

FARRINGTON GURNEY PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held at 7.30 pm on **Monday 21st October 2024** at the **Methodist Church, Farrington Gurney.**

COUNCILLORS PRESENT: James Wellman (Chairman), Mike Hedges, Andy Jeffery, Angharad Barber, Sally Bown
ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Clerk, 4 member of the public

Parish Council Minutes – October Meeting

24/25 – 07:070 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND WELCOME

Apologies from Cllrs Dando, Radnedge, Heffernan & Morgan (BaNES)

24/25 – 07:071 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None

24/25 – 07:072 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED: Minutes of September 2024 meeting agreed & signed by chairman.

24/25 – 07:073 REPORTS

a. RECEIVED a report/update from the Chairman.

Chair has been looking at quotes from Parishes Online, to migrate our current website, which is on WordPress, to a more user friendly platform, which will also come with more dedicated email addresses. Report on items as they appear on the agenda.

b. Received from Cllr Morgan (BaNES)

Cllr Morgan reported by email on meetings with BaNES planning dept, alongside parish councillors.

c. RECEIVED the Clerk's report.

Street lighting: There have been 2 lights upgraded, as requested. The light on Ruett Lane that needs to be adjusted is still too dim. The light on Ham Lane that needs repairing is still not working. Clerk to continue to chase this work.

The BMX track has been mown & the surrounding undergrowth has been trimmed. Clerk has found a local resident who undertakes this type of maintenance work. They will agree a schedule of maintenance, probably once a month in the winter, more in the spring & summer, to be agreed.

Most of the allotments are now let, with 2 being viewed in the next week. It has been agreed by the Duchy that a tree on Sunnyside can be removed.

24/25 – 07:074 PLAY AREA

The work to lay the new mats in the playground has yet to be completed.

There is still some repair work needed on some of the play equipment, in particular the rope climb netting. Clerk to contact GB Sports.

Some steps up to the mound have lost the non-slip strips, which need to be replaced.

24/25 – 07:075 LOCAL PLAN

Cllrs Heffernan provided an email report on work being undertaken & also meetings that have taken place with BaNES planning department.

Planning consultants have visited a number of sites, to assess which sites should be considered for possible housing. There will be a consultation with local residents about preferences, however this will have to a confidential process, to avoid collective bias. an would be positive.

There is still no clarity on the impact of new government housing numbers on BaNES.

There will be another meeting with the consultants on the 5th November.

Cllr Heffernan has applied to a number of funding sources, to fund a housing needs survey. This could cost £3k - £4k. There may need to be some local fundraising.

24/25 – 07:076 PLANNING

There was a discussion about the permission given to a house in Marsh Lane, to convert an out building into a holiday let. There was a complaint made to planning enforcement that the information used in the planning decision was inaccurate & activity since has not been in accordance with consent. However planning enforcement have reported that they have no concerns. Clerk to follow up, with residents & the BaNES councillor.

Cllr Wellman has had no response since emailing the Golf Club about their development plans, asking to take up their offer to visit.

Planning applications submitted in the recent past are:

Date				FG PC	BaNES
June 2024	24/01774/FUL	Farrington Farm Shop	Erection of a new agricultural storage building	No comment	Granted
April 2024	24/01074/FUL	7 Rush Hill, Farrington Gurney, BS39 6TP	Erection of 1 no. 3 bed dwelling	Object	Pending consideration
March 2024	24/00883/FUL	The Cottage Marsh Lane BS39 6TT	Change of use from Garage to Holiday Let	Object	Approve
Oct 2023	23/03709/FUL	Meadow Farm Ruett Lane BS39 6UP	Erection of a single storey dwelling following demolition	Oppose	Pending

24/25 – 07:077 HIGHWAYS

The local Community Speed Watch group have not been able to run sessions recently because of the weather.

There was an accident near to the pub on the main road, which did mean a limited road closure. The need for some 'reduce speed' signs.

Residents of Manor Close have complained about cars blocking the turning circle, making access difficult particularly for refuse, recycling & emergency vehicles. Cllr Morgan is contacting BaNES to see what can be done. FP PC to write to all local residents asking for some consideration.

24/25 – 07:078 FINANCE

Payments & monthly finance report agreed:

Payee	Details	Amount
Margaret Heffernan	Community fridge - reimbursement	£1,135.69
Memorial Hall	Grass Cutting	£1400
R.Moss	Sept salary & office expenses	£496.96
HMRC	Payroll deduction	£86.15

24/25 – 07:079 MEETINGS

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

24/25 – 07:080 CLIMATE EMERGENCY

The Community fridge is in place, after a successful 'opening'.

24/25 – 07:081 UPDATES/ INFORMATION FROM COUNCILLORS WITH SPECIAL INTERESTS

Village Hall – the Hall continues to be well used, with an Oktoberfest fundraising event, as well as other community events taking place. The discussions about cricket returning to the playing fields & the village unfortunately haven't come to anything as yet.

Health – Sally Bown provided information on initiatives around "Aging Well", an anti-smking 'stop october', healthy family cooking courses, as well as alcohol awareness initiatives.

Gurney Journal – A couple in the village have taken over the publishing of the Parish Journal, which it is very positive.

Allotments – Cllr Radnedge: reported by email. There will be a need to remind plot holders about being good neighbours, particularly having bonfires.

24/25 – 07:082 INFORMATION/ ITEMS TO RAISE FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE NEXT MEETING

24/25 – 07:083 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting will be Mon 18th November 2024 at Methodist Hall.

Signed

18.11.2024