

# FARTHINGHOE PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

held on Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> April 2015 at 8.00pm  
in the Beasley Room at Farthinghoe Village Hall



Councillors present: Mr Ross van Geest (Chair) (RVG)  
Mr John Grant (Vice Chair) (JG)  
Mr Mick Morris (MM)  
Mrs Jenny Forbes (JF)  
Mrs Sally Thomas (ST)  
Mr David Dashwood (DD)  
Mr Henry Bankes-Jones (HBJ)  
County Cllr Ron Sawbridge (RS)  
District Cllr Rebecca Breese (RB)  
Mrs Philippa Clayton (Clerk)

There were twenty four members of the public also in attendance.

Apologies: None

Guests:

ITEM	
1.	Welcome A warm welcome was extended to all speakers, representatives of village organisations and villagers.
2.	Apologies There were no apologies received.
3.	Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting on 9 <sup>th</sup> April 2014 The minutes were proposed by David Clayton and seconded by Sally Thomas and were signed by the Chairman as a true record.
4.	Matters arising There were no matters arising.
5.	Reports: a) Safety Community Team (written report – Appendix A) Cllr Morris stated that no one was available from the Safety Community Team due to shift patterns so a written report had been provided, which Cllr Morris read out. (Appendix A) b) County Councillor Ron Sawbridge County Councillor Ron Sawbridge provided his report, of which a written copy is provided (Appendix B). c) District Councillor Rebecca Breese District Councillor Rebecca Breese provided her report, of which a written copy is provided (Appendix C).

	<p>d) Chairman of the Parish Council Ross van Geest</p> <p>Cllr Ross van Geest provided his report, of which a copy is provided (Appendix D).</p> <p>There was a round of applause at the thanks from the Parish Council on behalf of the village to Jim Jones, for keeping the village free of litter.</p>
6.	<p>Financial Report for year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015</p> <p>The Responsible Finance Officer provided the Financial Report for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015, a copy of which is provided (Appendix E).</p>
7.	<p>Reports from Village organisations:</p> <p>a) Almshouses</p> <p>b) Farthinghoe School</p> <p>The report from Farthinghoe Primary School was read by Cllr Thomas. Once she had read out the report, Cllr Thomas commented on what a fabulous report and congratulations to Farthinghoe School, which received a round of applause from those present.</p> <p>c) Farthinghoe Church</p> <p>There was a request that the rector receive an invitation to the APM in future.</p> <p>d) Mothers' Union report</p> <p>e) Church Piece allotments</p> <p>There are 40 allotments, which are currently all taken. Most are well used. It was regrettable that the charity number had been taken away; they are trying to get a new number, but it is providing very complicated.</p> <p>f) Village Hall</p> <p>As there was no-one present from the Village Hall committee, the Chair read out the report received.</p> <p>A question was asked as to what percentage of the village hall funds come from the Parish Council and was clarified by further asking whether the Parish Council subsidised the Village Hall committee in any way. The Chair answered that the Village Hall committee received no subsidy from the Parish Council.</p>
8.	<p>Any other business</p> <p>County Cllr Sawbridge was asked about the council plan with regard to what sort of % reduction it is anticipated that the plan will produce.</p> <p>Cllr Sawbridge responded that the council plan will generate other streams of money which are inbuilt with this new system. There is a Government cap at 2% increase on council funds charged to people. People are living longer, care for elderly costs are getting more expensive. Child and family care are expensive and there is a growing population. The intention is to share services with Cambridgeshire and Norwich. Having other organisations performing services will enable other forms of funding to come in. It was suggested it would be better to save money by using a unitary system and reducing the number of tiers within councils. Police forces are also sharing services.</p> <p>District Councillor Breese was asked, with all the building that is taking place in Brackley, why a better swimming pool hadn't been included. She responded that the site is owned by County, and that it is a District ambition to put a pool on the Springfield site. She went on to clarify that Towcester are not getting a new pool; the existing one is being refurbished. Provision of a new swimming pool is expensive and they are looking for new funding. It is an ambition and is work</p>

in progress; Cllr Breese accepted that the current facilities are inadequate.

The subject of the A422 through the village was raised. It was stated that the road causes noise pollution, fumes pollution, and houses physically shake. New houses in Brackley will cause increased traffic to Banbury and M40. There is a thriving business at Limes Farm but with a very narrow pavement leading there. One member of the public stated they were feeling really let down by the council and asked what happened to pollution monitors that were promised.

Cllr Sawbridge stated that he agreed that the A422 just isn't suitable, and that he has been canvassing the County Council, but with no joy.

The question was raised regarding a weight restriction on the road. The recommendation was to keep monitoring the traffic, providing statistics and putting pressure on. It was pointed out that the village did a traffic survey and then were told that the person responsible didn't have time to analyse the information. It was suggested that a committee should be set up in parish to deal with it. It was stated that there are no issues with the way the Parish Council are approaching the issue, the problem lies with the County Council.

An observation was made that traffic calming had been considered and rejected by those affected; at the end of Baker Street, those in the vicinity would suffer from increased fumes. The request was made instead for a reconstruction of the road and a quiet surface. It was commented that last time the road had been resurfaced, it was dug up again 2 weeks later.

Clarification was requested that with all the building in Brackley, what assurances can be made that Farthinghoe won't suffer as a result of Brackley's improvement. Cllr Breese responded that traffic flows are all looked at as part of a planning application. This aspect is considered by Highways who could complain and stop a project in its entirety; the Council solely provides views. The question was asked as to what the council are doing to object. Cllr Breese responded that it was not possible to object on a single point if Planning are happy with everything else and that no objection can be raised by County Council. Geographically, Farthinghoe is too far away to benefit from any of the planned developments. It was pointed out that Farthinghoe is a serious bottleneck and the A4525 is already notorious; construction traffic will either be encouraged to use A4525 or A422 which are not adequate roads. Only the A43 is an adequate road. Cllr Breese stated that the planning process should be tighter controlled because of the wider impact.

It was stated that it is obvious that the Parish Council are all on side. It was further stated that Suzanne Moore previously felt it would be better to develop the A4525, but she has since moved on and no-one else has been in touch. In addition, the pot holes are now a health and safety issue, with the contractor apologising for not wanting to take responsibility for fixing them. It was requested that someone in charge of transport should attend the village again.

It was stated that when Andrea Leadsom and David Farquhar came to the village, they committed to move the 30mph limits and nothing has been done. Cllr Grant confirmed that he had written to David Farquhar, but received a response from his junior.

It was stated that a bypass would be ultimate aim, but that the village just want the message to be understood that the road is dangerous. Cars are not the problem, it is the lorries. The road needs changing from a primary route to a normal county road. A weight restriction would be acceptable. The County Council can declassify it from a primary route. Cllr Sawbridge committed to investigating what can be done to deregister the road to get a weight limit.

There being no further questions, the Chair thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed at 9.20pm.

**SAFETY COMMUNITY TEAM – WRITTEN REPORT**

I would like to apologise for not being able to come along in person due to my shift not being able to coincide with the timing of the meeting. The same issue also related to my colleagues who also aren't in a position to attend.

Crime details for the past year – 01 April 2014 – 31 March 2015, as follows:  
(I have also attached figures for the entire ward of Steane at the bottom of the report.)

- |                      |                            |
|----------------------|----------------------------|
| Burglary dwelling x1 | Burglary other x 1         |
| Criminal damage x1   | Sexual offences x1         |
| Theft/handling x3    | Theft of motor vehicles x1 |
| Violence offences x2 | <b>Total sum x10</b>       |

Northamptonshire Police  
Webi 3.1 Report

**Northants Police Parish Crime Report**

Please note that 126 Vehicle Interference is included in Theft Of Motor Vehicles & potential inaccuracy of data due to use of "Locality" object.

**FARTHINGHOE**

	Sum:
Sum:	

	BURGLARY DWELLING	BURGLARY OTHER	CRIMINAL DAMAGE	SEXUAL OFFENCES	THEFT/HANDLING	THEFT OF MOTOR VEHICLES	VIOLENCE OFFENCES	Sum:
APR 2014							1	1
MAY 2014	1							1
JUN 2014			1			1	1	3
JUL 2014				1				1
AUG 2014		1						1
SEP 2014					1			1
DEC 2014					1			1
FEB 2015					1			1
<b>Sum:</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>10</b>

With regards to crime in general, there has been an emerging issue over the past one-two years across the county relating to the theft of Catalytic Converters from Motor Vehicles. Three crimes took place last week in Brackley.

We are advising those with vehicles to reverse park them as close to the front of their property as possible. Any additional security such as lighting and alarms also prove to be good deterrents against vehicle crime. We also suggest not to leave anything on display in vehicles as this is a good example when they are broken into and subsequent thefts taking place.

If anyone is interested in a free Catalytic Converter marking kit, we have a limited supply at Brackley Station, let me know and I can arrange for one to be dropped off.

We ask all members of the public to be vigilant and report any suspicious activity through the police on 101, the non-emergency number. For example, when house to house enquiries were being conducted in relation to the fore mentioned Catalytic Converter thefts, three people mentioned that a white

APPENDIX A – CRIME REPORT 2015

Transit van containing three males were seen driving slowly along quite streets, surveying properties. Anything such as this please report them.

Brackley police station is also going through a period of change. Some of you may already be aware that the front counter which serves the public ceased trading from the 1<sup>st</sup> of April. The station is still in place as a base for the local police, it's just the front counter that has closed.

We can appreciate that a number of residents have popped into the station over the years to report incidents, hand in property and produce documents. Should anyone be in a position whereby they require contact with their local police or to make a report, please dial 101.

We have very recently lost three members of staff; Cathy Baker who has been the face at the front counter has now gone, after 23 years at Brackley. PCSOs Clive Ashmore and PCSO Stuart Dowell have also decided to venture pastures new. We are unsure when any of the positions will be filled.

However, we are still determined to provide the best possible service to the public. Patrols and appearances at events and public meetings (where feasible) will still take place. But as you can probably appreciate with the PCSO and Police Officer numbers being less than previous it won't always be possible to meet every request that is put to us.

Should anyone have anything they would like to discuss with me, please pass on my contact details.

Kind Regards

South Northamptonshire Safer Community Teams

Tel: 101 | Ext 343375

Colin

[colin.brooks@northants.police.uk](mailto:colin.brooks@northants.police.uk)

PCSO 7024 Colin Brooks

Brackley Police Station, St James Road, Brackley, NN13 7XY

Northamptonshire Police Not Protectively Marked Dated: 01 Apr 2015 01:03  
 Web: 3.1 Report

### Northants Police Parish Crime Report

Please note that 126 Vehicle Interference is included in Theft Of Motor Vehicles & potential inaccuracy of data due to use of "Locality" object.

**Steane**

	BURGLARY DWELLING	BURGLARY OTHER	CRIMINAL DAMAGE	DRUG OFFENCES	SEXUAL OFFENCES	THEFT FROM MOTOR VEHICLES	THEFT/HANDLING	THEFT OF MOTOR VEHICLES	VIOLENCE OFFENCES	Sum:
APR 2014		1				1			2	4
MAY 2014	2						1		1	4
JUN 2014	1	2	1				1	1	1	7
JUL 2014					1	2	1		1	5
AUG 2014		1								1
SEP 2014			1				2	2		5
OCT 2014	1								1	2
NOV 2014									2	2
DEC 2014							1		1	2
JAN 2015			1						1	2
FEB 2015		1				1	2		1	5
MAR 2015				2					1	3
<b>Sum:</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>42</b>

Parish Crime Report Monthly  
 Supplied by Corporate Performance Team ext 345555

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**NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL  
REPORT FOR FARTHINGHOE PARISH VILLAGE MEETING**

This report covers four main items: first, the County Council Budget for the current financial year, secondly, the Council Plan for the next five years, thirdly, concerns about the large number of houses being built in north Oxfordshire and the effect that this will have on the villages in south Northamptonshire, and finally something specific about the A422.

You will have received details of your council tax for the financial year 2015/16 and be aware that the county council element has risen by 1.95%, increasing the tax for a Band 'D' property by just under £21. Northamptonshire still has the lowest county council tax in the country. The total net revenue spend this year is £415m with £238m coming from the tax you pay. As usual the biggest single expenditure is on Adult Social Care at £140m, followed by Children, Families, and Education at £123m. The other large cost is Environment, Development, and Transport at £63m.

Far more important than the Budget is the Council Plan for the next five years. The present method of providing services is no longer sustainable; we can not keep on reducing costs by improving efficiency in the way we have done over the last few years. Costs of the base budget have already been reduced by £200m and we still have to reduce by a further £148m over the next five years. A continuation of the present method of providing services would just drastically reduce the quality to an unacceptable level. The simple fact is that the traditional model of local government is no longer sustainable. The method of largely paying for public services through government grants no longer works and a new way has to be found, which has resulted in this year's Council Plan being dramatically different to anything done before. It plans the biggest transformation of public services in the county since the creation of the council 125 years ago. The council will become a much smaller organization commissioning other agencies to carry out activities to help the council achieve its goals for the residents. A move has actually already be made some way along this route; for example, the Children Centres are no longer directly controlled by the council but by lead service providers commissioned to cover ten geographical areas. The charity, Action for Children, controls six areas, Spurgeons, three areas, and Pen Green Children Centre covers Corby area. Other examples are: Olympus Care Services, a council owned company which provides support for elderly adults, people with physical or learning disabilities, and people with dementia. We also have KIERWSP who have the £200m four year highways services contract which expires in 2020.

The County Council will dramatically reduce the number of employees down to about 250, commissioning services from a federation of organizations including private businesses, social enterprizes, council owned companies, and charities. The intention will be to transfer as many existing staff as is possible to the new providers. These dramatic changes will be implemented gradually over the next five years. I really do hope it works! It is of course not the only way of reducing costs; an alternative would be to follow the same path as the one being considered by Oxfordshire to form a Unitary Council, removing one tier of local government. This is the route favoured by some opposition members on our council.

In my report to you last year I expressed my concern about the number of houses being built in Oxfordshire which will result in a traffic increase in many of our villages. I have initiated talks between the two county councils as I am very concerned about the adequacy of planned increased road infrastructure to support the larger traffic volume even in north Oxfordshire, and there is of course nothing at all planned for the roads in our county. It is worrying that at a recent meeting in Bodicote House the Government Inspector is reported to have said 'subject to a significant modal shift everything will be fine'. In effect he means that if everybody used buses or bikes there would not be a traffic problem! The net meeting of the two authorities is scheduled for the 15<sup>th</sup> May and I shall be

## APPENDIX B – CLLR SAWBRIDGE'S REPORT 2015

attending to press home my concerns. The impact on our villages will of course be made worse by construction traffic for HS2, if it goes ahead.

As many of you know, I am really concerned about the A422 and how it will cope with increased traffic numbers plus any HS2 construction traffic that may be diverted due to working on and close to the B4525.

Finally, presumably you are aware that work is to begin on carriageway reconstruction through this village in early May which will obviously cause some disruption. Diversion signs will be erected on the A43 to route traffic along the B4525. The A422 will be closed to traffic in both directions from Thenford crossroads through to Brackley A422 westbound. The actual closures will take place at weekends 08.00 to 20.00hrs. I do hope that this will have a beneficial effect on this village.

The only other item I should mention is the Empowering Councillors' Scheme. As advised at previous meetings. Each County Councillor receives £7,000 to spend on locally based projects and my allocation last year was used as follows: £1,833 to Aynho towards the cost of the refurbishment of the Children Playground; £1,344 to Evenley to refurbish the War Memorial; £960 to Charlton for the replacement of a streetlight; £800 to Kings Sutton for a new Bowling Mat and £400 for a computer for public use in the Memorial Hall. I had reserved the balance of £1,900 to refurbish the Children Playground at Farthinghoe but I am now going to fund this from the current year's allowance.

Ron Sawbridge MBE  
County Councillor for Middleton Cheney Division.

31<sup>st</sup> March 2015

APPENDIX C – CLLR BREESE'S REPORT 2015

TO BE SUPPLIED

## FARTHINGHOE PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN’S REPORT 2015

I would like to start by welcoming everyone attending the 2015 Farthinghoe Annual Parish Meeting. I am also delighted to welcome back this year our County Councillor, Ron Sawbridge and our District Councillor, Rebecca Breese.

Firstly, I would like to thank all of my fellow councillors both past and present for their personal support and the considerable amount of hard work and time that they commit for the benefit of this parish. I would also like to thank our parish clerk, Pip Clayton, who has revolutionised the administration of the Parish Council since joining us in October 2014. Pip took over the role from Sue Shepard, who resigned from the post in September 2014 after having served the Parish Council since November 2005. We would like to thank Sue for her guidance during her time with us and for the ongoing support she has provided to Pip as she took over the mantle.

This year has certainly been one of change with a significant turnover of councillors. As such I would like to welcome our new Councillors, Mick Morris and Henry Bankes-Jones who were both co-opted in November. Sadly this year also saw the retirement of Ian Hunt. Ian joined the Parish Council in the 1980’s serving for 25 years, 10 of which as Chairman. Ian’s dedication and hard work on behalf of the parish has simply been incredible. 2014 also saw two new chairmen with Professor Mellor resigning in May and his successor Neil Downing also resigning in September. I would like to thank both past chairmen for all of their hard work on behalf of the Parish Council.

### **Farthinghoe Parish Council Aims and Objectives**

With change, new ideas and initiatives often follow. When Neil Downing was appointed Chairman in May 2014 he stated, “Confidence needs to be built up in the Parish Council and it should not hide away”. This is very much the theme that my fellow Councillors and I have continued since my appointment as Chairman in October. As a result the parish council felt that formal aims and objectives should be put in place to provide real focus and direction over the short to medium term. The ultimate goal however is to install trust and confidence in the Parish Council whilst adding true value to the parish.

#### **Objective 1: Communication**

Strong communication is essential in order to help build trust and confidence but also in order for the Parish Council to maximise its effectiveness. Improved communication between the Parish Council and Parishioners is therefore one of our main aims moving forwards and we have already made numerous improvements, these being:

- Parish Council Minutes are now drafted, approved and uploaded to the website within 10 working days in order to give parishioners a clear and up to date understanding of what is being discussed.
- The Farthinghoe Parish Website has been totally rebuilt with the day to day management being brought in house. Not only has this saved over £200 per annum but it now allows us to regularly update and improve the site in a timely manner without being reliant on third parties and associated costs. Further improvements are planned to provide dedicated pages for both the Village Hall and traffic issues.
- Contact details have now been added to the website for all Parish Councillors, along with greater clarity as to their specific roles. This is to enable parishioners to have access to all Councillors but also to direct specific queries to the relevant people who are best positioned to assist.
- Speed of communication within the Parish has proved to be a major issue, specifically at times when the subject matter is of high importance and time critical, for example in relation to the proposed Solar Farm. To date, the Farthinghoe Chronicle has been the only way to communicate with the whole parish at once. This does however create a delay of up to 1 month. Given this, the Parish Council has now introduced an email database to which parishioners can sign up in order to receive high priority Parish Council communications. High

priority communications have initially been defined as the three main areas of major planning applications, significant traffic and infrastructure disruptions and criminal activity. I am pleased to report that a number of parishioners have already signed up and I would like to encourage as many people as possible to do so either through the contact page on the Parish Council website or by emailing [updates@farthinghoeparishcouncil.org](mailto:updates@farthinghoeparishcouncil.org). Sign up forms are also available here tonight.

