

<p><b>MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FARNDON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 4<sup>th</sup> March 2025</b> <b>AT 7.30PM in FARNDON WAR MEMORIAL HALL</b></p>
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**Present:** Cllr V Roberts (Chair), Cllr H Williams, Cllr F Henderson, Cllr P Roberts, Cllr K Davies, Cllr B Hillyer, Cllr A Foster, Cllr G Dawson, and Mrs M Jones.

**In attendance:** Borough Cllr A Waddelove, one member of the public, Mrs C Taylor (Clerk).

## **PART 1**

### **33.25. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr P Fish, Cllr M Rudd, Mr E Barnston.

Absent: Cllr P Amphlett.

**Resolved:** that the apologies be noted.

### **34.25. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr Williams declared an interest in Item 12(i) (CBF application). Members to declare if anything arises further on the agenda.

### **35.25. GENERAL PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME**

A representative from Netball Farndon was in attendance. She requested that when members considered their application to the Community Benefit Fund later in the meeting that they take into account that the netball was very much a community initiative not just about sport.

**Resolved:** Noted.

### **36.25. COMMUNITY SAFETY**

Police monthly report not received. PCSO had requested a 'catch up' meeting with the Clerk the following week. **Resolved:** The Clerk would ask for any update on the recently reported drugs issue in the village and report back to members.

i) Police letterbox in Post office: **Resolved:** To remove as police monthly surgeries were now held in the village.

### **37.25. BOROUGH COUNCILLORS REPORT.** Cllr Waddelove in attendance and reported:

i) Footpath at Twychooks: Now cleared by CWaC.

ii) CWaC Finances: Budget Council had taken place and a 4.99% Council Tax increase resolved. An enhanced gulley maintenance programme had been voted down. A 20mph blanket speed limit outside schools had however been passed successfully: this would impact Abbey Gate College and Clutton Primary.

iii) Barton Road at Barton: A 3km section of broken pipe under the road had been identified and this would be dealt with in the 25/26 financial year. The entire section of road would need coming up as opposed to patching.

iv) Funding was being looked at for resurfacing of a section of the A534 in 25/26 financial year (left at Sibbersfield Lane cross roads in Barton garage direction).

v) 50mph speed limit on Sibbersfield Lane was still supposed to be happening in this financial year (£106 funded).

vi) Public toilets: Still chasing information/progress regarding accessibility and maintenance.

**Resolved:** Noted.

### **38.25. MINUTES OF FEBRUARY MEETING**

**Resolved:** that the Minutes of the February Parish Council meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2025 be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

**Proposed: Cllr A Foster    Seconded: Cllr K Davies**

### **39.25. CLERK'S REPORT**

The Clerks' report was read and noted.

i) VE Day 80 Commemoration: Cllr Dawson had advised that she would have to step back from the organisation of the project. **Resolved:** Cllr Dawson would contact the WI to ask if they would be willing to take over the running of the project.

ii) Cliff top paths: Cllrs V Roberts, Henderson, Williams, Waddelove and the Clerk had met with CWAC Officers onsite and the outcome was cautiously positive. A possible diversion of the footpath that ran directly beneath the Remembrance Garden was being looked at and a drone had been deployed in the last few days to inform the decision-making process. The PROW Officer had kept in touch via the Clerk and would continue to do so to progress the conversation.

**Resolved:** Noted.

iii) Youth project update: Cllr Hillyer updated: Sessions were due to recommence with effect from 17 April. DBS checks were in hand.

**Resolved:** Noted.

### **40.25 VICE CHAIR**

One member had put themselves forward for nomination for the position of Vice Chair to be effective from the May meeting. A vote by show of hands was taken. **Resolved:** Cllr F Henderson to be formally elected with effect from the May 2025 meeting to the position of Vice Chair for a two-year term of office. Thereafter to assume the position of Chair for a two-year term of office.

