

FARRINGTON GURNEY PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held at 7.30 pm on **Monday 16th September 2024** at the **Methodist Church, Farrington Gurney.**

COUNCILLORS PRESENT: James Wellman (Chairman), Mike Hedges, Paul Radnedge, Margaret Heffernan, Andy Jeffery, Angharad Barber, Margaret Heffernan

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

Parish Council Minutes – July 2024 Meeting

24/25 – 05:056 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND WELCOME

Apologies from Cllr Bown, Cllr Dando

24/25 – 05:057 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None

24/25 – 05:058 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED: Minutes of July 2024 meeting agreed & signed by chairman after correction.

24/25 – 05:059 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 work being done on the Housing Needs Assessment. The 'Keep Clear' signage near the Co-op is due to start soon.
- c. RECEIVED the Clerk's report.
Street lighting: The correspondence with Volker Highways has had to be repeatedly sent, without reply, until the morning of this meeting when there was an email saying the work will be done tomorrow.

24/25 – 05:060 PLAY AREA

The work to lay the new mats in the playground has yet to be completed. The materials are available & it was agreed that volunteers were needed as soon as possible before the weather gets worse.

There is some repair work needed on some of the play equipment, in particular the rope climb netting. Clerk to contact a firm who undertake this type of work.

Unfortunately some playground railings/ fencing that was at Kings was sold before Cllr Hedges was able to look at availability & prices.

There was a discussion about the BMX track. Parents have recently trimmed the grass around the track & also some of the brambles in the hedge. The clerk has found a local gardener who is interested in taking on the work, a visit is being arranged to discuss how often & how much. Because BaNES agreed to undertake this work some years ago, if an invoice does appear for grass cutting the clerk needs to make sure this work is not being charged for.

There was a longer discussion about some remodelling as well as some repairs that need doing. It was agreed to meet with parents & young people at the track, to discuss the next steps.

24/25 – 05:061 LOCAL PLAN

Cllrs Heffernan, Morgan & Jeffery have been to a workshop/ seminar on housing site assessment, the results of which they shared with Cllrs Radnedge & Barber. This is part of a more collaborative approach from BaNES asking local residents where there are appropriate sites for housing.

Planning officers at BaNEs are now suggesting that a Neighbourhood Plan would be positive.

It appears that local schools are undersubscribed, so there is not a need for a new school, which could lead to potentially more housing.

The Housing Group is crowd funding to pay for some professional planning consultancy. If a Housing Needs Assessment is undertaken then it will have to involve paying for independent research. This will cost approx. £3,000, but there may be a grant available from BaNES.

24/25 – 05:062 PLANNING

Cllr Wellman has emailed the Golf Club about their development plans, asking to take up their offer to visit. There has not been a reply as yet.

There appears to be a great deal of work being done at a site in Marsh Lane. This has been reported to Building Control, as potentially not being in line with planning permission.

Planning applications submitted in the recent past are:

Date				FG PC	BaNES
July 2024	24/01774/FUL	Farrington Farm Shop	Erection of a new agricultural storage building	No comment	Approved
April 2024	24/01074/FUL	7 Rush Hill, Farrington Gurney, BS39 6TP	Erection of 1 no. 3 bed dwelling	Oppose	Pending
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	Permitted
Oct 2023	23/03709/FUL	Meadow Farm Ruett Lane BS39 6UP	Erection of a single storey dwelling following demolition	Oppose	Pending

24/25 – 05:063 HIGHWAYS

The local Community Speed Watch group have run a couple of sessions recently.

The work on the drainage around the school has been completed & appears to have stopped the flooding.

24/25 – 05:064 FINANCE

Payments & monthly finance report agreed:

Payee	Details	Amount
CPRE	Annual subscription	£60.00
Empire Sheds	Food Larder	£467.00
Duchy Cornwall		£510.00
R.Moss	Salary – June, July, Aug & office exp Salary – £1033.75 Office - £173.88	£1,207.63
HMRC	Payroll deduction	£258.44
NPower	Stret lighting	To be confirmed

24/25 – 05:065 MEETINGS

There are meetings planned with the Golf Club, with BaNES about the local plan & possibly about SVEZ developments.

24/25 – 05:066 CLIMATE EMERGENCY

There was a well attended pollinator event in July, as well as some 'open garden' events, which has raised about £400 for future work. A grant has been applied for, to support future biodiversity events.

24/25 – 05:067 UPDATES/ INFORMATION FROM COUNCILLORS WITH SPECIAL INTERESTS

Village Hall – the Hall continues to be well used, with fundraising events taking place, including a potential Oktoberfest. There are also discussions about cricket returning to the playing fields & the village, with a local team looking for a new home having lost their current ground.

Gurney Journal – It does look as if a couple in the village may take over the publishing of the Parish Journal, which it was agreed is a very positive development.

Footpaths – Cllr Baber updated about 2 footpaths that were overgrown. She will also be meeting with Eddie Proctor, the BaNES PROW officer.

Allotments – Cllr Radnedge: reported on the continued take up of vacant plots. There are 3 available, with potentially more to come. The clerk reported that there has been interest expressed by 2 people. Also that there were 3 plots where there are problems with overgrowth & weeds. One plot holder has been in touch, committing to doing the work necessary.

24/25 – 05:068 INFORMATION/ ITEMS TO RAISE FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE NEXT MEETING

24/25 – 05:069 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting will be Mon 21st October 2024 at Methodist Hall.

Signed

21.10.2024