

# FARRINGTON GURNEY PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held at 8pm on **Monday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2023** at the **Methodist Church, Farrington Gurney.**

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

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Clerk, 3 member of the public

## Parish Council Minutes – November Meeting

There was a discussion with members of the public about the street light at Ruett Lane being too dim & also the street lights generally that have not been repaired. It was suggested & agreed that the clerk would write to the Lournal, to explain the situation & how the Parish Council was trying to get lights repaired.

### 23/24 -08:088 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND WELCOME

Apology from Cllr Dando, Cllr Ann Morgan (BaNES)

Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### 23/24 -08:089 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Cllr Jeffery - SVEZ

### 23/24 -08:090 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

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

### 23/24 -08:091 REPORTS

- a. RECEIVED the District Councillor's report.

Cllr Morgan reported that a request has gone in to Banes to get a "keep clear" area outside of the property entrance to the north of the Co-op. Also that she has looked into the slowing of traffic towards the junction from the garage to the lights and believes WECA are to put a crossing by the garage as part of their planning She is checking up on that.

- b. RECEIVED a report/update from the Chairman.

Report on items as they appear on the agenda. He has also been talking to residents near the Co-op about the placement of bollards outside the shop & whether double yellow lines would help stop lorries parking across the pavement & damaging it.

- 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. It was noted that this has been provided on a number of occasions & that the work has also been promised, most recently June this year.

The contractor offering to paint the 'No Turning Circle' markings is still concerned about the lack of ownership of the piece of road & the potential liability involved. The clerk has offered reassurance that the Parish Council would take on that liability, it was suggested that an actual letter detailing that should be offered.

### 23/24 – 08:092 PLAY AREA

There are a number of fencing posts that are broken & some that have become loose, after young people have swung on them. It was agreed that Cllr Dando would inspect the damage, with the option to consider repair or replacement. A contractor with experience of school & playground fencing may be preferable, as children do use fencing for climbing.

### 23/24 – 08:093 PLANNING

There were no applications this month.

Past Applications in last 3 months

Date				FG PC	BaNES
	23/03709?FUL	Meadow Farm, Ruett Lane BS396UP	Erection of a single storey dwelling following demolition of existing stable block.	Oppose	
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	

The Farrington Gurney Village Plan is a priority, as BaNES are considering the district wide Local Plan, which will include identifying housing locations. There are a number of local residents with planning expertise, who will be approached to see if they will be part of a working group.

23/24 – 08:094 SOMER VALLEY ENTERPRISE ZONE

There has been a delay to the BaNES cabinet decision on the SVEZ Local Development Order. This will now be in January 2024, rather than November 2023.

There are concerns that additional documents are being uploaded onto the planning website after the consultation period has finished. Some traffic assessments appear to have taken place during half term, so not giving an accurate picture.

It was agreed that all BaNES cabinet members should be provided with documentation outlining opposition to the proposals, also the BaNES Corporate Scrutiny panel will be considering this in January as well. Clerk to provide contact details for both meetings.

23/24 -08:095 HIGHWAYS

# The local Community Speed Watch group is operating with about 7 members. Their experience is that when they are operating in their hi-viz jackets cars are visibly slowing down.

# The road markings are being repainted & reinstalled, which is particularly necessary on the bypass where the Speedwatch group have to have speed restriction signage in place.

23/24 -08:096 FINANCE

Payments & monthly finance report agreed:

Cheque number	Payee	Details	Amount
Direct Payment	R.Moss	Salary Sept Oct & Office expenses	£912.22
Direct Payment	HMRC	Payroll deduction	£202.62
001438	Sally Bown	Reimburse: Christmas tree lights cabling	£48.00
001439	Midsomer Norton & Radstock Silver Band	Band grant	£75.00
001440	C.Bullock	gloves: footpath grant	£9.99
001441	Duchy of Cornwall	Village Hall rent	£390

23/24 -08:097 MEETINGS

A local meeting about the village plan will be organised in the near future. Clerk to provide a timeframe for the BaNES local plan as guidance.

23/24 -08:098 CLIMATE EMERGENCY

Cllr Heffernan provided an update on the grant awarded from WECA, the first tranche of which is in the parish bank account.

A funding application has been submitted for solar panels on the Village Hall roof. There are also a number of funding opportunities that are being looked at.

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

**Village Hall** – Cllr Hedges said the village hall is very busy, 80/90 people at a recent event. Security camera are being upgraded. The grant from the FA has been awarded to buy equipment as well as provide advice on the playing surface. The overflow car park needs the surface some repair & maintenance.

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

**Health** – Cllr Bown outlined a number of local health initiatives, including smoking cessation, & 'Living Well' health improvement ideas. There have been reminders about Covid & flu vaccinations.

**Footpaths** – Cllr Bullock; 20 out of the 21 footpaths have now been surveyed. The posts & signs that need repairing or replacing have been reported to the BaNEs officer responsible. One gate near the football field is overgrown & the path near Pitway Lane is flooded.

**Allotments** – Cllr Radnedge; Scalpings are needed to repair the paths at Sunnyside, & a site visit is needed to assess the tree at Ham Lane. The clerk reported that the new contracts will go out in December, this will be reported to the December meeting. There are now 4 pitches that are vacant & 3 offers have been sent out, a 4<sup>th</sup> will go out in the next week.

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

# Draft Budget 2024-25

# Allotment contract review.

# Village Plan & deadline schedule.

23/24 -08:101 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting will be Mon 18<sup>th</sup> December at Methodist Hall.

Signed

18.12.2023