

FALFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 17th March 2015 at 7.30 pm at Falfield Village Hall

Present

Parish Councillors: Mrs J Hathway, Miss E. Jarvis, Mrs M. O'Connor & Mr K. Fryer.

Clerk: Mrs D. Bramley **Public:** Ward Cllr John O'Neill & 7 Parishioners.

00519/15 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were accepted from Cllr C. Murton

00520/15 To Approve Minutes of Last Meeting

It was proposed by Cllr Fryer, seconded by Cllr Jarvis and **resolved** that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 20th January 2015 be signed as a correct record.

00521/15 To Receive Declarations of Interest in Items on the Agenda

Cllr O'Connor – Orchard View Track

Cllr Jarvis - A38/B4061 Whitfield Junction

00522/15 Public Forum

00522.1/15 Bus Time Tables

A parishioner asked if new bus timetables could be requested for the new bus stop. Cllr Hathway stated they should be coming soon as part of the changes to the Bus Service which will be explained later in the meeting.

00522.2/15 Wild Flowers

Cllr O'Connor passed on a request from a parishioner regarding establishing wild flowers on part of the B4509 verge between the motorway junction and the A38. Cllr O'Connor will find out the exact area of land the parishioner is referring too and then determine ownership. If it is Highways land the Parish Council may need a license to work on it. This item will be added to the agenda.

00522.3/15 Pound House Farm Planning Application

Comments from parishioners regarding the Pound House Farm planning application included the following:

The application stated the wind turbine was 50 metres but that was the height to the hub only and the actual height will 77 metres. What had changed since the original application was approved as the height of that application was reduced after local objections and advice from South Gloucestershire Council (SGC) Officers. Does SGC know about the topological issues and can they under take what they were asked to do when the original application was submitted e.g. have a balloon flown at the requested height to establish visual impact.

By raising the height of the wind turbine they are trying to increase the efficiency on that site and it is far better than having solar panels everywhere. The wind turbine is also the same design as before. Wind Turbines are also very controversial in this country.

The turbine will be very visible if higher. The current approved application height will mostly be shielded from view by the trees however this will not be the case if the height is increased.

There are pylons, mobile telephone masts and other turbines locally and this one is no different to them.

Cllrs stated that there is not enough information regarding the effects the increased height will have on the surrounding landscape and visual amenity and that at least one balloon needs to be flown at the increased height to enable everyone to gauge the visual impact.

Cllr O'Neill stated that he would be calling the application before the Development Control (West) Committee and therefore another site visit will take place. Parishioner representatives will have a further opportunity to speak at these meetings.

00523/15 Planning Matters

00523.1/15 To Discuss the Following Application

PT15/0349/F - Pound House Farm, Old Gloucester Road - Erection of 50m wind turbine with associated works including track & crane pad. (Amendment to previously approved scheme PT13/2618/F).

Council Response: It was **agreed by all** that as the issue with this applications was an increase in height that the Parish Council would submit a response stating that as there is not enough information to determine what the effect the increased height will have on the surrounding landscape and visual amenity the Parish Council is unable to make an informed decision regarding this planning application. The Parish Council requests that this application is called before the Development Control (West) Committee so that a balloon can be flown at both heights so that the increase in height can be visually gaged from the surrounding area by both parishioners and Development Control (West) Committee members.

Action: Clerk

PT15/0948/F – 16 Eastley Close, Falfield - Erection of single storey front and side extension to form additional living accommodation. **Council Response:** None

00523.2/15 To Note the Following Applications – No Comments / Consultation Expired

PT15/0098/F - Old Oaks Farm Bristol Road Falfield South Gloucestershire GL12 8DL - Erection of 1no. agricultural workers dwelling with associated works.

00523.3/15 To Note the Following Notices

PERMIT - PT14/5042/PNGR - The Old Windmill, Bristol Road - Prior notification of a change of use from agricultural building to single residential dwelling (Class C3) as defined in the Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987 (as amended).

OBJECTION - PT14/4979/NMA - Spring Barn, Eastwood Park - Non-material amendment to PT14/0135/F to install a dormer window to front elevation.

PERMIT - PT14/4775/F - The Mill House, Mill Lane – Demolition of existing conservatory to facilitate erection of 2no single storey rear extensions and erection of first floor side extension

PERMIT - PT14/4842/LB - The Mill House, Mill Lane - Demolition of existing conservatory to facilitate erection of 2no single storey rear extensions and erection of first floor side extension

00524/15 Financial Matters

00524.1/15 To Note the Payments Received

National Savings & Investment Account Interest 2014	£	44.09
Falfield Village Hall Trust Deed and Lease Payment	£	10.00

00524.2/15 To Approve the following Payments

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

Mrs D. Bramley – Salary (Jan) via Monthly Standing Order	£	289.72
Lawn Mower Service & New Parts (Written 13/2/15)	£	239.96
South Gloucestershire Council – Buy Back Grass Cutting Q4 (Written 13/2/15)	£	97.88
Mrs D. Bramley – Salary (Feb) via Monthly Standing Order	£	289.72
Mrs D. Bramley – Expenses (Office & Paper)	£	35.00
Mrs D. Bramley – Salary (Mar) via Monthly Standing Order	£	289.72
2014/2015 Payment		
ALCA Subscription 2015/2016	£	91.91

00524.3/15 To Note 2014/2015 Budget & Payments/Receipts Statement - Circulated to Cllrs

The Budget & Payments and Receipts Statement was noted and signed.

Three parishioners left the meeting at this point

00525/15 Highway Matters

00525.1/15 To Receive Feedback regarding Sundayhill Lane Commuter Parking

The scheme was approved by the Severn Vale Area Forum at their meeting on the 4th March 2015 and is expected to begin implementation the week commencing the 20th April 2015.

It was also noted that a Park and Share scheme is being considered in Falfield as part of the Polices, Sites and Places Development Plan Document which is being presented to South Gloucestershire Council for publication on the 18th March 2015.

00525.2/15 To Discuss / Receive Feedback regarding A38/B4061 Whitfield Junction

Following the consultation South Gloucestershire Council have decided to proceed with the proposed scheme with a few modifications and is expected to begin implementation, weather and resources permitting the week commencing the 23rd March 2015. Letters will be sent to all frontages again prior to the work starting.

00525.3/15 To Receive Feedback regarding Orchard View Track

Cllr O'Neill gave the latest information to Cllrs and those present.

There has been a meeting with the contractor and it has been agreed that the disputed surface is defective. They now have to agree as to how much of the surface needs to be removed. Cllr O' Neill will continue to chase Simon Spedding for timescales and inform the Parish Council of the outcome. In the meantime South Gloucestershire Council will fill the potholes again.

It was stated that we are 2 years down the line and nothing has happened except South Gloucestershire Council have had to fill the pot holes twice before. Cllr O' Neill stated that Mark King, Head of Street Care and Transportation is aware of the situation.

00525.4/15 To Discuss extension to the Localism Services Contract (Grass Cutting) of up to 2 yrs

It was agreed to extend the Localism Contract by 1 year, to be in line with other Town and Parishes Councils. The Clerk will inform Mr Dixon of the decision.

Action: Clerk

00526/15 To Receive Reports from Councillors**00526.1/15 To Note Feedback from Charfield, Cromhall and Tortworth SSCG Feedback**

Cllr Hathway reported that at the last meeting there was a talk by Vikki Lewick, HMP Eastwood Park which included: there will be 78 new prisoner places from July 2015 and asked that if any local businesses had any work placement opportunities to get in touch. She also stated that there were job vacancies at the HMP Eastwood Park, HMP Leyhill and HMP Bristol. She agreed to contact Cllr Hathway regarding the making and selling of soap and will liaise with HMP Leyhill regarding attendance at future SSCG meetings. The next SSCG meeting is on the 23rd April 2015 and Cllr Hathway asked if anyone was free to attend in her place.

Due to changes in the funding of the group from October 2015 one option being suggested is to merge with the Laddenbrook SSCG. After a short discussion it was agreed that this would make the group too large to be productive with smaller Parish Councils and Meetings could get overlooked. The current group consists of similar sized parishes with similar interests. The Clerk will let Mr Cheskin, Chair of the Charfield, Cromhall and Tortworth SSCG know Falfield Parish Councils view.

Action: Clerk**00526.2/15 To Note Town & Parish Council's Forum Feedback**

Nothing to report - The next meeting is on the 14th April 2015.

00526.3/15 To Note Village Hall Management Committee Feedback

Cllr Hathway reported that there was a good attendance at the Quiz Night in January. The current committee has also advertised in the 5 Alive for more committee members as the Annual General Meeting is on the 27th April.

00526.4/15 To Note Big Spring Clean Feedback – Cllr Hathway

Cllr Hathway reported that the Big Spring Clean is happening on the 28th March 2015, starting at 9.30am and refreshments will be provided at St George Church. Leaflets were distributed at the meeting.