- Turning specifically to the Farthinghoe Chronicle, I would like to thank Shirley Downing for editing the Chronicle over the last two years. Shirley did a fantastic job of providing interesting and relevant content that has been greatly enjoyed by the whole parish. Sadly since Shirley resigned as editor in February we have been without a formal editor despite numerous appeals to the village. The feedback we always receive from the parish is that the Chronicle is invaluable. As such we have kept the Chronicle going for the last two months with Pip Clayton stepping in to help out. This is however only a temporary measure and without support from the village and at least one editor coming forward in the very short term, the Parish Council will be faced with some tough decisions. It was suggested at this meeting last year that the cost of the Chronicle to the parish is zero. The true net cost however, after revenue generated from marketing, is circa £660 or 10% of your Council’s annual precept, which is certainly not insignificant. I would appeal for anyone who is concerned that the Chronicle should be maintained and who is willing to help out to approach Pip or myself directly. This does not have to be an individual responsibility; it could work well as a team effort.

**Objective 2: Enhance Farthinghoe**

*Traffic*

One of the major issues impacting our Parish continues to be traffic. As such, traffic remains a high priority to the Parish Council and I would like to thank Councillor Grant for his hard work on behalf of this parish in relation to this ongoing issue. Councillor Grant really has dedicated huge amounts of time to this issue over many years. I believe that the positive advancements in this report are a true testament to his efforts.

By way of update, the manhole cover exiting the village on Main Street towards Banbury that was previously collapsing has now been fixed. In addition we have now been informed by Northamptonshire County Council that highway improvement works will be carried out on Main Road in early May. The work will involve reconstructing the existing carriageway and refreshing road markings, between the 30mph derestriction signs at each end of Main Road.

Moving forwards the Parish Council will be focusing on the ever increasing number of road accidents in and around the village and also on enhanced efforts to obtain a weight restriction through the village with the ultimate goal being a bypass. As ever, the Parish Council will make every effort to achieve these improvements, however the full support and resources of the whole parish are required if we are ever going to make any progress. A traffic page on the Parish website will be set up to provide more information, regular updates and most importantly contact details for relevant MPs and Councillors. We will also look to provide template letters so that parishioners can easily canvas the relevant officials.

*Playpark*

Significant progress has been made in relation to the much needed upgrade to the playpark. The playpark committee currently has access to £17,300 and has recently applied to Viridor for £20,000 of grant funding. The outcome of the application will be received in the middle of June and, if successful, will allow development to start this summer. I would like to thank the playpark committee for their continued efforts to make the playpark re-development a reality.

*Village Hall*

The village hall is a massive asset and benefit to this village. However in recent years it hasn’t been utilised as much by the village whilst the Village Hall Committee hit a low of only 4 members last year. Given this, the Parish Council has become increasingly involved in the Village Hall since November 2014. Moving forward at least one Parish Council Member will attend every Village Hall Committee meeting. We are also offering input into setting clear aims and objectives, a marketing strategy including dedicated web page, budgets and financial reporting. Ultimately the Village Hall will only remain a prized asset and receive the ongoing enhancements that it requires if it is supported fully by us all as villagers.

*Superfast Broadband*

Given the almost daily visit of Openreach to the village, I am sure that everyone is now fully aware that Superfast Broadband is now available to a large percentage of the Parish. This is a fantastic asset to both residents and businesses and I would like to thank everyone that has been involved in driving forward this development over the years.

Finally, the entire Parish Council would like to say a particular thank you to Jim Jones. I am sure that everyone will agree that we have one of the cleanest villages that is totally litter free. There is no doubt that a great deal of this is down to Jim, who is constantly seen walking the village picking up litter.

***Objective 3: Protect Farthinghoe***

*Solar Farm*

There are always going to be major threats to this village and perhaps the most significant in recent times has been the proposed Solar Farm. The Village made it very clear to the Parish Council through almost unanimous petitions and strong turn outs at public time that they were heavily against the development.

Farthinghoe Parish Council worked extremely hard alongside the South Northants Planning Department to try and make sure that the development was rejected by the planning committee. However, given that this was not a guaranteed outcome, we applied considerable pressure on Green Energy to back up their verbal community monetary benefit through a legally binding agreement. Whilst we worked with Green Energy on multiple drafts of the legal agreement which was completed ahead of the planning committee meeting, the fully executed legally binding agreement was never forthcoming.

