Minutes of the Meeting of Farthingstone Parish Council held in the Joy Mead Gardens on

Monday 20th July 2020 at 7.00pm

The meeting due to be held in May was cancelled due to pandemic caused by the Covid-19 virus. This meeting, in July, was held in the open air in order to meet social distancing recommendations.

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| **Min No** |  | **Action** |
| **28/20** | **Attendance**:* Present: Peter Stanton, Peter Mayne, Richard Russell, Jennie Miller and Stewart Summers.
* Clerk: Linda Mayne
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| **29/20** | **Apologies and Approval of Absence:**John ChurchCouncillors: Jonnie Amos, Robin Brown |  |
| **30/20** | **John Church**Peter Stanton explained that John had decided to resign from the Council. PS will write to him on behalf of the Council to thank him for his remarkable 44 years of service for which the village is very grateful. His contribution has been invaluable and will be difficult, if not impossible, to match.  | **PS** |
| **31/20** | **Members Disclosable Pecuniary and other Disposable Declarations of Interest in agenda items**None declared |  |
| **32/20** | **Minutes of the last Meeting**:* The Minutes of the Farthingstone Parish Council Meeting of Monday 16th March 2020 were reviewed; Peter Mayne proposed these be accepted as a true record, seconded by Peter Stanton and signed by Peter Stanton.
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| **33/20** | **Matters arising** * Telephone Box/ Library: As there has been no progress on the proposed project it was agreed that we should ask for the key to be returned and research other possible usage of the Box.
* Road Signage: There has been no response from DCC, due in part to the disruption caused by the current crisis. PS commented that DCC appeared to responding to enquiries more positively of late. LM to renew requests.
* 45 Litchborough Road: The company appears to have gone into ‘lockdown’. LM will continue to pursue this problem. .
* The Church Clock: Following the previous meeting Betty Ore has very generously offered to fund the repair in memory of her husband, Trevor, who sadly died in March. The engineer is due to visit on Monday 27th July and it is hoped the work will be completed in the next week or two. The Village is most grateful to Betty and Trevor for the donation which will make this possible.
 | **LM** **LM** |
| **34/20** | No other residents present. |  |
|  **35/20** | **Finance Report 2019/2020*** LM presented the Annual Accounts for 2019/2020 which had been audited by John Mole. The Total Accumulated Funds for the year is £4243.23, represented by £270.38 in the Current Account and £3972.85 in the Deposit Account Peter Stanton proposed theses be accepted, seconded by Stewart Summers, all agreed. Peter Stanton then signed all the associated papers required for AGAR Return which will now be submitted by LM.
* LM presented the budget report for the year to date-the balance on the ledger at 20/07/2020 is £4979.78; cash at bank £5109.17 (current account £1135.00, deposit account £3974.17), the variance being represented by uncashed cheques totalling £129.39. Peter Mayne proposed the accounts be accepted, seconded by Jennie Miller: all agreed.
* Following the previous meeting LM had written to NatWest to enquire about on-line banking. Peter Stanton received a response, giving the appropriate telephone number and code. LM tried to make contact but the bank was by then only answering emergency calls. Now that businesses are resuming some services she will try again. It was also agreed that it would be easier to pay regular bills, like electricity, by direct debit.
* With the resignation of John Church, we need to add further signatories for the signing of cheque. Peter Mayne and Stewart Summers offered their names, agreed.

 LM will pursue these issues with NatWest.  | LM |
| 36/20 | **The Annual Village Meeting** had been replaced by an on-line booklet on the Village website and delivered to those not registered. This was very well received and it was agreed that this should be repeated next year as it seemed to be a more effective way of communication. In past years the number of residents attending the Meeting in The Village Hall has been very small.  |  |
| 37/20 |  **Parish Council AGM**1. As previously reported John Church has resigned after 44 years of serving on the Council.
2. All other members confirmed they were willing to continue in their present roles for the current year, recognising that in May 2021 there may be significant changes in the organisation of local government
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| 38/20 |  **Cemetery Matters**PS reported that a local resident had commented to him about the untidy state of the cemetery. It was strongly felt that this was an unreasonable observation, given the voluntary work undertaken to keep the hedges trimmed and paths cleared whilst allowing it to be a good area for birds and wild life. It was suggested that members of the Council should visit the cemetery before the next meeting when their findings can be discussed.The front hedge will be ready for layering in 2/3 years.  |  |
| 39/20 |  There was no correspondence to discuss. |  |
| 40/20 |  **AOB*** PM expressed his concern about the overgrown front garden of a property on Main Street which makes it almost impossible to use the pavement, forcing pedestrians to walk in the road which is dangerous given the traffic through the village. The property is currently rented, LM will contact the owner.
* SS reported that the schedule from DCC to empty household waste (black bins) in August only gives one collection in the month. LM will contact DCC with the concern.
* The Joy Mead Charity has been allowed only one free Green Bin. It was agreed that the Council will pay for a second.
* A welcome booklet for new-comers to the village is being prepared, contributions from residents are welcome.
 | **LM** |
| 41/20 | The next meeting is due in September, but no date was confirmed at this time.  |  |
|  | Meeting closed 7.50 pm. |  |

Signed as a true record:

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Date: ………………………………………………