### **41.25. HISTORY BOARD PROJECT**

Cllr Dawson reported: The working group continued to work hard at progressing and had a meeting scheduled the next evening. 4 signage companies had been identified and approached for quotes which would now be considered by the group. An advert had also been posted locally inviting interest to a paid commission for illustration work. The most important criterion had been agreed and the group would be looking to engage with the best possible provider which would not necessarily mean the cheapest option.

**Resolved:** Noted.

### **42.25. PLANNING**

**Existing applications where decision still awaited:**

**21/00882/FUL** Lewis' of Farndon The Gateway High St Farndon Retractable awning over enclosed patio.

**21/02184/S73** The Boathouse High Street Farndon CH3 6PU Demolition of existing café/dwelling house buildings and erection of a replacement dwelling house. Variation of Condition 2 of planning permission 15/02649/FUL (and 19/04100/NMA).

**23/03669/FUL** Rockside Cottage and The Vineyard High Street Farndon Chester CH3 6PU Demolition of dwelling known as Rockside, garage and caravan on land known as The Vineyard and construction of replacement dwelling on land known as The Vineyard.

**24/00651/FUL** Sibbersfield Lane Farm Sibbersfield Lane Farndon CH3 6NX Construction of Slurry and Dirty Water Lagoon and Silage Storage Pad.

**24/01630/FUL** Land at Barton Road Farndon Chester Change of use to a camp site for up to 15 tents trailer tents for 60 days a year.

**24/02570/FUL** 3 Starling Close Farndon CH3 6RF Installation of 1 No. air source heat pump to the side elevation.

**24/01483/PDQ APP/A0665/W/24/3350214 REF 24/00108/REF** Lodge Farm Worthenbury Road Crewe by Farndon Chester Change of use of 2 agricultural buildings to 5 residential dwellings. Requires permission.

Appeal made to Secretary of State against the decision of CWaC to refuse to grant planning permission.

**25/00121/FUL** 7 Dee Crescent Farndon demolition of existing conservatory, erection of rear single storey extension, addition of side windows.

#### **NEW APPLICATIONS:**

**25/00501/CAT** 6 Rectory Close Farndon Reduce 2 Conifer trees in the front garden by approx. 3m in height due to close proximity to house.

**25/00082/FUL** Land adjacent to The Nook Churton Road Farndon Proposed single dwelling unit.

**25/00151/FUL** 12 Dee Crescent Farndon Demolition of existing rear conservatory and extension, erection of single storey porch and rear extension, partial conversion of garage, removal of chimney, addition of flue to roof, alterations to doors and windows, removal of cladding to front and rendering application, alterations to driveway.

#### **DECISIONS:**

**Approved: 24/03060/LDC** 51-52 High Street Farndon The application seeks lawful confirmation that the entirety of the building as residential use from September 2020 (sic).

#### **43.25. FINANCE**

**Resolved:** that the payment of salaries and expenses, the payment of invoices for goods received and services rendered for February be approved and the receipts and balances be noted.

**Proposed Cllr P Roberts    Seconded Cllr H Williams**

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i) Laminator and supplies: **Resolved:** Clerk to purchase.

ii) Boardwalk repair: **Resolved:** Clerk to accept quote of £980 to repair damaged section.

Proposed    Cllr A Foster    Seconded    Cllr B Hillyer

#### **44.25. CORRESPONDENCE, PUBLICATIONS, AND INVITATIONS**

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Correspondence, feedback, publications, invitations, actions, and attendees.

**i) 2 applications received to the Community Benefit Fund.** (Cllrs V and P Roberts declared an interest as members of FWMH Committee).

a) Farndon Community Club: Members considered a request for a contribution to the replacement cost of a motor for the external security shutter at the Club.

**Resolved:** FPC approve a grant of £580.

b) Netball Farndon: Members considered a request for a contribution to the cost of equipment, qualifications, and a qualified Level 2 Coach for 1.5 hours per week.

**Resolved:** FPC approve a grant of £3140 as a contribution specifically towards equipment and training qualifications but not to cover coaching costs.

**Proposed** Cllr P Roberts      **Seconded** Cllr B Hillyer

**ii) Churchyard maintenance.** (Chair, in conjunction with the Clerk, requested this item be taken as Part 2 at the end of the meeting).

**iii) Allotments.**

The Clerk advised that two (potentially 3) plot holders had given notice to either relinquish or reduce their plot size wef 1 April 2025.

**Resolved:** Agreed that reduction of plot sizes where feasible was to be encouraged so as to offer more opportunities to those people on the current waiting list. Rental to be reviewed November 2025 with a view to an increase wef 1 April 2026. Rent had not been increased for many years and water bill had increased in that time. 3 months' notice of any increase would need to be served wef 1 January 2026. A clearer picture of annual metered water bill would by then be clearer and inform the amount of any increase.

**iv) Correspondence from TWM Traffic re Speed Indication Devices.**

Members considered investigating further the purchase and installation of Vehicle Activated Signage (VAS) for the junction/crossroads on the A534.

**Resolved:** To consider further pending Churton Parish Council meeting with TWM.

**Resolved:** Cllr Waddelove to ask CWaC if the parish speed gun could be deployed on Barton Road.

**v) Further correspondence from Chester and District Scouts Youth Lead.**

The Chester District Youth lead had been in touch to advise that they had held a working party at the Scout hut mid-February and had managed to tidy up a lot inside and get ready for a big clear out of unused equipment. They had a trustee board meeting planned end of February and would be updating the trustees on the building situation. The Clerk had reconfirmed that the Barnston Estate owned the building and that the Scouts should therefore progress the discussion with the Estate.

**Resolved:** Noted. Clerk to forward Scout Lead contact details to Cllr Hillyer.

**vi) Country Roads Festival 21 to 25 August 2025.**

Notification had been received from the organiser along with an Event and Management Plan. **Resolved:** Noted.

**vii) Children's Air Ambulance.**

Request for a donation had been received.

**Resolved:** Donations only to be considered for internal village requests.

**viii) Community Payback Scheme.**

The Clerk advised that the organisers had informed that they were no longer able to provide help to the Parish due to a reduction in staffing and a very low influx of people on probation and they could not therefore keep up with demand and provide a consistently good service. **Resolved:** Noted.

**ix)Farndon United Charities: Terms of Trustee appointments.**

Cllr V Roberts had clarified the Trustee situation. Trustees appointed by Parish Councils were appointed for 4 years, according to the terms of the Trust, and those co-opted, for five years. So those appointed by Parish Councils were appointed until 2026 and needed to be reappointed or replaced by their respective Parish Council AGMs in May 2026. Those co-opted as Trustees would serve until July 2027 when they would need to be co-opted again or replaced. Anyone no longer wishing to serve as a Trustee needed to make that known to their Parish Council Clerk if appointed by a PC or to Cllr V Roberts if co-opted. **Resolved:** Noted.

**x) Avian flu.** A confirmed case of Avian Influenza had occurred at a premises near Malpas and the Government had declared a 3km radius Protection Zone and a 10km radius Surveillance Zone. **Resolved:** Noted.

**45.25. FARNDON COMMUNITY CLUB**

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Cllr Williams reported: The builders had removed the roof and the timbers would be going back on imminently. Total cost had increased by £24k.  
**Resolved:** Noted.

**46.25 NEWSLETTERS**

Spring and autumn newsletters were scheduled for distribution May and end of October.  
**Resolved:** All articles to be forwarded to Cllr Henderson by 21 April latest, earlier if possible. Articles to be included and ownership were confirmed.

**47.25. STANDING CONSIDERATION OF HIGHWAY MATTERS**

Nothing raised.

**48.25. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETINGS**

To confirm that the date and time of the next meetings will be:

**April:** Tuesday 1 April 2025 at 7.00 pm in Farndon War Memorial Hall. This will be the Annual Parish meeting which will be followed by the Ordinary April meeting at 7.30pm.

**May:** The Annual Meeting will be held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2025 in Farndon War Memorial Hall.

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