

# 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 19 January 2026

Min No		Action
71/25	<p><b>Attendance:</b></p> <p>Councillors: Peter Stanton (PS), John Acres (JA), Sarah J Skinner (SJS), Stewart Summers (SS), Richard Russell (RR)</p> <p>Parish Clerk: Debbie Mason (DM)</p> <p>Ward Councillors: None</p> <p>Apologies: Ward Cllr Smith and Ward Cllr Eastwood</p> <p>(Note: concern was expressed that only once has a Ward Councillor attended a FPC meeting since May)</p> <p>Members of the public: Allan &amp; Judy, Malcolm (C), Tony, Jenny (D), Susan, Christine &amp; Ian, Judith, Giles, Karen, Natasha, Charlie</p> <p>Representative from the Golf Club development: Sam Edwards</p>	
72/25	<b>Declaration of Interests:</b> None	
73/25	<b>Minutes of meeting 17 Nov 2025:</b> Agreed as a correct record and signed by PS.	
74/25	<p><b>Matters arising not listed elsewhere</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Golf Club:</b> Following the recent update letter sent to all residents, Sam Edwards gave a summary of why they have applied for planning permission to extend the number of solar panels. Although already connected to the grid, further detailed cost/benefits analysis and overall eco aims support the need for extra capacity – all located in the same area of the site (which has been assessed as not interrupting key views from the surrounding area). A lengthy discussion followed. In answer to questions, Sam Edwards particularly stated: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>That this is the final planning application.</li> <li>Other proposals remain as previously.</li> <li>While this application includes the removal of 3 young trees and one small group of non-native mature trees, new native trees will be planted to offset the loss.</li> <li>That joint concerns over the ability of the village drainage/sewage system to cope with the extra volume should be further emphasised to Anglian Water.</li> <li>Arrangements are in hand for future maintenance of the solar panels.</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Village News:</b> DM reported that she was looking at using 'MailChimp' to stop bulk mails bouncing and had kind offers of help. Progressing.</li> <li><b>Road repairs:</b> JA reported that there had been an on-site meeting (9 December) with representatives from Kier and WNC to discuss road repairs needed, in particular failure of the road edge on the Everdon Road. Kier had agreed to carry out temporary repairs for the interim (while construction traffic is using that road) but no action had been taken so far. It was agreed that road repairs continue to be a major issue and the service from Kier is not impressive. JA to complete the 'Parish Satisfaction Survey' circulated – and pass to DM for filling in online.</li> </ul>	<p>PS/DM/SE</p> <p>JA/DM</p>
75/25	<b>Public Forum:</b> See discussions above. (Sam Edwards and a number of members of the public sent their apologies and then left after an hour's discussion).	

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76/25	<p><b>Finance:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DM presented the budget report for the financial year to 8 January. The balance on the ledger was a total of ££5192. The new online banking arrangements with Unity Trust Bank are working well. The projected balance remaining in the Bank at the end of the year (i.e. future 'Reserves') are approximately £3500. These are lower than expected due primarily to two large unforeseen expenditures – election costs (£1028) and 3 street lamps needing replacement (£945 ex VAT) – but still within the recommended range.</li> <li><b>National audit return ('AGAR') Assertion 10:</b> DM summarised the actions needed to ensure FPC meets the new 'Digital &amp; Data Compliance' requirements which must be in place by the end of March. The following recommendations were agreed:           <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To approve the draft website Accessibility Statement and publish it on the Farthingstone website; also to continue with the existing website with regular reviews as needed.</li> <li>To re-adopt the 'Freedom of Information Procedure &amp; Publication Scheme' originally adopted in 2016 and also re-adopt the 'Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities'.</li> <li>To continue to review and update data protection policies as necessary.</li> <li>To approve the draft 'IT &amp; Email Policy'.</li> </ol> </li> </ul> <p>It was also agreed that formal Emails from FPC should be sent out via our new Email 'clerk@farthingstoneparishcouncil.gov.uk'. Councillors were reminded that they were responsible for ensuring data security of their own computers.</p> <p>Tony and DM were thanked for their ongoing work in maintaining the website.</p>	DM
77/25	<b>Social media report:</b> None.	SJS
78/25	<b>Police Liaison report:</b> SS reported on an incident in Weedon relating to a marijuana farm.	SS
79/25	<p><b>Cemetery Matters:</b> DM circulated draft proposals for an increase in Cemetery fees. After discussion, it was agreed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To contact some smaller local Parishes for additional comparative fees.</li> <li>To consider the best balance of any increase in fees.</li> <li>To discuss the issue of Churchyard fees with the PCC (as FPC is responsible for maintenance of the Churchyard).</li> <li>To report back to the next meeting.</li> </ol>	DM
80/25	<p><b>Planning matters:</b></p> <p>JA reported that WNC's draft Local Plan proposals are now open for consultation. Housing development proposals are concentrated on major towns. Farthingstone is classified in the lowest rank of 'Other' villages where growth is restricted to within the existing boundary of villages with small exceptions (for example for 'self-build').</p>	
81/25	<b>Updating policies/procedures:</b> A proposed update of the 'Complaints Procedure' was agreed (and will be added to the website).	DM
82/25	<b>Correspondence:</b> DM reported a mail received from Cllr Manners concerning WNC budget challenges and proposals for 2026/7. It was agreed to reply proposing that parking charges for Towcester and Daventry be only applied after the first hour. It was also agreed to save on the proposed increase in green bin charges by cancelling the bins for the Cemetery and Churchyard and instigating compost arrangements instead.	DM
83/25	<b>AOB:</b> The issue of electric fences across footpaths and the desirability of providing access for people with restricted mobility and/or dogs was debated. It was agreed that SS would talk with the key farmer concerned.	PS/DM
	<p><b>Date of next meeting: Monday 16 March 2026.</b></p> <p>Dates of further meetings in 2026: May 18, July 20, Sept 21, Nov 16</p>	SS

Signed as a true record:

Date: