

Draft Minutes are subject to approval at the next Council Meeting

Minutes of the Meeting of the Full Farnsfield Parish Council held at 7.00pm on Tuesday 23rd July 2024 in the Lower Hall of the Village Centre

Commenced at 7.00pm. Concluded at 8.45pm

Councillors present: Joyce Shakeshaft (Chair), John Cracknell, Lesley Healy, Maurice Shakeshaft, Mike Thompson, Lindsay Biro-Moore, Sally Savage (Minute Taker)

Absent Councillors: Cllr Peter Sarre and Cllr Corinne Moore

District & County Councillors:

District Councillor Maurice Shakeshaft and County Councillor Bruce Laughton (left after item 8)

Other Attendees: Judith Alcock (Locum RFO); 13/14 members of the public. Liz Phillips and Paul Mortimer in attendance for item 2425.72FC

2425.65FC 1. Chair's opening remarks

The Chair welcomed Liz Phillips in respect of agenda item 8.

The Chair reported that Cllr Moore will be producing an update on the work of the TLC working party.

The advert for the co-option of two Councillors will go live shortly with a September closing date.

The Chair was pleased to announce that Farnsfield has achieved first in section A of the best kept village competition and is through to the next round of judging. She thanked people throughout the village for their help in achieving this accolade.

The Chair reported that the meeting was being recorded by a member of the public.

2425.66FC 2. Apologies

Apologies and reasons for absence were received from Councillor Sarre and Councillor Moore. Resolved: That the apologies and reasons for absence were approved.

2425.67FC 3. Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary and Other Interests

Members were invited to declare any personal or prejudicial interests in respect of the business items on the agenda. No interests were declared.

Cllr Maurice Shakeshaft commented that he had no interests to declare at this point but would do so if the need arose during the meeting.

2425.68FC 4. Minutes

The draft minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on the 25th June 2024 were previously circulated.

A member of the public identified that the item regarding declarations of interest had been omitted from the minutes. And she noted that Cllr Savage had declared an interest at the meeting.

Resolved: that the draft minutes of the parish Council meeting held on June 25th 2024 be approved subject to the inclusion of the item regarding declarations of interest.

Matters arising:

Item 2425.52FC: Cllr Thompson reported that he has advised Tracey of the revised hire charges.

Item 2425.64FC: Cllr Savage reported that a meeting of the complaints committee had been held and had considered one complaint.

2425.69FC 5. Exclusion of the Press and Public.

Members considered which items required the exclusion of the press and public in accordance with the Public Bodies Admission to Meeting Act 1960 for matters appertaining to confidential information.

Resolved: That the press and public be excluded from agenda items 22, 23 and 24 due to the discussion of confidential business. Unanimous.

2425.70FC 6. Public Session

a) A public participation session to allow members of the public to make representation on the business of the agenda for the meeting.

MOP 1 raised an issue in relation to item 2425.80FC. They expressed concern regarding potentially spending public money on a new website if there is not an identified Councillor to manage the site.

b) To consider urgent village matters not previously raised.

MOP 2 raised an issue regarding the wilding policy in the village. Clarity was sought in relation to the contract with NSDC and the effect of the Council's approach to green spaces on the costs associated with that contract.

A prolonged discussion took place during which MOP 3 reported that they had received information from NSDC that the contract is a matter between the contractor and the Parish Council. MOP 4 commented that many people in the village were happy with the approach to green spaces and commended the Parish Council.

2425.71FC 7. Reports from County and District Councillors

County Councillor Bruce Laughton provided an update:

- A meeting was held with the East Midlands Mayor regarding the spatial policy with specific reference to solar farms. There are a number of applications within the Trent Valley
- Attended Party in the Park and thought it was a fantastic event for the village and commended the Royal British Legion.
- Contact has been made with the new Government regarding the proposed developments on the A614
- There are proposed changes to the household recycling centre in Bilsthorpe but rumours that it is closing are untrue.
- The double yellow lines at the bottom of The Ridgeway were approved by the Council.

The Chair thanked Councillor Laughton for his update.

District Councillor Maurice Shakeshaft provided an update:

- With the recent election there has been limited activity in relation to Farnsfield
- A meeting has been held with the monitoring officer regarding the overall rise in complaints received by them. Cllr Shakeshaft hopes to have some data to share shortly.
- Cllr Shakeshaft is actively pursuing when the solar farm in the village may be activated
- The Tour of Britain will again be coming through the village in September

The Chair thanked Councillor Shakeshaft for his update

2425.72FC 8. Contribution from Liz Phillips on the Food Bank

Liz introduced herself as the pastor of Lifespring in Ollerton and Paul Mortimer who co-ordinates a group of volunteers who collect donations in the village. She described the work of the food bank which covers Farnsfield. As well as providing food hampers as a short term measure they also provide wider support to try to prevent people becoming reliant on food donations. She emphasised the very valuable contributions made by Farnsfield. In response to a question from a MOP Paul described the work of the volunteers in the village who collect donations and deliver to Lifespring. Liz commented that they do use drivers to deliver hampers.

The Chair commended the generous contributions from residents but reported that donations had reduced over recent weeks. Cllr Maurice Shakeshaft reminded people that donations can be left in the church porch and the church were thanked for their support.

Standing orders were suspended and MOPs suggested more publicity via the Farnie and that the Council consider if there is anything they can do to directly contribute funding. Cllr Laughton clarified that he supports the food bank in Bilsthorpe.

Liz was thanked for her contribution and left the meeting

Cllr Laughton left the meeting.

Standing orders were reinstated.