00526.5/15 To Receive Feedback regarding Changes to Bus Service – Ward Cllr O' Neill

Cllr O' Neill reported that the bus operator First, has asked to have their contract cancelled for the 87 and 88 Bus Services. As a result of this operator change Ward Cllr O' Neill asked that the parish's needs are taken into account as detailed in the letter sent to South Gloucestershire Council when finding a new service provider.

The 88 Bus Service is partly funded by Gloucestershire Council and will be remaining as an express service into Bristol, operated by Stagecoach. South Gloucestershire Council are now subsidising the 87 bus service and have agreed to rerouted via Falfield again. This means that the links with Charfield and Wotton under Edge are re-established and there is a regular link to Thornbury. The changes will come into effect from the 29th March and the 87 Bus Service will be operated by Severnside Transport Limited.

00527/15 To Receive the Clerks Report**00527.1/15 Road Surfaces**

The Clerk gave the following feedback regarding the items that were logged with Streetcare after the last meeting

Moorslade Lane road surface	Streetcare are going to fill the potholes and clear the carriageway.
Brinkmarsh Lane road surface	Streetcare are tasked with looking at the lane to see what needs repairing.

It was stated that the road when turning south from the A4509 onto the A38 was breaking up again. The Clerk will inform South Gloucestershire Council of this fact.

Action: Clerk**00528/15 To Receive Feedback regarding the upcoming Elections**

The Clerk stated that she has a small number of Election Forms and would circulate them at the end of the meeting should any one require one. The Clerk confirmed that the forms should be returned to the Council Offices in Thornbury.

00529/15 To Approve Letter to St George Church regarding the Lawn Mower

The Clerk circulated a letter to St George Church offering them the Lawn Mower. It was agreed that the letter should be sent to St George Church.

Action: Clerk**00530/15 To Discuss/Receive Feedback regarding the Changes to the Pension Requirements**

The Clerk circulated a briefing regarding the changes to the Pension requirements and what the Parish Council needs to do to comply with these changes. The Parish Councils Staging date is not until 1st April 2017 so the Parish Council needs to start thinking about setting everything up early next year.

00531/15 To Receive Feedback regarding Asset Risk Assessment & Inspection Actions

The progress regarding the actions is shown below:

1	War Memorial Repairs – Flooring, Chain and Bollard Repairs	Cllr Hathway has discussed the repairs with a builder and awaits a quote. The weeds are also going to be sprayed.
2	Bus Shelter – The Huntsman (South Bound) - Some graffiti	No Progress – talk to Streetcare
3	Bus Shelter – Whitfield Gate Farm (North Bound) - Some graffiti	No Progress – talk to Streetcare

The hedge by the South Bound Bus Shelter is overgrown and preventing Bus Users from using the small window to see if buses are coming. It was agreed to request that South Gloucestershire Council cut the hedge back or at least reduce its height to enable bus users to see on coming buses.

Action: Clerk

00532/15 Correspondence (*Italics – available by email*)

Respond to:

None

For Information:

Senior Siren Issue 23, Healthwatch South Gloucestershire ebulletin February & March 2015, Four Towns and Vale Link Community Transport & Severnside Transport Ltd Information, Magnox Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) Monthly Update – February, Minutes of the Town & Parish Council Forum on 7th January 2015, South Gloucestershire Council New On-Line Grants System Information

South Glos. Over 50's Forum Newsletter, Clerks & Councils Direct March 2015 & the Clerk March 2015.

00533/15 Matters for Further Discussion / Information

Cllr Hathway – It was agreed to leave the Poppy Wreaths on the War Memorial until the May Day Bank Holiday unless they are looking tatty.

Clerk – The Parish Council now has to comply with a new transparency code for small parish councils with a turnover of less than 25K. The Clerk will liaise with the web master to see if the additional information that needs to be displayed on a website can be included on the parish website.

Action: Clerk

Clerk – The Clerk received a request to comment on the listing of the War Memorial as part of the English Heritage's First World War Centenary Project. The Clerk will ask for an extension to submit further supporting evidence as the information went to the wrong email address.

Action: Clerk

Date of Next Meeting Tuesday 19th May 2015 at 7.30 pm

PLEASE NOTE THIS MEETING IS THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING & ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING FOR THE NEWLY ELECTED COUNCILLORS

This concluded the business of the meeting, which closed at 9.00 pm.

21st July Presentation from Horizon regarding the New Power Station Development