

FARRINGTON GURNEY PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held at 7.30 pm on **Monday 18th November 2024** at the **Methodist Church, Farrington Gurney.**

COUNCILLORS PRESENT: James Wellman (Chairman), Mike Hedges, Andy Jeffery, Sally Bown, Paul Radnedge, Margaret Heffernan,

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Clerk, 6 member of the public

Parish Council Minutes – November Meeting

24/25 – 08:084 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND WELCOME

Apologies from Cllrs Dando, Barber

24/25 – 08:085 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None

24/25 – 08:086 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED: Minutes of October 2024 meeting agreed & signed by chairman.

24/25 – 08:087 REPORTS

- a. RECEIVED a report/update from the Chairman.

Chair has been looking at changing the website provider, which will soon be in place.

Report on items as they appear on the agenda.

- b. Received from Cllr Morgan (BaNES)

Cllr Morgan reported that BaNES officers have been talking to residents in Manor Close about the need to keep the turning circle clear. While yellow lines may be an option in the future, local resolution of the problem seems more likely & is more desirable.

“No Stopping” signs near the Co-op are scheduled in 2024-25.

Cllr Morgan will be running surgeries in Farrington Gurney in the near future.

- c. RECEIVED the Clerk’s report.

Street lighting: A replacement or repair has been ordered for Ham Lane.

Letters have been delivered to all residents in manor Close, asking for consideration when parking, so as not to block the turning circle.

The BMX track: Local contractor has litter picked, strimmed & mowed in October & November. Are in process of drawing up an annual agreement, to specify work, frequency & overall costs

There are still some vacant plots, which need to be filled. The ‘new’ Gurney Journal will be an opportunity to ask local residents if they want to join the waiting list. It was also agreed that a tree in Sunnyside will be cut down.

It was agreed that a clause should be added to the allotment tenancy agreement to specifically mention bonfires, & the need to be mindful of fellow plot holders as well as local residents. This will be sent out with the 2025 bills.

24/25 – 08:088 PLAY AREA

The Clerk has contacted GB Sports, who will undertake an inspection & also look at what repairs may be needed & will price them. As the weather gets better & the equipment gets drier, new non slip strips will be fitted.

24/25 – 08:089 LOCAL PLAN

Minutes November 2024

Cllrs Heffernan provided an update on meetings.

BaNES have provided an online Local Plan briefing. BaNES have written to government asking that the status of bath as a World Heritage Site, which restricts development, should be taken into account when considering housing targets.

Local residents have been working with consultants to look at options for Farrington Gurney, which will be consulted on before being provided to BaNES. Consultation is likely to take a drop-in rather than a public meeting, with residents opinions being confidential. It is anticipated that reporting to BaNES will have to happen in the first quarter on 2025.

There needs to be a balance of private, affordable, social & rental housing, dependant on local needs.

All proposals have to be based on evidence & not opinion.

Applications have been made for funding towards the cost of this work, but some will come from the Parish Council reserves. The £4,320 outlined in the finance report was agreed.

24/25 – 08:090 PLANNING

No applications this month.

There are still some questions about the potential application to put a solar farm of prime agricultural land.

Planning applications submitted in the recent past are:

Date				FG PC	BaNES
June 2024	24/01774/FUL	Farrington Farm Shop	Erection of a new agricultural storage building	No comment	Approved
April 2024	24/01074/FUL	7 Rush Hill, Farrington Gurney, BS39 6TP	Erection of 1 no. 3 bed dwelling	Object	Pending consideration
March 2024	24/00883/FUL	The Cottage Marsh Lane BS39 6TT	Change of use from Garage to Holiday Let	Object	Approve
Oct 2023	23/03709/FUL	Meadow Farm Ruett Lane BS39 6UP	Erection of a single storey dwelling following demolition	Oppose	Permitted

24/25 – 08:091 HIGHWAYS

The local Community Speed Watch group have only been able to run a limited number of sessions recently because of the weather.

If 'smiley face' flashing speed signs are to be installed in the village, then there will need to be a written agreement with BaNES, Cllr Morgan to follow up.

The 30mph signs near the Co-op need repairing.

The 20mph signs on Marsh Lane are missing. The Golf Club have been asked to replace their 30mph sign with a 20mph.

#The top of School Lane needs resurfacing. This has been reported.

The footpath near the Co-op is very uneven, it has been reported & is to be repaired under 'general maintenance' but has yet to be done. Cllr Morgan to follow up.

24/25 – 08:092 FINANCE

Payments & monthly finance report agreed:

Payee	Details	Amount
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Salmon Planning Company	Planning consultancy & support	£4,320.00
Duchy of Cornwall	Quarter rent in advance – Village Hall	£442.50
D E Porch	BMX track – grass maintenance	£100

24/25 – 08:093 MEETINGS

- # There has been no response from the golf club to the request to visit & meet.
- # More meeting with BaNES Planning are anticipated.
- # A meeting with the Duchy, to update them on Local Plan discussions, should be organised.

24/25 – 08:094 CLIMATE EMERGENCY

- # The grant from the West England Combined Authority (WECA) has been successfully completed & spent.
- # There is a current application to the National Lottery Communities fund in process.
- # A number of events are being planned for next year, to encourage & promote biodiversity.
- # The Community Larder is running well.
- # There are still questions

24/25 – 08:095 UPDATES/ INFORMATION FROM COUNCILLORS WITH SPECIAL INTERESTS

Village Hall – the Hall continues to be well used, similarly with the social club. The playing fields now host 6 sides, including a women’s team & a junior team. The new mower is a real boon.

Health – Sally Bown provided information on initiatives around food insecurity, sexual health training, domestic abuse survivors survey, a suicide prevention event as well as the health benefits of nature.

Allotments – Cllr Radnedge: reported about vacancies, the problems with some trees as well as reminding plot holders about being good neighbours, again particularly having bonfires.

24/25 – 08:096 INFORMATION/ ITEMS TO RAISE FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE NEXT MEETING

The budget for 2025-26 will have to be considered, with a decision to be taken in January.

24/25 – 08:097 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting will be Mon 16th December 2024 at Methodist Hall.

Signed

16.12.2024