2425.73FC 9. Christmas Raffle

A proposal was received to purchase a licence for £40 that would allow the Council to hold lotteries in the village. This would initially be used to support the Christmas raffle organised by the food bank group, which also contributes to other good causes in the village.

Resolved: That the licence be purchased. Unanimous

2425.74FC 10. Amended bills for Payment up to 4th July 2024

An amended schedule of bills for payment up to the 4th of July 2024 were presented for approval following discussion at the Finance and Governance Committee held on the 9th of July 2024.

Resolved: The bills for payment were approved as presented. Unanimous.

2425.75FC 11. Security bund for Hadleigh car park East perimeter.

Cllr Thompson introduced this item which is a proposal to establish a bund on the eastern perimeter of the new car park to prevent unauthorised vehicle access. A single quote has been obtained due to the specialised nature of this work. The quote includes an additional cost for the removal and disposal of old fencing. Councillor Healy added that the cost was reduced as the bund would be installed in the autumn so would not require the water tanks used previously.

Resolved: To fund the construction of the bund at a cost of £1650 plus VAT and the removal of the fencing at a cost of £75. Unanimous.

Cllr Thompson also reported that the inspection by NSDC had identified that work is required to improve the lock on the height barrier at the entrance to the car park. He said he would aim to get this fixed by September.

2425.76FC 12. Utilities Electricity Contract

Cllr Thompson introduced this item. He explained that the current electricity contracts with EDF expire in September and October this year. As well as renewing these contracts the Council needs to identify an export tariff which would enable us to make the most efficient use of the solar panels on the village centre. Due to the time constraints Cllr Thompson requested that the letting of suitable contracts be delegated to him to agree during August and be let by the RFO.

Resolved: To delegate responsibility for placing an order during August 2024 subject to the best priced package at the time, including achieving best value for exporting excess electricity. Unanimous.

2425.77FC 13. Village Centre EICR Testing

Cllr Cracknell introduced this item. EICR testing at the village centre has identified eight remedial actions which are required to achieve the required certification.

Resolved: To purchase the remedial actions required from RS Electrical Services Ltd at a cost of £439.44 including VAT on a sole bid basis having undertaken the original work and knowing the requirements. Unanimous.

2425.78FC 14. Speed Watch Group Report

A report was received on the activity of the village speed watch group. Cllr Thompson felt that it would be helpful to have more data and suggested that a number of KPIs could be established. He also expressed his disappointment that only two sessions had taken place since the scheme was approved in September 2023. Cllr Savage supported these comments. Cllr Maurice Shakeshaft suggested that roads other than Southwell Road could be targeted.

Resolved: That Cllr Maurice Shakeshaft acts as the Parish Council liaison with the speed watch group with the aim of achieving a higher profile for the scheme and more regular reporting to the Council.

2425.79FC 15. Vexatious Complaint Policy

The Chair proposed that the Vexatious Complaints Policy that had been agreed at the previous meeting of the Council be renamed the Vexatious Behaviour Policy.

Resolved: It was agreed that the policy be adopted as the Vexatious Behaviour Policy. Unanimous.

2425.80FC 16. Parish Council Website

This item was introduced by Councillor Shakeshaft. A discussion took place with concerns being expressed about how the Council could be confident that the proposal presented would deliver a better website than the current one. Cllr Thompson suggested that we ask the preferred supplier if they are able to provide day to day management of the proposed site and Cllr Maurice Shakeshaft said he was sure this was possible. Cllr Savage expressed concern in agreeing this proposal without information on how much ongoing management of the site may cost. It was decided to postpone a decision on this item until this additional information is available.

2425.81FC 17. Accessing and editing of Hugo Fox website.

Volunteers were sought to be editors of the website, alongside Cllr Sarre who is currently an editor. Cllr Healy and Cllr Maurice Shakeshaft volunteered.

Resolved: It was agreed that Cllr Healy and Cllr Maurice Shakeshaft be designated as website editors. Unanimous.

2425.82FC 18. Meetings Schedule

The Chair identified that in the current meeting schedule there is provision for a monthly planning committee. She proposed this be reduced to bi-monthly due to a reduction in the number of applications being submitted. If necessary an extraordinary meeting could be convened.

Resolved: That future planning committees be scheduled bi-monthly. Unanimous.

2425.83FC 19. Voting Delegate

The Chair highlighted that the NALC AGM is being held in October 2024 and the Council requires a voting delegate.

Resolved: Cllr Joyce Shakeshaft was nominated as the voting delegate. Unanimous

2425.84FC 20. Co-option advert to be placed.

The Chair identified that there are currently two vacancies for Councillors on the Council. She proposed that an advert be placed with a closing date of September 10th 2024. It was suggested that this could also be advertised in the Farnie to try to reach a wider audience.

Resolved: To place an advert as soon as possible with a closing date of 10th September 2024. Unanimous.

2425.85FC 21. National hedgehog monitoring programme.

The Chair highlighted the good work in the village to promote the welfare of hedgehogs which has resulted in us having a very healthy local population. She thanked everyone for their contribution to this work. A request has been received from Nottingham Trent University to take part in the National Hedgehog Monitoring Programme. Resolved: To take part in the National Hedgehog Monitoring Programme. Unanimous.

2425.86FC 22. Formal Complaints.

This item was considered under the exclusion of the press and public

2425.87FC 23. Emails analysis.

This item was considered under the exclusion of the press and public

2425.88FC 24. Recruitment of Clerk/RFO

This item was considered under the exclusion of the press and public

2425.89FC 25. Date and Time of next meeting: Tuesday 24th of September 2024 at 7pm in the lower hall.

The Chair thanked people for their attendance and closed the public session of the meeting at 8.45pm.