

Farthingstone Parish Council

Please note that these minutes are draft until approved at the next meeting of Farthingstone Parish Council

Minutes of FPC Meeting Monday 21 July 2025

Village Hall 8.00pm

Min No		Action
32/25	Attendance: Peter Stanton, Richard Russell, Sarah Skinner, Stewart Summers, John Acres Debbie Mason (Clerk) Members of the public: Susan Castle Apologies: Ward Councillor David Smith	
33/25	Declaration of Interests: None	
34/25	Minutes of meeting 17 March 2025: Agreed as a correct record and signed by PS	
35/25	Matters arising not listed elsewhere <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Golf Club: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PS reported that a temporary 'permissive' bridleway has now been agreed and opened for public use while works are required on the concrete access drive. Many thanks to the local farmer and the developers for making the arrangements. JA reported that he had had a complaint from a member of the public trying to follow the Knightley Way and finding the bridleway closed: he had been pleased to inform the person that the situation has now been resolved as above. JA noted that, at a recent meeting, the developers stated that the section of bridleway which has already been diverted (along the edge of Knightley Wood) will revert to its original line up the middle of the old golf course once the development is complete. There was discussion over the extra volume of sewage adding to the village treatment works which already requires regular tankers to clear excess. JA reported that he had checked the planning permission and Anglian Water had stated that there would be capacity to cope. JA noted that every scheme should have a 'Construction Management Plan' but he had been unable to find one: he will pursue. Email change: DM advised that a new Email address has been issued to the Parish Council, featuring the .gov.uk domain as required (clerk@farthingstoneparishcouncil.gov.uk). This will be circulated. Village News: After discussion, it was agreed that we would aim for a simple monthly news summary – with additional 'newsflashes' (via Email or WhatsApp) as required. Road repairs: These are ongoing. PS noted that the contractors have been friendly and helpful and seem to be doing a good job. Speed signs: PS thanked JA for putting up the new 20mph signs. Dog poo bin: This matter appears to have been resolved. 	<p>JA</p> <p>DM</p> <p>SJS/DM</p>
36/25	Public Forum: No matters arising	
37/25	Finance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DM presented the budget report for the year to date (April to 14 July 2025). The balance on the ledger is £6282; current account £1987, deposit account £4566, the difference of £270 being uncashed cheques to E-ON, NCALC and NACRE. DM reported that all 10 street lamps are now working. 'Clerk's Donation': DM stated that she wanted to donate the equivalent of the Clerk's annual pay to be shared equally between the Joy Mead, Village Hall and Church. She proposed that the total for this year be £900 and this should be reviewed annually in line with the work involved and inflation. This was agreed. AGAR reports: DM circulated the summary annual accounts to Councillors, noting our very low precept of £4500pa. DM said the required annual reports had been sent off to 	DM

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	<p>the external auditor and also published on our noticeboard and website. No queries have been received as yet.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bank signatories and going online: it was agreed that all Councillors plus the Clerk should be signatories on the bank account: DM to arrange the update. It was also agreed that we should set up online banking – DM to instigate. 	DM
38/25	Social media report: None to date	SJS
39/25	Police Liaison: SS reported that he is now signed up as Police Liaison Rep (PLR). He will forward incoming news as appropriate.	SS
40/25	Cemetery Matters: PS reported on tidying up that he had done in the churchyard and the further re-seeding required in both the churchyard and cemetery.	PS
41/25	<p>Planning matters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> JA said he reviewed 2 planning applications received last autumn and concluded that he would not have proposed any objections. JA said he is reviewing the 'Statement of Community Involvement' received from WNC JA reported that a new WNC Local Plan is in preparation: the target date for consultation is October 2025 but he pointed out that the process takes a lot of time and the target date for adoption of the new plan is the end of 2027. It was agreed that JA would order a copy of the draft (estimated price £25). 	JA
42/25	<p>Updating policies: DM said that she would review and update our policies as necessary, reporting the proposed revisions to future meetings.</p> <p>DM also raised the potential for using 'Dropbox' as a means of sharing information digitally and giving convenient access to reference sources (for example, reports from NCALC and WNC). DM to follow up.</p>	DM DM
43/25	<p>Correspondence: No additional correspondence to note.</p> <p>After discussion, it was agreed that DM would forward more of the mail received (especially NCALC weekly summaries) to all Councillors for a trial period as well as a brief summary of key items. This approach to be reviewed at the next meeting.</p>	DM
44/25	<p>AOB:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> THANKS: it was noted that a lot of volunteers quietly take on a whole range of tasks within the village – including repairing and maintaining footpaths, cleaning and painting signs, mowing grass and trimming hedges. On behalf of the village, a big 'thank you!' from the Parish Council. Training: DM said there are various training courses for Councillors provided by NCALC and she would pass on details. 	DM DM
	Date of next meeting: Monday 15 September 2025.	

Signed as a true record:

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Date: