

FALFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on 15th January 2013 at 7.30 pm at Falfield Village Hall

Present

Parish Councillors: Mrs J. Hathway (Chairperson), Miss E. Jarvis, Mr K. Fryer & Mr C. Murton.

Clerk: Mrs D. Bramley. **Public:** Ward Cllr John O'Neill & 8 Parishioners.

00319/13 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were accepted from Cllr J Mountford.

00320/13 To Approve Minutes of Last Meeting

It was proposed by Cllr Jarvis, seconded by Cllr Fryer and **resolved** that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 20th November 2012 be signed as a correct record.

00321/13 To Receive Declarations of Interest in Items on the Agenda

None

00322/13 Co-option of New Members

No one has come forward to fill either of the two vacancies.

00323/13 Public Forum

00323.1/13 Police Report from PCSO Dawn Golding

The Clerk read out PCSO Golding's report:

"Not much to report this time, which is good for the parish council and residents of Falfield.

On the 12th December on the main A38 Bristol Road, near the village hall between 08.30 and 15.30 a property was broken into. The back door located down the side of the property was forced by an unknown implement. An untidy search was made and the offender/s made off with jewellery, computers, game consoles and credit cards. Our Crime Scene investigators attended but unfortunately we have no leads on the offenders at this time.

If there are any other incidents that we are not aware of please let us know. Also let me know of any suspicious incidents that any of your parish members may discuss. The incidents can be placed on our information system, no matter how small they might be. Things like suspicious people/vehicles etc..."

00324/13 Financial Matters

00324.1/13 To Approve the following Payments

It was proposed by Cllr Fryer, seconded by Cllr Jarvis and **resolved** unanimously to approve the following payments.

Mr D. Bramley (Salary & Expenses)	£ 872.03
St George Church Parochial Church Council (Lease and Trust Deed Rent)	£ 10.00
Mrs Hathway – Christmas Tree Festival Items	£ 15.00
Falfield Village Hall Rental 2013	£ 54.00

00324.2/13 To Note Current Account Balances

The following balances were noted: NatWest Account: £3524.47 and will decrease too £2573.44 when the above payments have cleared.

The National Savings and Investments Account (NS & I): £5803.65. Interest is due on this account.

00324.3/13 To Approve Donation Payments for 2013/14

This item will be discussed at the next meeting.

00325/13 Planning Matters

00325.1/13 The following applications were discussed

PT12/3395/F – Land at Stumps Wood, Gloucester Road, Whitfield – Erection of a base and ancillary structures with associated works (Retrospective).

Council Response:

Cllr Hathway read out a Draft response to this application which covered: increase in opening hours; the amenity issues e.g. noise of the homes nearby; damage to the site ecology and its sustainability; increases in traffic; flooding within Falfield and the fact that this a retrospective application.

After some discussion it was agreed to confirm if the site is in the Green Belt; include the noise nuisance from cannons; bombs and shouting including bad language, expand the ecology section to include the damage from foot traffic and how the site is expected to recover and the issues with the entrance to the site.

It was proposed by Cllr Fryer, seconded by Cllr Jarvis and agreed by all to **OBJECT** to this application and make the discussed amendments to the Draft response before submission. **ACTION: Clerk**

PT12/3707/O – Eastwood Park Ltd Training & Conference Centre, Eastwood Park - Erection of 20 no. Dwellings (Outline) with parking and associated works.

PT12/3708/LB - Eastwood Park Ltd Training & Conference Centre, Eastwood Park - Demolition of the following structures located within the curtilage of the grade II listed Eastwood Park House: 10 no staff houses; decontamination labs and store building; lift labs; bungalow; air conditioning block 5 and; medical block 4.

PT12/3710/F - Eastwood Park Ltd Training & Conference Centre, Eastwood Park - Erection of a healthcare 2 storey training centre with 3.5 storey training & lift/staircase shaft (D1 Use Class)

Council Response:

Cllr Hathway read out a Draft response to this application which covered: non-compliance of a condition associated with the demolition of the hutted camp; inaccurate information contained within the public engagement document, Health and Safety issues associated with possible unknown contaminants; the access and traffic issues associated with the site including putting a crossing island on the A38; potential flooding issues within Falfield and the appearance of the developments including the type of house.

The following was discussed and also includes any comments made:

- Eastwood Park Ltd had had a number of pre application meetings.
- That this development is exempt from including social housing. Normally 25% of homes are expected to be affordable/social housing although this would have meant that 30 houses would need to be built to fund the healthcare training centre.
- Employment for local people is unlikely.
- If Eastwood Park Ltd is having to build houses to fund their development is the business sustainable / viable in the future.
- The site is outside the settlement boundary so a one for one housing development would be expected.
- Replacing the older buildings will tidy up the site.
- The original site of the healthcare centre was rejected by South Gloucestershire Council.
- The current car park is on a slope so has natural drainage, the new proposed car park will result in more concrete being laid over the countryside and will not drain well.
- There is no mains sewerage at the site and there is already sewerage issue within Falfield.
- Concerns were also raised by parishioners that this was just a 'rubber stamp' exercise especially as residents in the 'staff houses' have been sent letters saying that their house will be knocked down.
- Concerns were raised that they would come back and want to put more houses on the site. And may open the door to other developments near Eastwood Park Ltd.
- Although every community needs to expand this development is purely for commercial reasons and the development should be more in keeping with the rest of Falfield.
- There will be noise and light pollution from the new car park and training centre.
- The healthcare training centre is very large and white so will not fit in with the woodland around the site.

John O'Neill stated that the case officer would consider any comments made and if the plans are approved the comments may be addressed. He also stated that he would take this development to the Development Control (West) Sites Committee and went on to explain the procedure.

After some discussion it was agreed to include issues discussed within the Parish Councils response and object on the grounds of access and traffic; flooding; amenities; health and safety; the amount of housing & type. Comments would also be included to cover the hutted camp non-compliance issue; the inaccuracies in the public engagement document and that there is another development local to the site that may be of interest.

It was proposed by Cllr Murton, seconded by Cllr Fryer and agreed by all to **OBJECT** to this application and make the discussed amendments to the Draft response before submission. **ACTION: Clerk**

00325.2/13 To Note the Following Applications – No Comments Given

PT12/4064/F – Green Farm, Bristol Road – Conversion of Old Cow Shed to form 1 no. Holiday let.

00325.3/13 To Note the Following Notices

PERMIT - PT12/3732/F - The Park Hotel Gloucester Road Whitfield - Change of use of part first floor from Hotel (Class C1) to Office (Class B1) as defined in Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987 (as amended).

PERMIT - PT12/3310/R3F – Land in Front of Orchard View – Construction of 5 no parking bays, tarmac spur road, granular access track and upgrade of existing footway (amendment to previously approved planning permission PT10/2962/F)

00325.4/13 Orchard View Development Update

The parking bay and track development started on the 7th January 2013 but it came to light that the footpath was omitted from the approved plan for the track. The parking bays will be completed but then the works will cease whilst a new planning application is submitted to rectify the problem with the footpath. Ward Cllr O' Neill read the letter that will be sent to the residents of Orchard View informing them of the problem and how it will be rectified.

00326/13 Highway Matters

None

00327/13 To Receive Reports from Councillors

00327.1/13 Feedback from Thornbury & Alveston SSCG – Cllrs Hathway & Jarvis

We have requested that the Commuter Parking on Sundayhills Lane be included on the Agenda for the next meeting which is on the 6th February at Alveston Methodist Church, Greenhill, Alveston

00327.2/13 Village Hall Management Committee Feedback – Cllr Hathway

The Parish Council Christmas Tree was a great success and everyone loved that a picture of the Postman was included. The next meeting is on the 17th January when a new Treasurer and Booking Secretary will be elected.

Cllr Hathway also stated that an email had been circulated about organising a May Day Celebration/Fayre but had yet to receive any responses.

00327.3/13 HMP Eastwood Park Meeting

The meeting with the Governor, Mr Beecroft took place on the 11th January 2013. A number of items were discussed as summaries below:

- Due to their current financial constraints they are currently unable to replace the dead trees along the staff car park.
- Staff and visitors will be reminded to watch their speed on Church Avenue.
- Contact details for GEOAmev, the Prisoner Transport Company were provided so the Parish Council can contact them regarding vans parking on Sundayhills Lane. **ACTION: Clerk**
- If there are any issues with the released prisoners at the bus stop or in the parish then the local police are able to deal with them. The Parish Council were also concerned about the welfare of the released prisoners when they have to wait a long time for a bus at the bus stop especially in bad weather.
- There have been issues with the drainage and sewerage tanks resulting in them having to be frequently emptied. The issues may have been as a result of the bad weather in the recent months and seem to have been resolved now that it is dryer. Unfortunately the tanker was damaging the road with its frequent visits. The plans to direct the sewerage to HMP Leyhill were approved but ran into land agreement issues.
- The contact details for the works manager were provided so that the Parish Council can contact him regarding the garages at the end of Eastley Close and the condition of the 4 owned by the Home Office. **ACTION: Clerk**
- At the previous meeting Mr Beecroft mentioned allowing the children to use the Sport Hall. This is still an option but the Parish Council has to provide a proposal which includes who will supervise the children and that HMP Eastwood Park is no liable should there be any injuries. This needs to be looked a further by the Parish Council.

Mr Beecroft also relayed some information to the Parish Council. A review of the 10 female prisons is being undertaken over the next 6 months and will result in the closure of one facility. HMP Eastwood Park also has to reduce its costs by ½ million pounds which will result in job losses and is why they are unable to replace the dead trees. The prisoners are also knitting blankets for rescue dogs and any donated wool would be appreciated along with any 'good as new' baby clothes (0 to 18 months) for their Mother and Baby unit. Mr Beecroft also offered to attend a Parish Council meeting and give a presentation about what they do at the prison etc...

The Parish Council were also invited to the opening of a Sensory Garden on Thursday 17th Janaury which Cllr Hathway and Mrs Bramley (Clerk) will attend on behalf of the Parish Council.

00328/13 To Receive the Clerks Report

00328.1/13 Streetcare Requests

The Clerk will chase the request to have the land in front of the Huntsman Inn included on the Grass Cutting Task List as it has not been included yet. **ACTION: Clerk**

00328.2/13 Asset List & Insurance

The Clerk will review the Asset List and obtain an Insurance Quote from Came & Co.

ACTION: Clerk

00329/13 To Discuss/Approve Updates to Standing Orders, Financial Regulations & Risk Review

The suggested updates to the formal documents were distributed to councillors prior to the meeting. The Financial Regulations do not currently need updating. Standing Order Number 7 needs to be updated to reflect the changes due to the new Members Code of Conduct but the remainder of the document does not currently need updating. The Risk Management Schedule has been reviewed and updated accordingly.

It was proposed by Cllr Hathway, seconded by Cllr Fryer and agreed by all to adopt the above updates and revised documents. The Clerk will make the approved updates to the documents including updating the front pages to reflect this review.

00330/13 To Note Progress with Asset Inspection Actions List

A copy of the Action List was sent to Cllrs prior to the meeting. There has been no further progress with the tasks since the last meeting mainly due to the inclement weather.

ASSET INSPECTION ACTION LIST		
No.	Description of Task	Comments / Progress
1	War Memorial	This area will be monitored.
	Repair render on bollards	The render needs to be renewed
	Monitor paving around memorial	The paving just needs to be re-laid
2	Varnishing of Wooden Assets	
	Notice board and Posts	Waiting for it to dry out
	Village Green Gates	Waiting for it to dry out
3	Remove Ivy from Bus Shelter - Whitfield North Bound 4/5	Still to be removed

00331/13 To Discuss Proceeding with a Parish Plan

The Parish Council agreed that as no one had volunteered to help with a Parish Plan even after asking for volunteers and having a presentation from the Charfield Village Plan group they can go no further. The situation will be reviewed again in a year unless anyone comes forward to take this task on.

A Task List generated from the survey last year that the Parish Council can deal with is being worked through.

00332/13 Correspondence (*Italics – available by email*)**Respond to:**

South Gloucestershire Community Right to Challenge Consultation – Expiry 8th February 2013

South Gloucestershire Climate Change Strategy Consultation – Expiry 22nd February 2013

South Gloucestershire Welfare Grant Scheme Consultation – Expiry 8th February 2013

Council Response: No Comment on the above consultations

Trading Standards – No Cold Cooling Zone Scheme – Apply by 8th February 2013

Council Response: The Clerk will forward links to the above Consultations to Cllr Hathway

South Gloucestershire Big Spring Clean 2013 – Applications by 22nd February 2013

Council Response: It was agreed by all to organise a Big Spring Clean event again as it was so successful last year. Cllr Hathway will include an advert in the 5 Alive with a proposed date in March.

For Information:

South Gloucestershire Deaf Association Newsletter December 2012, Volunteer Centre (Thornbury)

Newsletter November 2012, University Hospitals Bristol Annual Review 2011/2012, Horizon Community

Update Issue 8, LINK ebulletin December 2012, January 2013 and Interim Report April – October 2012,

Southern Brooks ebulletin December 2012, Notice stating the Local Involvement Networks (LINKs) will become Local Healthwatch (LHW) in April 2013 & Police warning regarding unlicensed door-to-door sellers & an increase in burglaries.

00333/13 Matters for Further Discussion / Information**00333.1/13 Night Part Light Scheme**

The Clerk stated that the Part Light Scheme was being extended to include the remainder of the Parish, which includes Sundayhills Lane, Mill Lane and Watermill Close. Church Avenue and Eastley Close are not affected.

00333.2/13 Falfield Parish Website

Mr James Carpenter emailed the Cllr Hathway regarding the website. Mr Carpenter has been updating the website and that there are 8 pages under the Parish Council section. There is ample space for the Parish Council to add other information including the parish survey and photographs of the councillors.

A request for a summary of each meeting was requested for the Summary Section and that the Parish Council monitors their pages informing him of any updates.

Date of Next Meeting Tuesday 19th March 2013 at 7.30 pm

This concluded the business of the meeting, which closed at 9.20 pm.