

FARRINGTON GURNEY PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held at 8pm on **Monday 17th July 2023** at the **Methodist Church, Farrington Gurney.**

COUNCILLORS PRESENT: James Wellman (Chairman), Mike Hedges, Sally Bown, Chris Bullock, Clint Dando, Paul Radnedge, Andy Jeffery

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Clerk, 1 member of the public

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

The chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. There was a suggestion from a member of the public that a solution to the problems of lorries parking on & damaging the pavement outside the Co-op would be to level the pavement & create a high kerb that could not be mounted.

Parish Council Minutes – July Ordinary Meeting

23/24 -04:046 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND WELCOME

Apology from Cllr Heffernan, Cllr Morgan (BaNES)

Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

23/24 -04:047 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Cllr Jeffery - SVEZ

23/24 -04:048 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED: Minutes of 15th May 2023 meeting agreed & signed by chairman after corrections

23/24 -04:049 REPORTS

- a. To RECEIVE the District Councillor's report.

Cllr Morgan provided a written report, that gave details of a meeting about SVEZ, with BaNES officers appearing not to be giving an accurate report on the parish council's concerns.

- b. To RECEIVE a report/update from the Chairman.

Report on items as they appear on the agenda. The Chairman also expressed concerns about how hedgerows & plants were encroaching onto pavements. It was agreed that the Parish Council will use social & other media to remind people that when growth originates on their property then it is their responsibility to keep plants from impeding paths & pavements.

- c. To RECEIVE the Clerk's report.

- a. Street lighting – it appears that Volker have replaced 3 of the 9 lamps they have been paid for. In addition, the lamp at the end of Ruett Lane is very bright & shining into bedrooms. Clerk to chase up the installations, also to ask if a lower wattage lamp could be fitted at Ruett Lane..
- b. BaNES have been reminded that road markings were to have been renewed in the last financial year, delayed to early this financial year. We are now in the 2nd quarter of this financial year but no sign of the work being started.
- c. The Allotments have been visited & assessed. The waiting list is being refreshed. There are a number of plots that are ready to be let & a number that will need some groundwork. Cllr Jeffery & Cllr Radnedge will coordinate to look at the work that needs to be done & when will be appropriate. There was a suggestion that there could be some 'pollinator pallets' installed at each site.
- d. It was agreed that the clearance work at the BMX track needs to be completed soon & that a number of heavy duty strimmers are needed. A request can be made on social media for help & for loan of equipment, but hire should be considered if necessary. As the track now reduces the amount of grass cutting BaNES undertake, this should be taken into account when the invoice for the work arrives.
- e. A number of councillors have requested training courses, clerk to source & book.

23/24 – 04:050 PLAY AREA

It was suggested that the new safety mats should be laid on top of the existing mats & pinned down. The Duchy has agreed to assess the leaning tree, clerk to ask about progress.

Cllr Dando gave details of a successful funding bid to the Football Association for improvement works to the adjoining playing fields. The FA require a copy of the lease agreement as part of the funding agreement, Cllr Dando has a copy to provide, he will contact the clerk if the original is needed.

23/24 – 04:051 PLANNING

There were no planning applications this month.

Past Applications in last 3 months

Date				FG PC	BaNES
May 2023	23/01506/FUL	5 Manor Close, Farrington Gurney,	Erection of new single storey rear extension following demolition of existing conservatory	No comment	Pending
Feb 2023	23/00306/FUL 23/00438/FUL	21 Sunnyside Main Street BS39 6UN	#1 - Erection of side extension and loft conversion #2 –garage & parking	Comment on use of space	#1 permitted #2 pending

Cllr Bullock raised the consultation that is currently underway about transport links in the area. This includes a potential cycle path that will go through the gardens of local residents. This particular idea has been around for a few years but is unrealistic, however because it has not been abandoned it is disconcerting for residents. This will be raised during the consultation process.

