

FARTHINGHOE PARISH COUNCIL
Annual Parish Meeting
Village Hall
20:00 13th April 2011

Firstly I would like to thank all my fellow councillors for their personal support and commitment over the past year. Special thanks to our Clerk, Sue Shepard who has kept us on course throughout our deliberations.

Traffic Issues

Traffic continues to be a major focus of the Parish Council. At this point I would like to pay special thanks to John Grant who continues to devote many hours lobbying the District and County Council in exploration as to what is possible and what is not. I would also express special thanks to Ron Sawbridge for his backing on all occasions when we pursue support.

True to their promise Northamptonshire County Council used their budget covering safer routes to School to reconstruct the junction between Cockley Road and Main Road. I realise that many Villagers believe they could have designed the junction better but the desired effect of keeping vehicles away from the pedestrian crossing and our valuable young children has been achieved.

I regret to say that the speed camera is no longer active but John continues to lobby on the Parish Councils behalf for any available funds to get this reinstated.

We continue to monitor with interest the impact that the High Speed Rail-link between London and Birmingham might have on traffic levels.

Parking

Although we have explored various off-road parking options the Village Hall is still the safest option for dropping off young children and some parents regularly make this choice. However with any Rural Village designed before the Motor Car, parking will always be a challenge.

Street Lighting

The Parish Council has again continued to monitor street lighting and new lights are all now working on Main Road and Bowling Green. The old wooden posts carrying the overhead cables were scheduled to be removed by the contractor who installed the new lights on Main Road but alas failed to do so before losing the NCC Contract. We are assured they are scheduled for removal shortly and e-On will ensure all new standards remain lit

Village Web-site

The Village web site continues to display a soft copy of the Farthinghoe Chronicle and various reports as they become available. Links are provided to the School, Limes Farm and Fox Inn. The web address is www.farthinghoeparishcouncil.org . This report is available for downloading now on the website!

Farthinghoe Chronicle

Following the sad loss of our Editor (Marjorie Tolchard), Lucy Garnier held the reigns until our new Editor could be identified. Pip Sandel took over in March and she is very keen to keep the Village regularly apprised of all Village activities. Thanks to financial support Limes Farm and The Fox Inn the Parish Council is able to keep the price to all Villagers FREE for the foreseeable future.

Dog Waste

The parish Council would express grateful thanks to dog walkers who have respected the Councils wishes and made good use of the waste disposal point alongside the Childrens play area.

Fox Inn

The Council wish to express its sincere thanks to Mark Higgs and his team for the splendid work they continue to do in the centre of our community and thanks for the interesting events you have provided.

Limes Farm

The Council also wishes to thank Ian and Nicky Dorward and team for the considerable effort they have put in to their many activities that have been undertaken at the Farm Shop and Tea Rooms over the last year and sincerely hope you will continue with the excellent contribution to the Village.

Grass Cutting

As our group of active volunteers continues to age we have of necessity had to employ external help to cut the grass at both the Village Hall and Children's play area. This year we went out to tender and the Council is pleased that the contract has gone to a local member of the Community Jon Hampson.

Council Tax

You will have noticed that once again the Parish Council has made special efforts this year to contain our budget since we recognise how tightly many of our villagers are being pressurised by rising costs.

Finally I would like to thank my Vice Chairman, Ian Hunt for monitoring all planning applications submitted within the village and taking the Chair when I am unable to attend due to other external pressures.

Professor David P Mellor OBE
Chairman