

FARCET PARISH COUNCIL

The Minutes of meeting held 7th November 2023 at Farcet Village Hall

Cllrs D Gillam, M Rainey, L Granger, S Howell, S Cox, J Hughes, A Cunningham and the Clerk Mrs E Tajer
7 Members of the public were present
District Cllr Butler

Public Participation

This section (at the Chairman's discretion may last up to 15 minutes) is to ask questions of, and make comments, regarding the Parish Council. Questions not answered at this meeting will be answered in writing to the person asking the question, or may appear as an agenda item for the next meeting.

Ms Sutters- headteacher of proposed SEN school.

Gave an overview of ongoing issues in education, especially those with education needs.

Wanted a community where there students felt supported, want to try and offer sustainability.

A resident raised concerns over a reservoir located near to the site- questioned how secure the site would be. Application advised there is legislation in place regarding providing a secure site.

2951/23-24 Receive and approve apologies

Schedule 12 of the Local Government Act 1972 requires a record to be kept of the members present and that this record form part of the minutes of the meeting. Members who cannot attend a meeting should tender apologies to the Parish Clerk as it is usual for the grounds upon which apologies are tendered also to be recorded.

Resolved: None

2952/23-24 Receive Disclosable Pecuniary Interest declarations

Regulation 2012 (SI 2012/1464) (NB this does not preclude any later declarations)

Resolved: Cllr Granger on planning and took no part in discussion.

2953/23-24 Approve the minutes of the meetings held on the 3rd October 2023

Resolved: It was proposed by Cllr Howell seconded by Cllr Cox and agreed to approve the minutes 3rd October 2023.

2954/23-24 Matters Arising from the minutes of the meeting of 3rd October 2023

- The Grass cutting invoice was sent to Cambs Highways
- Tree and hedge work to begin on 6th November
- Additional maintenance work at Haddon Way to begin 13th November
- Chapel doors have been painted

2955/23-24 Matters for information and reports- Representatives on outside bodies

None

2956/23-24 Village matters

- Parish Inspections
Several graves need attention as they have sunk
Curbed graves at entrance of newer cemetery has been hit again- Cllr Gillam and Cllr Granger will investigate.
Church Walk matting has shrunk further- it was agreed to investigate companies who can offer advice/solution.

2957/23-24 Planning (Please note: in planning matters the Council acts as the consultee of the Principal Authority. The Principal Authority being the deciding body)

1. Approvals/Refusals/Appeals- None

2. Applications addressed by the Parish Council Planning Committee- None

Cllr Granger left the meeting

3. New Applications-

23/01719/FUL-Erection of new SEN school including parking area and outbuildings for storage of educational equipment/maintenance, Yard 2 At Ashley Lodge Conquest Drive Farcet

Cllr Gillam raised concerns that there were issues over accessing documents on the planning portal.

A discussion took place and although the Parish Council understood the need for additional SEN schools, however there are safety concerns regarding the road as it is single track with very few passing places. This would see an increase in traffic during peak school times, as potentially each student could attend via their own transport. The road currently has no lighting, and while this may not

affect the students, it could impact the safe access of those employed by the school (teachers, cleaners, etc). There is no provision for safe pedestrian or cycle access along this road. The site is outside the urban village area, therefore would provide no economic benefit for the village. We have concerns regarding its proximity to the scrap yard and a large reservoir.

It was proposed by Cllr Cunningham seconded by Cllr Rainey Proposal Andrew to recommend approval. A vote took place resulting in 3 votes supporting this proposal

It was proposed by Cllr Gillam seconded by Cllr Hughes to recommend refusal. A vote took place resulting in 3 votes supporting this proposal.

The voting resulted in an equal split on both proposals, the Chairman (Cllr Gillam) has the casting vote. Cllr Gillam, stated he understood the need for more SEN schools, however the planning concerns were a priority. His casting vote was to recommend refusal.

Cllr Granger returned to the meeting

2958/23-24 Finance

1. Approve accounts for payment (LGA 1972 s150 (5))

2056/2057	07/11/2023	s/o	Payroll	Wages	£1250.54
2058	07/11/2023	Bacs	Superannuation	Contribution employee and employer	£553.80
2059	07/11/2023	s/o	Clerk	Home Office	£43.33
2060	07/11/2023	DD	Hunts DC	Business rates	£141.00
2061	07/11/2023	Bacs	Beebys	Grass cutting	£2016.00
2062	07/11/2023	Bacs	Microshade	Exchange mailbox (2 months)	£120.92
2063	07/11/2023	Bacs	Microshade	Annual Fee	£584.10
2064	07/11/2023	Bacs	D Gillam	Expenses (Travel)	£16.20
2065	07/11/2023	Bacs	Mrs E Tajer	Expenses	£10.00
2066	07/11/2023	DD	Octopus Energy	VH Electricity	£49.85
2067	07/11/2023	DD	Octopus Energy	VH Gas	£46.84
2068	07/11/2023	DD	British Gas	Chapel electricity	£11.97

Payments made outside of meeting:

2069	22/9/2023	Bacs	B Astle	VH Deposit refund	£100.00
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Resolved: It was proposed by Cllr Howell seconded by Cllr Hughes and agreed to approve the accounts for payment.

2959/23-24 Parish Council

- Review Grass cutting contract in lieu of additional hedge and tree work
Resolved: No further changes to contract this year. Review in a year's time.
- Additional MVAS unit- update from Cllr Cunningham
Cambs Highways have agreed to accept the Parish Council proposal which included five lamp posts and 2 new posts at the locations requested by the Parish Council.
Plan circulated to all councillors.
- Village Sign maintenance
Resolved: It was agreed the Cllr Granger and Cllr Gillam will conduct an inspection of the sign and report back at the next meeting.
- Village Hall hire fees for one off bookings
Cllr Gillam suggested a one free for one off bookings, rather than a separate fee for the small hall/large hall.

Resolved: It was proposed by Cllr Granger seconded by Cllr Hughes and agreed to alter the one off fees to Small hall at £13 per hour or whole hall for £20.

- Electrical testing quotation

Resolved: It was agreed not to proceed as the existing certificate is valid until 2025.

- Carols on the Green

Meeting taking place on the 8th November 2023 to discuss this year's events. The Parish Council has been asked if they would like to be involved.

Resolved: It was proposed by Cllr Granger, seconded by Cllr Howell and agreed to donate up to £100 for gifts for the children.

2960/23-24 Correspondence

2961/23-24 Matters as agenda items for future consideration

- Precept setting- separate meeting
- Neighbourhood plan
- Allotment heap clearance
- Trig point sign maintenance

2562/23-24 The meeting closed at 8:51pm

**The date of next meeting: 21st November 2023 – Extraordinary meeting,
5th December 2023- Parish Council meeting.**