

FARNSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held at 7.00pm on Tuesday 28th April 2015 in the Library , Village Centre, New Hill, Farnsfield.

Present

Cllrs. K Clarke, R Davis, M Hamilton, L Selby (Chair),
S Carne, Clerk

Sixteen members of the public

Apologies for absence

C Collingham, A Farr, B McDowall, P Smith

Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes were circulated. Approval was deferred until later in the meeting.

Annual Parish Report

The Clerk circulated a report, attached, for consideration and comments.

FARNSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

REPORT 2014-2015

Councillors

The Councillors are:

Lynda Selby –Chair of the Council

Karen Clarke – Vice Chair

Roger Davis – Chair of Finance and General Purposes Committee

Bruce McDowall

Peter Smith

Matt Hamilton

Richie McPherson

Robert Reeves

Lawrence Weaver

Alison Farr

Chris Collingham

Change of Clerk

Mike Salt retired as Clerk after 15 years service at the end of September and Sue Carne took up the position. Sue is an experienced Clerk and has previously served three Councils over a period of eleven years.

Finances

The precept and Parish Grant for 2014-2015 was £62,430.00. Bookings at the Village Centre have been very healthy and revenue from lettings was £8000 more than in the previous year. We have two big hirers. We would like to thank Jane Cowlshaw, the Bookings Secretary for her hard work.

The precepted amount for 2015-16 was £63,000. There will also be a Parish Grant of £1290. In April/May 2015 a payment of CIL money of £20,733 is due which is for community infrastructure (Ash Farm development). The Parish Council have allocated most of this money for improvements to the Village Centre and some for work needed on the play areas.

Village Centre

During the year a number of inspections and risk assessments of the Village Centre and other facilities were carried out. A new fire alarm and emergency lighting system has been installed in the Village Centre. Essential electrical upgrade work has been completed. Quotes have been obtained for other essential work such as upgrade of fire doors and exit doors and gates which will be carried out during the next financial year and have been commissioned.

A review of fire safety arrangements is underway and during the forthcoming year the new fire evacuation plan will be put in place and training will be provided for staff, Councillors and users.

Following problems with the chairs in the Lower Hall a variety of sample chairs were obtained and tried by users. A new chair has been selected and the replacement chairs have been budgeted for in 2015-2016. Following a request new cups and saucers have been purchased along with new crockery and cutlery.

The letting charges have been reviewed and a small increase has been agreed. It is hoped that by keeping hire charges low the Village Centre will continue to be well used.

Staffing

The new Clerk was contracted for 17 hours per week (the previous Clerk worked 25 hrs per week) but since January is working extra hours to support the Council through a period of transition and of reviewing procedures, policies and the way that the Council's extensive facilities are managed. The Council has been very fortunate in securing the help of a very experienced Clerk and qualified Solicitor on an occasional basis and she has recently drawn up the end of year accounts. It is hoped that she will do some further work for us.

As well as Jane Cowlshaw, the Village Centre Booking Clerk the Parish Council employ a number of other staff who work hard to make sure that the Parish Council facilities are maintained. Andy Cowlshaw is the Village Centre cleaner, Terry Dewhurst is the Litter Picker and Phil Ford is the Groundsman and Lengthsman. Our thanks goes to all of them.

Planning

The development by Barratt Homes at Ash Farm has started.

A planning application was received for outline permission for 48 dwellings at Southwell Rd, Farnfield. This was rejected by the Parish Council as it was outside the village envelope.

The Neighbourhood Plan for the Parish is being developed by a steering group. This will then become a legal document, if accepted, the views of the Parish must then be taken into account in future planning decisions. This year the group have conducted a survey of residents which they are currently analysing.

Environment

A constant problem in the village continues to be dog fouling and owners failing to clean up the mess despite the Parish Council providing and funding the emptying of dog bins around the village. Reminder notices have been purchased to place on dog bins and around the Village.

Ulyetts Landscapes Ltd have been our Grounds Maintenance contractors and the Council has renewed the grounds maintenance contract for the forthcoming year with them. They cut the grass on the playing field and other areas in the village and also cut some hedges. Minor Grounds Maintenance is carried out by our own Groundsman.

At the request of parishioners, two picnic benches have been provided at the Memorial Recreation Ground and new litter bins purchased for various locations.

Policing

Farnsfield benefits from two Community Support Officers.

Main Street

There has been a request for a pedestrian crossing to be installed. Nottinghamshire County Council have surveyed Main St and a location near New Hill has been chosen. It is expected that it will be installed in 2015.

Communication

The Parish Council newsletter is issued on a quarterly basis, (March, June, September and December) and is circulated with the Bramley. We are willing to place articles in the newsletter to support local events and societies but must receive them at least 4 weeks before the next month of publication. Cllr Richie McPherson has produced this for the Council in the last year and the Parish Council would like to thank him for this.

Cllr McPherson has also taken a lead on the set up of our new and much improved website. This is currently being further developed to include more Parish Council documents and information. These will be added as documents are updated.

Vandalism

There has been some minor vandalism at Wilson's Field play area and the Village Centre. This has mainly involved spray paint. Please be vigilant and report any vandalism to the Police at the earliest opportunity.

Moving forward

Over the last few months the Parish Council has taken bold decisions to find a way forward to ensure that the Council operates effectively and has instrumented a programme of inspections, maintenance and renewal, where necessary, of all facilities and a review of Parish Council procedures. This is a period of great change and these will take some time to effect. There is a lot to

get through, but it needs a lot of hard work on everyone's part, myself (the Clerk), Support Clerk, Councillors and Parish Council staff . We also need support from our stakeholders. We need members of the public to work with us. The Parish Council is listening. However, changes of this magnitude can happen, but can not be made overnight.

It is fortunate that the Parish Council has the money available to employ staff on a temporary basis and to update and improve the facilities they provide. The present Parish Council has started the process. The new Parish Council has a real opportunity to get the Parish Council and it's facilities running effectively and ultimately to make a difference. The Parish Council wish the new Council every success.

The report was noted.

M Hubbard the Chairman of the Neighbourhood Plan Group gave a report. The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group was formed a year ago. They had a good return to the questionnaire that was circulated, with a 25% response. They will be issuing the results next month. They will be submitting an application for grant aid and are looking for the right consultant to assist them. They hope to draft the plan in August and this will be circulated for feedback and responses from the public.

A number of issues were raised by members of the public:

- Accounts information. This would be available at the following meeting of the Council.
- Broadband. It was understood that higher speed broadband would be available later in the year.

Cllr R Reeves joined the meeting.

- Shed burglaries. It was reported that there had been 25 shed burglaries in the area in a few weeks. Although two people had been caught they were still occurring. The public were asked to be vigilant and to report anything suspicious to the Police.

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 22nd April 2014 were proposed a true record by L Selby, seconded by L Healey and agreed by those who had been present.

- Steps Wilson's Field to Southwell Rd – These had been repaired but inappropriate graffiti had been drawn in the wet concrete. Clerk to raise with NCC. LA resident felt that this was an area of the village that needed upgrading. This would be an agenda item for the new Council. Cllr Jackson joined the meeting and was informed about the graffiti.
- Mini tennis court – Laminated sign at tennis court had previous Clerk's name on. Clerk also to check the sign at the Acres.

There were no other issues raised and the meeting closed at 8.30pm.

