

FARRINGTON GURNEY PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held at 8pm on **Monday 18th December 2023** at the **Methodist Church, Farrington Gurney.**

COUNCILLORS PRESENT: James Wellman (Chairman), Mike Hedges, Chris Bullock, Margaret Heffernan, Paul Radnedge, Clint Dando

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Clerk, Cllr Morgan (BaNES), 3 member of the public

Parish Council Minutes – December Meeting

There was a discussion with members of the public about the street lighting, with an update as the local MP is now involved. Sending a solicitor's letter was discussed, the clerk will check with ALCA/NALC as to what legal support they can provide.

23/24 -09:102 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND WELCOME

Apology from Cllrs Jeffery & Bown.

Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

23/24 -09:103 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None

23/24 -09:104 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED: Minutes of November 2023 meeting agreed & signed by chairman

23/24 -09:105 REPORTS

a. RECEIVED the District Councillor's report.

Cllr Morgan reported that 'Keep Clear' street markings will be installed near the Co-op, to hopefully help with the parking problems in that area.

She requested a list of the street lights be sent to her, to see if BaNES can take any action.

There was a question as to whether WECA were going to include a street crossing on the main road, Cllr Morgan will try to find out.

b. RECEIVED a report/update from the Chairman.

Report on items as they appear on the agenda.

c. RECEIVED the Clerk's report.

Street lighting – Volker Highways have apologised for the delay & asked for the paid schedule of works to be copied to them – again !! The local MP has been copied into correspondence & hopefully that will encourage them to take some action.

The new allotments contract was agreed, with minor amendments, it will be sent out in the early new year.

23/24 – 09:106 PLAY AREA

There have been no major changes to the condition of the play area, but the repairs to the fencing could be just under £1,000. The Hedge near the BMX track needs relaying, quotes to be sought & WECA to be contacted to see if there are any grants for environmental works. The parish council will probably be able to use CIL money as a contribution.

The rubber mats are still with Alan Smith & will need to be collected & laid.

The overflow car park has been repaired, holes filled with scalplings & compressed, all by volunteers.

23/24 – 09:107 PLANNING

There were no applications this month.

The application to grant consent at 22 Hill View was granted, despite local & PC opposition. Cllr Dando said he felt this was an awful planning decision, a degradation of the planning environment, setting a dangerous precedent that could create a terraced cul-de-sac. It leads the way for a lower standard of housing in Farrington Gurney. It appears

that the decision was referred to the Planning Ctte, but that the Planning ctte chair referred it back to officers. It was agreed that "This was a difficult & controversial decision that should have been a matter for the planning ctte. For the Ctte to abrogate it's responsibility is extremely disappointing' Clerk to send this to appropriate BaNES councillors & officers.

Past Applications in last 3 months

Date				FG PC	BaNES
Oct 2023	23/03709?FUL	Meadow Farm, Ruett Lane BS396UP	Erection of a single storey dwelling following demolition of existing stable block.	Oppose	Pending
Sept 2023	23/02394/FUL	22 Hill View, Farrington Gurney BS39 6UJ	Erection of 3 bed dwellinghouse including demolition of existing garage and utility to adjoining property	Oppose	Pending

The Farrington Gurney Village Plan remains a priority, with a number of local residents agreeing to provide their expertise for a working group.

23/24 – 09:108 SOMER VALLEY ENTERPRISE ZONE

There has been a further delay to the BaNES cabinet decision on the SVEZ Local Development Order. This will now be in February 2024.

Clerk has contacted CPRE, who are providing assistance & expertise to a number of local residents.

23/24 -09:109 HIGHWAYS

The local Community Speed Watch group is operating, & finding that hi-viz jackets & a speed detector acts as a deterrent, a few sessions recording no cars at above 33mph. Speedwatch do provide speed cameras, solar powered, for approx. £500.

The road markings are being completed, with gaps in the original schedule being filled.

23/24 -09:110 FINANCE

Draft budget was agreed for 2024-25

Payments & monthly finance report agreed:

Cheque number	Payee	Details	Amount
Direct Payment	R.Moss	Reimburse – ICO Data licence £35 – McAfee renewal £40 – Hosting.co.uk £17.99 Champions - £76.80	£169.79
Direct	Kevin Stephens	Pollinator event	£439.00

23/24 -08:097 MEETINGS

A local meeting about the village plan will be organised in the near future. Clerk to contact BaNES for advice on the schedule for the local plan as guidance.

23/24 -08:098 CLIMATE EMERGENCY

Cllr Heffernan reported that:

30kg of bulbs were planted in the village on the 17th December.

The RHS under their 'Love your Neighbourhood' scheme will come & assess & give advice on biodiversity.

A number of pollinator events are planned, all involving walks/ food/ children/ construction/ free giveaway – coming from the WECA grant.

23/24 -08:099 UPDATES/ INFORMATION FROM COUNCILLORS WITH SPECIAL INTERESTS

Village Hall – Cllr Hedges said the village hall continues to be busy, & the Hall has has broken even, the first time for a number of years. He outlined the work to be done on the playing fields with the FA grant. Repair work to the heating system are planned & an insulation assessment will be undertaken, to see if there is any asbestos prior to work.

Police – Cllr Wellman reported that there have been 6 reported incidents in September.

Health – Cllr Bown outlined a number of local health initiatives via email, to councillors.

Footpaths – Cllr Bullock; All but one completed, with the work done until spring. There remains a flooding problem.

Allotments – Cllr Radnedge; Scalpings are being delivered to repair the pathways at Sunnyside.

23/24 -08:100 INFORMATION/ ITEMS TO RAISE FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE NEXT MEETING

Draft Budget 2024-25 to be finalised

Street lights update

Village Plan & deadline schedule.

23/24 -08:101 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting will be Mon 15th January 2024 at Methodist Hall.

Signed

15.01.2024