23/24 – 04.052 SOMER VALLEY ENTERPRISE ZONE

Cllr Jefferey was horrified by some of the comments made to Cllr Morgan by BaNES officers, as part of the SVEZ briefing. The statement that the parish council is supportive is contradicted by the letter sent by the PC in July 2022 opposing much of the detail. While the PC has been supportive of the principle of providing local jobs, the initial benefits that were outlined have been reneged upon, such as road improvements, providing retail, footpaths & a cycle path. The idea that the Farm shop can provide a food outlet is uneconomic & organisationally unrealistic. There have not been enough stakeholder meetings. There were over 400 objections during the recent consultation process. The feedback from the consultation has not been published & it was felt that many of the consultation questions were 'leading'. The PC is representing the majority of the local community with these views.

23/24 -04:053 HIGHWAYS

The local Community Speed Watch group is organising training & equipment.

More drainage covers have been replaced on the main road.

There is a proposal for a pedestrian crossing near the farm shop. This is in it's early stages & will cost £50k - £70k.

WECA & BaNES have booked the Village Hall for a transport consultation event on Monday 24th July 2-7pm.

23/24 -04:054 FINANCE

It was noted that Cllr Heffernan has secured a grant of £4,200 from WECA, so support the Pollinator event & similar. This will appear as separate income & expenditure lines in the cashbook.

Cheque number	Payee	Details	Amount
Direct payment	R.Moss	Pay May June	£726.88
1429	HMRC	Payroll deduction	£166.23
1430	Mr Ruddick	Allotment reimbursement	£25.00

23/24 -04:055 MEETINGS

An online consultation meeting had been held by BaNES concerning plans for the area.

23/24 -04:056 CLIMATE EMERGENCY

Cllr Heffernan provided a report, outlining how successful the pollinator event had been, with good attendance & participation. Councillors agreed it had been enjoyable & informative, they congratulated Cllr Heffernan on the event & the successful grant bid.

23/24 -04:057 UPDATES/ INFORMATION FROM COUNCILLORS WITH SPECIAL INTERESTS

Health – Cllr Bown reported on a health & wellbeing initiative “Improving People’s lives”.

Allotments – Cllr Radnedge has spoken to plot holders, reminding them about usage, rules & courtesy.

Footpaths – There is not a councillor who has this responsibility at present, Cllr Bown will brief Cllr Bullock about what this involves. Sheila Petheridge has retired, her replacement is retiring, the name of her replacement isn’t yet known.

Crime – The Police are prosecuting a shoplifter at the Farm Shop, using CCTV footage provided by the shop.

Churchyard – It was reported that part of the churchyard is looking overgrown. The PC give a grant for the upkeep. Cllr Wellman to follow up.

Volunteers – Cllr Bullock reported that there were volunteer training opportunities with BaNES, around safeguarding & 1st Aid.

Village Hall – Cllr Hedges reported that the social club was going very well, with increasing numbers. The Summer Skittles league was underway. The hall was fully booked during the week, but there has been a falling off with bookings for big weekend events, such as birthdays & wedding. This appears to be in common with other village halls.

Recycling – Cllr Bullock has researched the Terracycling initiative & is happy to organise. A wheelie bin, costing £40, will be needed, it was agreed that the PC should fund this.

23/24 -04:058 INFORMATION/ ITEMS TO RAISE FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE NEXT MEETING

The noticeboard outside the farm shop is aging & the lock is not working. Cllr Dando will look at the lock, but replacement may have to be considered.

Cllr Bown will update on the placing of a miner’s silhouette, probably near the Spice Dunes restaurant.

23/24 -04:059 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting will be Mon 18th September 7.30pm at Methodist Hall.

Signed

18.9.2023

Action points

	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE	
Street Lighting	Contact Volker re: remaining lights to be fitted & Ruett Lane replacement	Clerk	√
Road Markings	Keep reminding BaNES Highways engineer	Clerk	√
BMX track	Need to ask for volunteers & equipment to clear Request BaNES discount on grass cutting when invoice arrives	?? Clerk	√
Training Courses	Source & book	Clerk	√
Allotments	Complete new tenancy agreement	Clerk	√