budget report for the year to date. The balance on the ledger is £6077 (current account £1503, deposit account £4574 with no uncashed cheques). It was noted that another local Parish Council with slightly more residents on the Register of Electors have a precept of £8600pa compared with our £4500 – and are advertising for a Parish Clerk to do 3.5 hours pw – all emphasising our good value. Banking update: DM reported that updating signatories on our NatWest accounts is proving problematical. It was agreed that if this can't be resolved then we would consider a move to Unity Bank which specialises in services for Councils. It was noted that this would involve a charge of about £6/month. 	DM

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DM reported that the Council's laptop runs Windows 10 and cannot be upgraded to Windows 11 which will compromise the computer's security in the future. It was agreed that a new computer, including necessary software and USB memory sticks, be purchased with a budget of up to £800. 	DM
51/25	Social media report: None	SJS
52/25	Police Liaison report: None	SS
53/25	Cemetery Matters: PS reported that he had trimmed the hedge in the Cemetery recently. It was noted that there are some pruning and tidying jobs needed in the Churchyard. It was agreed to organise a session on Saturday 4 October, 10.00 – 12.00. DM to send out a WhatsApp.	DM
54/25	Planning matters: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> JA reported on a number of general planning related matters as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - He has responded to the WNC 'Statement of Community Involvement'; - WNC are proposing to abandon the Net Zero Target; - JA has responded to the WNC 'Bus Survey' and also the 'Cycling and Walking Strategy' noting that the latter concentrates at present on proposals within Northampton town; - There is a conference in October on Planning changes which JA may attend if it looks useful (cost £35). 	JA
55/25	Updating policies: No progress yet.	DM
56/25	Correspondence: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 'CAN' Champion: DM reported that NCALC have requested that we nominate a 'Climate and Nature Champion' to represent the Council in matters relating to the climate, nature and the environment. After discussion, it was agreed that different people already cover the key areas and a new 'Champion' wouldn't be helpful at present. DM circulated an invitation to send 2 delegates to a WNC/NCALC organised 'Parish Conference' on 23 October. It was agreed that PS and JA would attend. DM to reply. 	DM DM
57/25	AOB: None	
	Date of next meeting: Monday 17 November 2025.	

Signed as a true record:

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Date: