

Minutes of a meeting of Farnsfield Parish Council held at 7pm on Tuesday 23 June 2020

The meeting was held over the internet and recorded by Council to aid in preparing minutes.

Present: Cllrs. Purcicoe, Johnson, I. Clarke, Dennis, Selby, Puddephatt, Strawson, Westbury.

Cllr Healy joined at 19:07.

5 members of the public were also present.

20.50. To receive declarations of intention to record the meeting other than by council

There were no declarations of intention to record the meeting

20.51. To receive any apologies for absence

No apologies for absence were received

20.52. To receive any declarations of interest

Cllr. I. Clarke declared a personal interest in item 20.61 and 20.62, stayed in the meeting and did not comment.

Councillors accepted a proposal from Cllr. Purcicoe to change the order of the agenda to move items 20.62 to be moved before 20.55 on the agenda due to the amount of Public interest.

20.53. To receive reports from the district and county councillor

No report from district and county councillor.

20.54. 10 minutes for the public to comment and ask or answer questions about agenda items

No members of the public chose to speak.

Cllr Purcicoe read an email from a member of the public requesting a progress update from the Chairman with regards to the strategy project and what the next steps in the process are likely to be, with emphasis on young person's facilities and the skateboard working committee.

Cllr Purcicoe was unable to give an update as multiple counsellors are involved in different parts of the strategy to share the workload. Cllr Purcicoe gave his assurance that any progress made would be informed via report from individual councillors.

20.62. Council to discuss report entitled FPC Grants 2017/18 with a proposed resolution to delegate three members of council to meet with Tennis Club officials to request the return of the £10k grant. Supporting report available see Appendix 1.

Councillors were given opportunity to speak. The key points were noted as follows.

Cllr Dennis read a statement to the council he had pre prepared. in conclusion, Cllr Dennis supports the proposed resolution to delegate three members of council to meet with Tennis Club officials, to request the return of the £10,000 grant. Please find the full statement made by Cllr Dennis in Appendix 1.

Cllr Healy had hoped that the issue could have been resolved through meetings with the Tennis Club. Cllr Healy felt that by requesting the return of the £10,000 the only losers would be the kids in the community.

Cllr Westbury reiterated that this issue must be investigated as residents have asked questions about the grant received by the Tennis club.

Cllr Johnson believed it was understandable that the Tennis Club had refused to return the money as it was "out of the blue" and were not aware of any complaints regarding the grant they had received.

Cllr Johnson however agreed that the council should deal with all complaints and the council need to make improvements to make sure processes are correctly followed. Cllr Johnson felt that this should be investigated further before coming to a decision.

Cllr Puddephatt reminded the council that Cllr Purcicoe and Cllr I Clarke had met with the Tennis club to request for the money back in March but unfortunately the Tennis club had refused. Cllr Puddephatt acknowledged that the Tennis club is a fantastic asset and the parish council is not asking for the money to be returned out of “spite” but to correct procedural errors by both the Council and the Tennis Club. In conclusion Cllr Puddephatt supports the proposed resolution to delegate three members of council to meet with Tennis Club officials to request the return of the £10k grant.

Cllr Purcicoe stated that the council must stay on right side of governance and by returning the grant and it would keep the Council on the right side of governance. Cllr Purcicoe agreed that mistakes have been made in the past. Cllr Purcicoe believes that errors were made in the funding application and in the approval of the funding by the council at the time. Cllr Purcicoe shared his concerns, that if the grant is not returned by the Tennis club then 3rd parties may have to be involved, if this were to happen Cllr Purcicoe would want to distance himself from this issue. Cllr Purcicoe supports the proposed resolution to delegate three members of council to meet with Tennis Club officials to request the return of the £10k grant.

Cllr Westbury clarified that the Council want to be able to give the grant to the tennis club however it is clear that the council didn’t follow their own policies and therefore it should be returned to be awarded in the correct way.

Cllr Selby was given the opportunity to speak and suggested that if the Tennis club could have come forward and let the Council know about delays in the project due to “unknowns” and therefore delays in spending the grant within the correct time frame. The Council and Tennis Club could have then discussed how to resolve this together.

All councillors had the opportunity to comment.

With a majority vote, it was resolved to delegate three members of council to meet with Tennis Club officials to request the return of the £10k grant. Councillors Dennis, Puddephatt and Westbury were delegated to meet with the Tennis club.

20.55. To accept the 26 May 2020 Full Council meeting minutes as accurate.

Cllr Purcicoe requested 20.41 was revisited. The recording of the meeting will be reviewed and the acceptance of these minutes will be moved to the next scheduled Full Council Meeting.

20.56. To accept the 9 June 2020 Facilities meeting minutes as accurate.

The minutes were accepted as being accurate

20.57.1. To note the Financial Summary as at 30 June 2020.

Unity Trust opening balance	£226,423.95	
Monthly receipts	£47,982.75	
Monthly payments net of VAT		£-9,005.47
VAT		£-376.69
Unity Trust closing balance		£265,024.54
Nationwide opening balance	£126,410.65	
Nationwide closing balance		£126,410.65
Mansfield BS opening balance	£85,000.00	
Mansfield BS closing balance		£85,000.00
Total Funds		£476,435.19



Made up of

Best Kept Village reserve	£2,129.12
S106 Ash1 spend by Sept 2020	£69,250.15
S106 Ash2 spend by Feb 2023	£24,127.62
CIL spend by April 2021	£39,907.43
CIL spend by April 2022	£21,824.94
CIL spend by April 2023	£27,408.17
CIL spend by April 2024	£99,165.87
CIL spend by April 2025	£18,714.96
SANGS reserve	£1,593.12
General reserve CFWD from 2019-20	£118,480.65
Current fund	£53,833.16

Total of EMR and current fund £476,435.1

The document was previously circulated, the Financial Summary was noted.

20.57.2. To approve the bills for payment

The document was previously circulated, it was resolved to approve the bills for payment.

Approval	Description	Net	VAT	Gross
For submission for payment by bank transfer				
PCM20.36.1 RBS	annual support licence	£124.00	£24.80	£148.80
BW/JJ Best4Pests	bees nest village centre	£54.00	£0.00	£54.00
PCM20.36.1 Ulyett Landscapes Ltd	quarterly grounds maintenance	£1,365.75	£273.15	£1,638.90
PCM20.15.2 J R Islip & Sons	new windows & repairs VC	£4,335.00	£867.00	£5,202.00
PCM20.36.6 KG Enterprises	annual internal audit review FPC	£89.00	£0.00	£89.00
Fac20.36 Newark&Sherwood Locksmiths	VC new door locks & keys	£574.00	£114.80	£688.80
Direct Debits and Standing Orders				
PCM20.36.1 BT	mobile phones	£15.00	£3.00	£18.00
PCM20.36.1 Eon	Wilson's Fld electricity	£9.02	£0.45	£9.47
PCM20.36.1 Eon	Pavilion electricity	£8.99	£0.45	£9.44
PCM20.36.1 Waterplus	Pavilion water quarterly	£207.84	£0.00	£207.84
PCM20.36.1 Tom's Garden Svcs	grass & path maintenance	£368.00	£0.00	£368.00
PCM20.36.1 Eon	VC Gas	£27.10	£1.36	£28.46
PCM20.36.1 Eon	VC electricity	£35.52	£1.78	£37.30

20.57.3. To review and adopt the revised Treasury Management Strategy for 2020-21

The document was previously circulated, it was resolved to adopt the revised Treasury Management Strategy

20.57.4. To nominate a councillor to conduct the first quarter financial review

Cllr Dennis will conduct the first quarter financial review.

20.57.5. To confirm the unbudgeted, spend from Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds recommended at the Facilities meeting

It was resolved to approve the unbudgeted spend to be taken from CIL funds comprising
£630 for decorating of the VC toilets, landings, kitchens and office
£696 to reprofile the upper hall stage with decorative panelling

£688.80 to replace the three Village Centre front entrance door locks

20.57.6. To consider the value (currently £100) of works above which council must attempt to obtain multiple quotes and consider an amendment to the Financial Regulations

It was resolved to amend the value of works which the council must attempt to obtain multiple quotes would be increased to £999 inclusive of VAT. The Financial Regulations will be amended to reflect this.

20.58. Facilities

20.58.1. Facilities report

No Report

20.58.2. To consider offering the Village Centre as classrooms for St. Michael's school.

It was resolved for Cllr Johnson to contact St. Michael's school offering the use of the Village Centre if necessary due to COVID-19.

20.58.3. To consider that, with new locks at the Village Centre, the first key issued per group is free of charge with subsequent keys incurring a refundable deposit.

It was resolved that each group will receive the first key free of charge and each replacement key would be replaced at a charge of £20. Ad hoc booking would be asked for a refundable deposit of £20 for each key given.

20.58.4. To consider the "Via East Midlands" weed killing schedule and if changes should be requested.

Cllr Healy brought to council the concern that the schedule of weed killing is not consistent and exclusions for weed killing needs to be reviewed. Cllr Johnson has had limited response from Vis East Midlands for more information on exact locations of weed killing.

It was resolved that the current exclusions would be requested for this year and the exclusions will be reviewed by the Council and Environmental Working Party with input from the residents for the schedule and exclusions next year.

20.59. Planning report.

No planning report.

20.60. To receive and note correspondence received.

20.60.1. To consider a request from 1st Farnsfield Scouts on whether an application for a grant towards losses due to COVID can be made under our Grants Policy.

The council discussed the grants policy and if the Scouts are able to qualify for a grant under the current Grants policy. The council invited Chris Blockley, Scout group leader, to speak to discuss the level of loss due to COVID-19.

After some discussion, the council resolved to postpone a decision on this matter until more information can be gathered on how the non-profits could be assisted through COVID-19 by the council.

20.60.2. To consider a request from Farnsfield Villa FC to waive the £105 outstanding hire charge as no income from away matches, cancelled due to COVID, had been received



The council resolved to postpone a decision on this matter until more information can be gathered on how the non-profits could be assisted by the council during COVID-19.

20.61. To consider a request from Farnsfield Tennis Club to allow more time for the completion of the clubhouse extension works, supporting report available.

This has been addressed in the earlier discussion and the conclusion of Agenda Point 20.62.

The meeting was formally closed at 20:28

DRAFT

Appendix 1

Statement from Cllr Dennis regarding Item 20.62

You will probably all have read the report on the Grant allocation 2017/18. It is on the website and I have copied all interested parties. For the avoidance of being misquoted or misinterpreted I will make this statement available as an appendix for the minutes.

To me, this is a very simple issue being made very complicated and if we are not able to resolve the issue, then we are at risk of it being taken out of our hands. It would be counterproductive to apportion blame, but I need everyone to know that the application was flawed, the approval was flawed, the transfer of money was flawed and the timescale was flawed.

I believe, and I will stand to be corrected, that most, if not all, on the Parish Council want to see the Tennis Club legitimately get their extension. But I also believe that most Tennis Club members would not want to compromise Parish Councillors responsibilities to the village finances. I have read the emails from Tennis club members and residents. I take from their emails that they want the Parish Council to support the Tennis Club and although I have sympathy with that sentiment, I am disappointed that the members do not think that this Parish Council does support them. I think they are being misinformed. I detect a lack of understanding relating to Councillors' duty to protect and control Parish Finances for all residents.

Our Financial Regulations state that The Council is responsible in law for ensuring that its financial management is adequate and effective

If we are unaware of previous mistakes that cannot be rectified then I accept that it is difficult to see what this Council can do. However, it has been brought to our attention and the project is 12 months overdue. If Councillors think that errors have been made, then we should not turn a blind eye and we should ask for the money to be returned. If we allow the money to be retained, it will be to endorse previous errors and I will ensure that I personally distance myself from that decision in the event of any future legal challenges.

There has been a lot of talk from some quarters that the Tennis Club is not eligible to reapply for funding. This is totally untrue. I am stating this on public record. There is nothing in our Grants policy that precludes an application from Sports Clubs for funding.

And again, I will say this as a matter of public record. Having looked at the objective of the Tennis Club to build the extension, I see no reason why an error free application should not be approved. I also see no reason why the Parish Council is not able to apply the policy and legally approve and contribute money to the Village Clubs, including the Tennis club. I cannot predetermine any decision but I am predisposed towards helping the Tennis Club financially.

I don't think I can make this any clearer, and, in good faith, I am desperately trying to find a solution that satisfies all parties within a legitimate framework.

So, because the £10,000 should not have been approved in 2018 and has not yet been spent, I support the resolution to ask for the money to be returned.