

FARRINGTON GURNEY PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of an **ordinary meeting of the Parish Council** held at **7.30pm on Monday 17th October 2022** at the **Methodist Church, Farrington Gurney.**

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

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Cllr Wills (B&NES), Clerk, 20 members of public

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

The chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Parish Council Minutes

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: Briefing & discussion on Somer Valley Enterprise Zone

Cllrs Hedges, Jeffery & Wade provided some history & context as well as information as to the current situation. There were a series of questions & concerns raised by local residents, with answers from Councillors where possible.

- # Will any road improvements include storm drains, to stop flooding ? Answer: yes, this is a legal requirement.
- # Will all the bends on the A362 be improved ? A; currently only at Sunnyside, but the Parish is still pushing for more.
- # There will be any entry roundabout onto the main road from the site.
- # Extra traffic at Sunnyside will make entry & exit from the terrace even more dangerous, even with improvements & will also increase pollution.
- # Nothing should be done until Sunnyside improvements have been agreed & completed.
- # The initial consultation had c.120 responses. There is another consultation in November, where previous comments will not be 'carried over' & so should be resubmitted.
- # Does B&NES have air pollution data ? A: Yes, but only collects certain chemical data at certain times.

There were also comments from members of the public about:

- # The street lights that aren't working. Clerk explained that there were problems with the contractors.
- #

22/23-10:059 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND WELCOME

Apology from Cllr Dando

Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

22/23-10:060 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

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

22/23-10:061 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

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

22/23-10:062 REPORTS

- a. To RECEIVE the District Councillor's report.
Report included additional information about the SVEZ, as well as an update on the Clean & Green initiative. B&NES are also launching a new Local Plan consultation.
- b. To RECEIVE a report/update from the Chairman.

Report on items as they appear on the agenda. He also reported on a meeting with Metro Mayor Dan Norris, where there was a disappointing response to the Parish's concerns about bus services.

c. To RECEIVE the Clerk's report.

Clerk updated councillors on the issues around allotments & ensuring that plots were being fully used. He proposed that leases should run from 1st Jan to 31st December, so that any changeover of tenants would take place outside the planting & growing season. This was agreed.

22/23-10:063 PLAY AREA

There is a need to replace the matting. These have been ordered, the payment will be agreed in the finance agenda item.

22/23-10:064 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

22/03517/FUL	The Cottage 15 Main Street BS39 6UB	Provision of dropped kerb and demolition of the existing front garden wall in order to use front garden as a driveway
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There were some cautionary comments, about the loss of an historic wall, whether there will be enough space if a large vehicle is to be parked.

22/23-10:065 HIGHWAYS

The poor lighting & uneven pavements in parts of the village could be dangerous. The pavements to be reported to B&NES.

22/23-10:066 FINANCE

Cheque number	Payee	Details	Amount
001398	Duchy of Cornwall	# Allotments March-Sept 2022 - £315.00 # Village Hall Sept-Dec 2022 - £390.00	£705.00
001399	M. Heffernan	Reimbursement Gurney Journal adverts	£46.00
001400	NPower	Street lighting	£262.80
001401	R.Moss	Jul Aug Sept 2022 salary	£987.06
001402	HMRC	Payroll deduction	£226.64

There are continuing problems with NatWest bank, although they have agreed to pay £200 compensation because of the difficulties the parish has faced.

22/23-10:067 MEETINGS

Report from a meeting with WECA, there could be additional & improved cycle links, with additional funding. This could include using the old railway track to Hallatrow ?

22/23-10:068 CLIMATE EMERGENCY

It was reported that:

positive meeting on 15th October, about improving the heating of homes.

There was a discussion about insulating by filling cavity walls, however these cavities do stop damp coming through walls. There is the possibility of bulk purchase of solar panels & insulation.

There is an enthusiasm for planting some more trees, looking for locations & funding.

22/23-10:069 UPDATES/ INFORMATION FROM COUNCILLORS WITH SPECIAL INTERESTS

Village Hall – reported that the Hall is busy until Xmas, being well used both days & evenings. There are a number of tribute band evenings, as well as a trial of showing sports on the big screen.

Health – B&NES public health have launched a wellbeing strategy, there is a 5-10 min questionnaire on their website. There has also been information circulated on the need for flu & Covid vaccination, World Mental Health day, Breast cancer awareness & the need for bowel cancer testing for 56 – 74 yo.

22/23-10:070 INFORMATION/ ITEMS TO RAISE FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE NEXT MEETING

It was suggested that the maintenance of the MBX track should be investigated ahead of the budget setting for 2023-24.

22/23-10:071 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting will be Mon 21st November, 7.30pm at Methodist Hall.

Signed
21.11.2022