On the 13<sup>th</sup> November 2014, the proposed solar farm development was rejected by the South Northants Planning Department. Green Energy now has until the 13<sup>th</sup> May 2015 to make an appeal. Whilst we are now almost 5 months into that appeal period, there has been activity reported on the proposed solar site in the last few weeks and we must therefore remain diligent.

Given this, I would once again like to appeal for as many people as possible to sign up to our email database after this meeting. If there are further developments on the proposed solar farm then matters are likely to progress very quickly. The only way that your Parish Council can act with equal speed and efficiency is through our email database.

2015 is an election year for both the nation and this Parish, resulting in an opportunity for other members of the parish to run for election. I hope that more people will be motivated to put themselves forward this year. However I also trust that existing councillors or potential new councillors will only run for election if they are truly committed to the whole community whilst also having sufficient time, energy and personal drive to dedicate to the role.

## APPENDIX D – CHAIRMAN’S REPORT 2015

Thank you to everyone for attending tonight’s APM. I apologise for the length of my update but I do believe it is testament to the significant amount of work that has been undertaken by your Parish Council. We are at the start of a major project to revolutionise the Parish Council and bring real benefits to the community. Given this, I very much hope that, should there be an election next month, we will receive your vote and be allowed to complete what we have started.

Ross van Geest  
Chairman

**FINANCIAL REPORT 2015**

Opening balance at 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014: £3,893.01

The precept has remained at £6,500 for the year to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015, no increase for the sixth consecutive year. The Parish Council also received other income: a VAT refund of £175.62, £66.30 from both The Fox and Limes Farm for one publication each of the Chronicle and £0.09 in interest.

Total expenditure £6,296.49

Balance at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015: £4,444.83

The Parish Council has pledged a donation of £1,000 to the playpark from the 2014-2015 precept which will be paid in April 2015. Allowing provision for this amount, a balance of £3,444.83 is carried forward into the 2015/2016 financial year.

Annual street lighting costs were £524.26 and £359.00 for maintenance: a small increase of 2.1% in the maintenance from £351.82 last year. The administration costs were less: £1,664.85, which included a marginally increased insurance premium of £528.20 from £521.64 (1.3%) the previous year, internal audit £155, a subscription fee to NCalc of £135.17 and the printing of the Farthinghoe Chronicle at £796.50 for the year. There was no pay award last year with the Clerk receiving a salary of £1,400 and £300 to cover expenses.

Mowing costs for the playground and the verge areas at the junction of Charlton Road and outside the school amounted to £772.30. The Parish Council continues with responsibility for mowing the playarea and the verges between County cuts. Dog waste collection was £78.00 and additional salt purchased for use with gritting icy areas was £33.30.

Costs for the Parish Council website reduced dramatically with the cancellation of the external maintenance contract. The previous fee of £299 is now just £41.65 which is the annual hosting fee and domain name renewal. Uploading of information to the website is now controlled by the Chairman and the Clerk at no cost.

The Parish Council is also a member of the Council for the Protection of Rural England and the £29 annual subscription goes towards helping them with their campaigns to protect our countryside.

A full breakdown of the accounts is now uploaded monthly to the website so that at any time, parishioners will be able to see the current funding status for the parish.

Looking forward briefly, 2015 is an election year. If we have an uncontested election within the Parish, i.e. we have seven seats available (five for Farthinghoe and two for Steane) and we have seven or fewer applicants for those seats, the fee from Northamptonshire County Council for the election will be £39 to cover administration of the applications. If, however, we have more than seven applicants, we will have a scheduled election at a cost of £1,150 to the Parish. Historically, no provision has been made in non-election years towards the potential cost of future elections. It is our intention going forward to include an accrual each year to provision for such an expense so that this does not come as a large cost against one single precept.

I hope this gives an indication of how the Parish Council spends the precept on your behalf. The Parish Council will be pleased to answer any questions.

Pip Clayton, Clerk to Farthinghoe Parish Council

8<sup>th</sup> April 2015

**THE CHARITY OF THOMAS AMPHLETT  
FARTHINGHOE ALMSHOUSES**

The 3 almshouses are currently occupied.

