

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 20 July 2026

Min No		Action
21/26	Attendance: Peter Stanton (PS), Richard Russell (RR), Sarah Skinner (SJS), John Acres (JA) Debbie Mason (DM) (Parish Clerk) Members of the public: Susan Castle, Tony Millyard, Rebecca Chambers, Allan & Judy Bell Apologies: Stewart Summers (SS)	
22/26	Minutes of meeting 1 May 2026: DM said the updated 'Code of Conduct' policy had been agreed at the previous meeting but erroneously missed from the Minutes and she asked that this be added here. This was agreed and the Minutes were otherwise signed by PS as a correct record.	
23/26	Matters arising not listed elsewhere • Golf Club Development: PS noted that progress had not been as fast as hoped (current timetable for opening is Spring 2028). The latest update meeting with Sam Edwards is planned for tomorrow (21st). SJS reported a large construction lorry going through the village recently and agreed to send a photo to report to Sam. • Newsletter: DM reported that she had decided that an E-mailed newsletter was too much to take on at present – both sorting out the technicalities of dealing with bulk mails and then the time to construct and maintain regular newsletters. The Parish Council will try one last time to ask for a volunteer from the village to take this on. Other sources of information currently available include: the village 'WhatsApp' group, the Farthingstone website and the noticeboard – plus West Northants' newsletters (see below under 'Correspondence'). • Road repairs: JA summarised the continuing poor condition of our roads and the actions previously taken. A general discussion followed. JA said he would carry out a village survey of people's experiences. A follow-up letter will be sent to WNC about the condition of the Everdon Road. DM to report the damaged kerbstones opposite the pub via 'Fix my Street'.	SJS DM/JA JA/PS/DM
24/26	Public Forum: No additional comments	
25/26	Finance: • Payments/receipts: DM circulated the latest report for the year to date. She highlighted two significant payments - £378 (inc VAT) for replacing the sodium street lamp outside the Village Hall with an LED and £534 (inc VAT) for changing the photocells so that all the lamps go off between approximately 00.30 and 05.30 overnight. • Annual Governance and Accountability Return ('AGAR'): DM said that the annual accounts for 2025/6 had been publicised and available for public information for the required period of time. No queries had been received. • Street lamps: an update report was circulated by DM. The main points were: - A total of 6 sodium lamps have failed over the last year and been replaced with LED's. - As agreed at the last meeting, all lamps now switch off between about 00.30 and 05.30. - A new 3 year electricity contract comes into effect from August 1st. Electricity prices have generally gone up but the net effect of both the above has been to reduce our electricity consumption significantly and therefore our total costs should be less than before.	DM
26/26	Police Liaison: SS's report deferred to next meeting.	SS
27/26	Cemetery Matters: DM reported that repairs to the noticeboard will start as soon as our kind volunteer – Malcolm Coulson – has time available. It is hoped that material costs will be met from the Knightley Trust but details are still to be sorted. Cemetery records on the noticeboard have been updated. It was noted that the Undertakers had made a mistake on the marking of a recent grave which should be rectified shortly.	DM PS

Farthingstone Parish Council

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

	PS proposed that 3 small old unmarked (or just with initials) gravestones in the Churchyard should be laid flat to aid mowing. This was agreed.	
28/26	Planning matters: JA reported latest developments – to summarise: 1. Site on Weedon Road behind 'The Nutshell': A further 'response to consultation' from Highways has been posted (see the WNC planning portal, application no. 2026/0273/FULL). Highways are not satisfied with the site access as it is currently proposed. The Planning Case Officer (who looks minded to support the principle of a self-build application outside the village confines) is hopeful that the issues will be resolved in time for the application to get to the Planning Committee in September or October. 2. Site on Weedon Road behind No. 3 New Cottages: A 'Reserved Matters' application has been submitted to Planning (application no. 2026/2332/RM). JA reported that he had gone through the proposals and found them well-presented and thorough. A letter stating 'No Objections' has been submitted by FPC.	JA
29/26	Updating policies & procedures: An updated 'Code of Conduct' was agreed at the previous meeting (see Minute note above). The updated 'Financial Regulations' and 'Financial Risk Assessment' were agreed. All published on www.farthingstone.org.uk (Parish Council page).	DM
30/26	Correspondence: None to report. It was suggested that villagers might sign up direct to receive news from West Northants Council (search via 'west northants council newsletter').	
31/26	AOB: PS proposed 'thanks and well done' to Melissa and Louisa for their particular efforts in making the Joy Mead Tea such a success this year. Agreed by all. JA reported that he is attend a 'NCALC' planning conference on 3 rd October.	JA
	Date of next meeting: Monday 21 September 2026.	

Signed as a true record:

.....

Date: