

# FARRINGTON GURNEY PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held at 7.00 pm on **Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2024** at the **Methodist Church, Farrington Gurney.**

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

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Clerk, Cllr Morgan (BaNES), 8 member of the public

## Annual Parish Meeting

(1) Cllr Wellman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

(2) Chairs report:

It has been a busy year for the parish council, with multiple issues to address.

# Somer Valley Enterprise Zone – the Parish Council opposed the details of the scheme without opposing the principle of job creation, the village strongly objected as well. However BaNES agreed the plans, the PC will continue to monitor.

# Allotments: Cllr Paul Radnedge has led on this, there is increased availability & usage. There has been an updated rental agreement.

# The Community SpeedWatch group is up and running. There are plans to recruit more volunteers. The village streets are now 20 mph, which is enforceable not advisory.

# The street lights are being upgraded to LED, but it is a slow & frustrating process. This will increase visibility & lower costs.

# The BaNES Local Plan update is ongoing. There is a great deal of local opposition to the plans for housing, this will be a topic for discussion at PC meetings for the foreseeable future. There are regular meetings with BaNES planners about the proposals.

# The PC does review any planning applications. It is frustrating when our views do not appear to be taken into account.

Thanks to everyone involved. Being a Parish Councillor is a voluntary role' helping to make Farrington Gurney a better place.

(3) Cllr Hedges provided a written report from the Village Hall. The use of the Hall has increased, with events proving popular. There have been structural & other improvements to the building. The financial position is healthy.

(4) Open discussion:

There were a number of issues raised:

# Concerns about the 500+ houses being proposed with the Local Plan

# There has been a report that Bath College may well be using part of the SVEZ site

# Questions were asked about the possible changes to the golf club site. Will this increase the amount of traffic, in the development process as well as the completed project.

# Cllr Dando highlighted that the tennis courts at the Village Hall are reaching the end of their useable life. Currently these are tennis courts due to funding conditions, but resurfacing as multi-sports use may encourage more use.

# There is frustration about the poor bus services to the village. The WE Combine Authority is asking for expressions of interest to run services. Clerk to investigate.

## **Annual General Meeting**

- (1) Election of Chair
- (2) Election of Vice Chair
- (3) Members with specific responsibilities
  - a. Health – Cllr Bown
  - b. Memorial Hall, Social Club & Playing Field. – Cllr Hedges
  - c. Playground – Cllr Dando
  - d. Climate Change – Cllr Heffernan
  - e. Footpaths – Cllr Bullock.
  - f. Allotments – Cllr Ragnedge
  - g. Crime – Cllr Wellman
  - h. Highways – Cllr Wellman
  - i. Community Speed Watch (CSW) – Cllr Wellman

## **Parish Council Minutes – May 2024 Meeting**

### 24/25 – 2:015 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND WELCOME

Apologies from Cllr Hedges, Cllr Jeffery  
Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### 24/25 – 2:016 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None

### 24/25 – 2:017 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED: Minutes of April 2024 meeting agreed & signed by chairman

### 24/25 – 2:018 REPORTS

- a. RECEIVED a report/update from the Chairman.  
Report on items as they appear on the agenda.
- b. Received from Cllr Morgan (BaNES)  
Cllr Morgan reported on the Housing Action Group, as a response to the BaNES local plan proposals. There will be a meeting with the Duchy, as landowners.
- c. RECEIVED the Clerk's report.  
# The turning circle 'painting' has been completed.  
# Volker & street lighting continue to be frustrating, with a lack of response to correspondence.  
# The allotment payments are being paid, with a few outstanding. There are about 5 plots vacant, in various conditions, but these are being let to residents on the waiting lists. There have been some comments about fires and plot holders will need to be reminded to be 'good neighbours'.

### 24/25 – 2:019 PLAY AREA

The new safety strips are being replaced as the weather improves & they can be stuck onto dry wood. There was a piece of equipment reported as unsafe, which was inspected & repaired. The rope swing is showing signs of age, so will need to be renovated or replaced. About a third of the fence is 'wobbly' & may need replacing, after the village hall drains are dug out and repaired.

### 24/25 – 2:020 LOCAL PLAN

Local residents have set up an action group to oppose plans for over development. Money is being raised to hire a consultant to collate the evidence into a presentable format. A poll with just under 200 responses clearly supporting smaller developments. This will all be evidence to present to BaNES. The Crowdfunding appeal can be paid into the Parish Council account to be used for professional fees.

### 24/25 – 2:021 PLANNING

There was a discussion about the development at the Golf Club. Because the site is in Somerset, but the access is in BaNES there are concerns that residents in Marsh Lane will have to cope with more traffic.

Planning applications submitted in the recent past are:

Date				FG PC	BaNES
	24/01074/FUL	7 Rush Hill, Farrington Gurney, BS39 6TP	Erection of 1 no. 3 bed dwelling	Oppose	
March 2024	24/00883/FUL	The Cottage Marsh Lane BS39 6TT	Change of use from Garage to Holiday Let	Object	permitted
March 2024	24/00909/FUL	Wood View, Pitway Lane BS39 6TX	Conversion of outbuilding into annexe	No comment	
Oct 2023	23/03709/FUL	Meadow Farm Ruett Lane BS39 6UP	Erection of a single storey dwelling following demolition	Oppose	Pending

#### 24/25 – 2:022 HIGHWAYS

# The local Community Speed Watch group have continued to monitor traffic, with 3 speeders in one 30 minute session. Their presence however does slow some drivers down.

# The 20 mph zone is being introduced, with signs being changed over.

#### 24/25 – 2:009 FINANCE

Payments & monthly finance report agreed:

Payee	Details	Amount
Boningale Nursery (reimburse M.Heffernan)	Bedding plants – part of the WECA grant funding	£2,675.00
ALCA	Annual Subscription	£242.00

#### 24/25 – 2:023 MEETINGS

Meetings are continuing with members of the BaNES planning team.

There are also meetings with the Duchy & also the Housing Action Group planned.

Cllr Heffernan had to leave the meeting at this point

#### 24/25 – 2:024 CLIMATE EMERGENCY

The pollinator event last month had to be postponed due to sickness, it will be reorganised at a later date.

#### 24/25 – 2:025 UPDATES/ INFORMATION FROM COUNCILLORS WITH SPECIAL INTERESTS

**Health** – Cllr Bown outlined a number of local health initiatives including Bright Start children’s services, Spring Covid vaccinations, Child safety week.

**Footpaths** – Cllr Bullock reported that vegetation is growing back rapidly. Also that the footpath 20 where access is now difficult because of horses being present will meet with the BaNES officer responsible.

**Allotments** – Cllr Radnedge: reported on the take up of vacant plots from the waiting list.

**Crime** – Cllr Wellsman reported on a number of incidents of damage to cars, also a stolen car being abandoned on Main Street.

#### 24/25 – 2:026 INFORMATION/ ITEMS TO RAISE FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE NEXT MEETING

#### 24/25 – 2:027 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting will be Mon 17<sup>th</sup> June 2024 at Methodist Hall.

Signed

17.6.2024