

FARRINGTON GURNEY PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of an **ordinary meeting of the Parish Council** held at 7.30pm on **Monday 19th December 2022** at the **Methodist Church, Farrington Gurney.**

COUNCILLORS PRESENT: Mike Hedges (Chairman), Phil Wade, James Wellman, Sally Bown, Andy Jeffery, Margaret Heffernan

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Cllr Wills (B&NES), Clerk

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

The chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Parish Council Minutes

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

There were no questions from members of the public.

22/23-12:085 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND WELCOME

Apology from Cllr Dando & Cllr Smith.

Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

22/23-12:086 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Cllr Jeffery made a declaration of interest reference the Somer Valley Enterprise Zone. A standing dispensation has been agreed & granted.

22/23-12:087 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED: Minutes of December 2022 meeting agreed & signed by chairman

22/23-12:088 REPORTS

- a. To RECEIVE the District Councillor's report.
Reported that there was a feasibility study proposed for a pavement along Ruett Lane, this will take place in the new year.
- b. To RECEIVE a report/update from the Chairman.
Report on items as they appear on the agenda.
- c. To RECEIVE the Clerk's report.
Clerk updated councillors on:
Estimate for repairs to street lights is £6,876.81 +VAT. It was AGREED that the clerk should approach B&NES & ask that repair & replacement should be included in the current street light programme taking place in the village.
Allotment holders have been contacted about the recent break-in, also that the rental year will be a calendar year from 2023.

22/23-12:089 PLAY AREA

Nothing to report

22/23-12:090 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

<u>No Applications</u>		
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The Appeal against 22/00331/ADCOU, Stables and Tractor Shed at Meadow Farm, Ruett Lane change of use has been rejected.

There has been an invitation to a Planning Policy workshop on 12th January,

Norton St Philip PC have won a judicial review against Mendip District Council, opposing over development.

22/23-12:091 HIGHWAYS

The commitment from B&NES to renew the road markings in Farrington Gurney has still not been fulfilled, Clerk & B&NES councillor to follow up.

22/23-10:066 FINANCE

Following payments agreed

Cheque number	Payee	Details	Amount
001409	R.Moss	Postage - £34.00 Stationery - £23.20	£57.20

There are continuing problems with NatWest bank. A complaint to the Financial Ombudsman should be considered, also advice from ALCA & NALC sought..

.A Draft budget for 2023-24 was presented, ahead of a decision in January. There were comments that maintenance of the BMX track needs to be included.

22/23-12:092 MEETINGS

Cllr Jeffery reported on a steering group meeting about the Somer Valley Enterprise Zone

There have been more questions about the potential expansion of retail development. There was a commitment that B&NES are 'not pursuing any further retail'.

There is an ecology issue, with the need to protect horseshoe bats.

There was no further discussion about transport, as the previously discussed improvements were the basis for a final consultation in February.

Road improvements should be completed before the development takes place.

22/23-12:093 CLIMATE EMERGENCY

Cllr Heffernan reported that University students were working on a number of projects, including an energy plan for the village hall, also a biodiversity project in its early stages.

22/23-12:094 UPDATES/ INFORMATION FROM COUNCILLORS WITH SPECIAL INTERESTS

Health – Cllr Bown reported that B&NES are promoting the health benefits of walking.

Village Hall – Cllr Hedges reported that the Hall is showing an operating profit in the first half of the financial year, with trading levels above pre-pandemic levels. Skittles & entertainment are popular, also the satellite TV Sports subscription is paying for itself. There are plans for a refresh & refurbishment early in 2023.

Highways – The widening of the footpath near the Co-op appears unlikely, as this will involve the donation of a strip of grass verge from the owners, a property company registered in Guernsey. Clerk to write to B&NES about the damage to pavements caused by HGVs parking.

Police & Crime – One recent crime of theft locally, apparently at the petrol station.

22/23-12:095 INFORMATION/ ITEMS TO RAISE FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE NEXT MEETING

2023 -24 budget will have to be agreed.

22/23-12:096 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting will be Mon 16th January 2023, 7.30pm at Methodist Hall.

Signed

16.1.2023