FARNSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Annual Parish Meeting held at 7.00pm on Tuesday 24 April 2012 in the Lower Hall, Village Centre, New Hill, Farnsfield.

Present

Cllrs. R Davis, A Farr, M Hamilton (Chair), E Holt, B McDowall, L Selby, P Smith

M Salt, Clerk

Co Cllr A Stewart, Dist Cllr B Laughton

9 Members of the public were present.

Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 26th April 2011 were considered and accepted.

Matters arising

None

Clerk’s Report

The Clerk circulated his report and invited comments.

FARNSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

REPORT 2011-2012

Councillors

The Councillors are:

Matt Hamilton –Chairman of the Council

Karen Clarke – Chair Village Centre Committee,

Roger Davis – Chair of Finance and General Purposes Committee

Bruce McDowall

Peter Smith

Lynda Selby – Vice Chair

Elaine Holt

Robert Reeves

Lawrence Weaver

Alison Farr

One vacancy

Council changes

On 5th May 2011 Three Councillors retired; Derek Jepson and Geoff Stafford and Frank Reynolds.

Lawrence Weaver and Peter Smith joined the Council in May and Elaine Holt filled the vacancy following the election later in the year.

Paul Elliott died in January 2012 resulting in the current vacancy for a Councillor, shortly to be advertised.

Finances

The precept for 2011-12 was £63,000 and the accounts are ready for the audit process to commence.

The precept for 2012-13 has been kept at £63,000 but the council tax bills received by residents show a 0.09% increase. This due to the changes in housing in Farnsfield subject to tax during the year. We did our best to get a 0% increase.

Planning The Newark & Sherwood District Publication Core Strategy has now been adopted and changes some things in planning and development terms. We are now designated as a large village and housing development will be permitted, within strict limits and not to the detriment of the character of the village.

During the year a consultation exercise was undertaken by Newark & Sherwood District Council regarding the proposal in the core strategy document to build 133 additional houses on a possible three sites in the village.

The consultation has been completed and the summary of the consultation has been published.

The next stage is for the document to be considered by Newark & Sherwood District Council and their findings will then be released.

Should there be approval for the building of the additional houses in Farnsfield then planning applications will be published and planning consultations for major developments in the village will commence.

Environment

The latest consultation has been from Nottinghamshire County Council regarding street lighting. Due to shortfalls in the budget the County Council are seeking ways to save money; one way is to cut down street lighting by switching some off and putting others on a timed basis. The two reasons for this is, to save money and to reduce the impact on the environment. The proposals have in principle been supported with some suggested amendments. Some residents have voiced their objections to the proposals and these have been passed on to NCC.

Village Development and Policing

In the past year the Parish Council has again seen a continued reduction in planning applications.

There are plans afoot to refurbish the play area at Lady Goodwin’s Corner. A successful bid has been made for funds to replace the play equipment and to install a ‘kidzone’ tennis area. Detailed planning will take place in the next few weeks to finalise the scheme and undertake the work. We are working in partnership with Nottinghamshire Council to complete the project.

Policing

Policing in the village appears to have reduced further and is based upon response to incidents and the occasional presence of Community Support Officers.

Community Support Officers, (CSO’s) for Farnsfield are:

Charlotte Appleby

Liam Batey

Communication

The Parish Council newsletter is issued on a regular basis and is circulated with the Newark Advertiser. We are also aware that circulation of free newspapers in the village does not cover all households, and it is published on the parish web site, for those who have access.

Additional copies are always available in the library and other sources in the village organised by Elaine Holt.

Your views are important and communication is often a one way route but there has been a pleasing increase in the number of residents communicating with us via the web site.

Vandalism

Continues to be a problem and concern, for with reducing resources the costs of making good any damage will become an increasing drain on funds normally earmarked for other purposes. There seems to be a desire to damage trees and drive cars on grassed open space areas.

Public vigilance is welcomed and any incidents reported to the Police at the earliest opportunity; we may get some response if the act of vandalism is in process and the Police can catch them at the scene. Confrontation is not recommended.

Mike Salt

Clerk to the Council.

20/4/2012

Contact Numbers –

01623 882884: e-mail mail to: info@farnsfield-pc.gov.uk

Patrick Stevens raised several items for consideration:

1. The condition of the outbuilding at Burgess House, Main Street, now in a dilapidated condition, in the conservation area and he requested that the Nottingham Preservation Trust be contacted by the Parish Council with a view to getting the buildings restored. He stated that they had been at risk since 2000 and nothing had been done since then to improve them.
2. The condition of the footpaths on Station Lane are in a poor state and there is a high likelihood of someone tripping and injuring themselves. The fact that people on mobility scooters could not use the footpaths due to the state of repair and the slope of the surface and narrow footpaths. Co Cllr Stewart noted his comments.
3. The hedge on Mansfield Road, near the old Smithy’s Shop overhangs the footpath
4. The seats on the Ridgeway, Combs Lane and on the Acres require repairing.

Hugh Milton requested information regarding the Parish Council’s response to the consultation requested regarding Newark & Sherwood DC Core Development Plan and was advised that this was contained in the published documents by N&SDC and then addressed the issues further with Dist Cllr Laughton requiring information regarding the proposed building programme on land at the rear of his property.

The issue of parking in the village on the Main Street and near to the school was raised; it was suggested that the Police be contacted where obvious cases of obstruction were displayed. It was suggested by Mrs. Healey that villagers should be encouraged to walk children to school and refrain from using the car.

The matter of dog fouling on footpaths was raised, and whilst enforcement had been requested there was still a problem particularly near to the school where dog mess had been paddled into the school premises.

It was suggested that these items should be included in the Village Newsletter.

A vote of thanks was given to the efforts of the late Cllrs Elliott and Stafford for all that they had done for the Parish.

The issues were discussed for some time and the meeting closed at 7.55pm.