The major work carried out this year was to renew the water supply to the cottages.

Further improvements will continue to be made.

I would like to thank my fellow trustees, all of whom are volunteers:

Reverend Simon Dommett  
Vic Tolchard  
Merry Wadlow  
Andrew Bowyer

If you would like any further information on the almshouses, details can be found on the Parish Council website.

Thank you.

Jenny Forbes

**FARTHINGHOE PRIMARY SCHOOL  
INFORMATION FOR FARTHINGHOE PARISH COUNCIL 2014/15**

It has been another successful year for Farthinghoe Primary School.

We continue to be oversubscribed, with 46 pupils currently on roll, and we maintain our good reputation in the local community as well as further afield.

Sustainability of small schools is always high on our agenda, and having decided not to convert to being an Academy in 2013, the development of our collaboration with Greatworth Primary School has been a priority. The collaboration has evolved over the three years in which it has been in place and grows every stronger; teaching staff plan the curriculum together and the pupils meet more regularly for things such as school visits and sporting events.

Mrs Fiona Toman now commences a fourth year as Executive Head teacher, with Mrs Catherine Farrell as the day to day manager of the school in her capacity as Senior Teacher.

Our School Ambassador Roles are very important, providing pupil voice and the opportunity for the children to take on responsibilities within the school. The Road Safety Ambassadors have taken a lead in improving the parking situation around the school, by promoting events to encourage walking to school from the village hall, working with the local police and creating posters to encourage people to 'THINK' before parking their cars.

The Charity Ambassadors continue to raise money for a range of good causes; last year's fundraising efforts culminated in a community concert at the village hall which was well attended and raised funds for Dogs for the Disabled and Help for Heroes. This year they have chosen to raise funds for 'International Animal Rescue' and 'Roald Dahl's Marvellous Children's Charity'.

In July 2014, our Garden Fete, marked the opening of the school memorial garden in memory of the late Tracey Wilkin, one of the school's teaching assistants. The garden was designed by the children with the support of School Ties (PTA) and provides a wonderful outdoor learning environment and quiet area that the children love to use.

Pupil attainment is high and above national expectations and has been consistently so over the last three years. In May 2014, the school achieved the Silver Award of the Primary Science Quality Mark in recognition of our high standard of science teaching.

Our most recent Ofsted inspection in February 2015 judged the overall effectiveness of the school to be '**Outstanding**' – the highest possible grading. We were also judged to be 'Outstanding' in all five inspection categories - behaviour & safety of pupils; achievement of pupils; early years provision; quality of teaching and leadership & management. This can be attributed to the hard work and dedication of all involved with the school: children, parents, staff and governors.

We always welcome and appreciate the support and involvement of the local community in school life.

**Farthinghoe Village Hall  
Chairman's Report 2015**

Farthinghoe Village Hall is still one of the busiest Halls in the area, with weekly bookings for 3 Pilates sessions, 4 dance sessions, a weekly Art group, WEA, after school clubs and various private functions in between.

We run this facility on an income of around £8k per year, with our main single expenditure being electric. We also pay a twice weekly hall cleaner, and a window cleaner. We have all electrical equipment PAT tested annually and keep our mains circuit testing up to date. Not many other halls do PAT testing, or have a regular cleaner.

Some 18 months ago we looked into the possibility of having solar panels fitted to the south roof of the hall, and approached the Parish council, who agreed with the idea but not to funding, and so we have been saving the money ourselves and would soon be in a position to be able to go ahead.

Over the last 12 months, we have been hit by vandals breaking into our sheds causing considerable damage. Although not much was taken they climbed on the shed roof, which also caused considerable damage. We have also recently had builder's rubble and waste tipped into the hall bins, which is fly-tipping.

The Village Hall is growing annually and this year we hope to make a big event marking the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Britain, at our now annual Village Show. Many attractions are booked for the 12<sup>th</sup> September, with some surprises in store!

Helpers in all areas and particularly with the show are always welcomed.

Pete Hampson  
Chair