

FARTHINGHOE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting
held on Wednesday, 20 April 2022 at 7.30pm



Councillors present: Mr Mick Morris (Chair) (MM)
Mr John Grant (JG)
Mr Henry Bankes-Jones (HBJ)
Mr Trevor Jarvis (TJ)
Mr James Harrison (JH)

Mr Dave Weston (Clerk)

19 attendees from the public

Apologies: Cllr Barry Willett, WNC Cllrs Rebecca Breese, Rosie Herring, Richard Solesbury-Timms. Sally Thomas, Andrea Leadsom MP and the Police.

Item	
1	<p>Chairman's Welcome</p> <p>A warm welcome was extended to all present. Cllr Morris stated how nice it was to meet in person Cllr Morris stated that he would ask for questions after each item was reached in the Agenda.</p> <p>Cllr Morris then presented the Chairman's welcome (Appendix 1)</p>
2	<p>To receive apologies for absence.</p> <p>Cllr Barry Willett, WNC Cllrs Rebecca Breese, Rosie Herring, Richard Solesbury-Timms. Sally Thomas, Andrea Leadsom MP and the Police.</p>
3	<p>To receive and approve for signature the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 28 April 2021.</p> <p>The minutes were proposed by Pippa Clayton and seconded by Joan Mildren and were signed by the Chairman as a true record.</p>
4	<p>To review matters arising from the Annual Parish Meeting held on 28 April 2021.</p> <p>There were no matters arising.</p>
5	<p>To receive the Chairman's Report for the year 2020-2021.</p> <p>Cllr Morris presented his report (Appendix 2). He began with our thoughts to the people of Ukraine who were experiencing the invasion that had recently happened. He asked for permission of the meeting to donate to the people of Ukraine through an appropriate agency. Cllr Morris thanked Wendy Whitehouse for her tenure as head teacher of the primary school and welcomed Sharon Turner to her new role.</p> <p>There were no comments on the report.</p>

Cllr Morris then invited comment and questions on the following written reports which had been available to read on the Parish Council website prior to the meeting.

5.1 Village Hall Report.

There were no comments; the full report is shown in Appendix 3

5.2 Primary School Report.

There were no comments; the full report is shown in Appendix 4

5.3 Parish clerk financial Report.

Mr Weston presented a summary of his report.

There were no comments; the full report is shown in Appendix 5

5.4 West Northants Council Report.

Q: have WNC or Andrea Leadsom MP initiated the request for a face to face meeting with the Transport Secretary Grant Shapps MP.

R: MM felt it was WNC who initiated the request. It was intended to have a meeting at the Houses of Parliament with Andrea Leadsom MP, Grant Shapps MP, WNC and Cllrs Morris and Grant.

Q: How can it be justified financially.

R: MM There is a calculation used to quantify any bids and ours is at present low as it is calculated to be a minimal time saving traveling through the village verses a bypass.

Q: Do you have up-to-date figures on traffic levels.

R: MM the figures used are based on data from 2013,17 and 19. We have requested a more up-to-date report based around 5 days and including specific data around vehicle type. We have continually asked for data on Welsh Lane traffic movements as local traffic is migrating from there onto the A422. WNC failed to obtain any data from HS2.

Q: Are there any measures in place to monitor air pollution.

R: MM we understand there are measures from the school and also a house on the A422. WNC have been asked to provide the data from these.

The full report is shown in Appendix 6

5.5 The Church of St Michael and All Angels Farthinghoe Report

There were no comments; the full report is shown in Appendix 7

5.6 The Severn Sisters Tree site

No report was received for this.

5.7 Almshouses Report.

No report was received for this.

5.8 Allotments Report.

	<p>Q: Do the 2 overgrown plots have to be used for allotments.</p> <p>R: HBJ: Potentially they are able to be used to raise funds for the church. They cannot be used for example, for livestock, another plot holder has offered to clean them up. the full report is shown in Appendix 8</p> <p>5.9 Northamptonshire Police Brackley Neighbourhood Team Report.</p> <p>There were no comments; the full report is shown in Appendix 9</p> <p>5.10 Playpark Report.</p> <p>Q: Is there somewhere recommended for people to park?</p> <p>R: JG: no there isn't anywhere at the park they can park.</p> <p>Q: Could you use a bit of the field for parking?</p> <p>R: JG: No we can't do that</p> <p>The full report is shown in Appendix 10</p> <p>5.11 Bypass Report</p> <p>Q: Can HGVs be diverted along Welch Lane</p> <p>R: JG: highways state Welch Lane is not up to taking HGVs and to upgrade would cost similar to a bypass.</p> <p>Q: HGVs are using the lane now so what's the risk?</p> <p>R: JG: Not known what specifically is the problem.</p> <p>Q: Can't HGVs be forced to use the M40?</p> <p>R: MM: Hauliers will state its more cost effective to use the A422.</p> <p>MM: The A422 is described as a national strategic route. Highways England should therefore we think, be contributing towards By-pass work and costs. HS2 were sending up to 50 trucks a day along the A422, this has been alleviated after we asked the HS" minister to become involved.</p> <p>Comments from the floor included 'very angry that local councillors are not attending this meeting', 'is it time for direct action,' another incident today with a HGV having to mount the footpath at the pinch point to get through'.</p> <p>The full report is shown at appendix 11.</p>
6	<p>General Questions.</p> <p>Q: Has it escaped the notice of the parish council the irony of the objection to the proposed solar farm on the grounds that it will ruin the visual landscape of a valley whilst at the same time supporting the development of a bypass through an equally beautiful valley which will cause much greater and permanent devastation not only to the visual landscape but also to wildlife, biodiversity and social life as well as contributing to global warming? Should we not remember the message of COP26? Which project would our descendants prefer us to have supported, I wonder, as they contemplate life without hedgehogs, badgers, deer, wildflowers or clean air?</p> <p>R: MM: The reason for objections is; South Northants currently has sufficient solar farms for its needs, this one will go directly to the national grid, the panels proposed need changing every 8-10 years, there is no means of recycling the toxic</p>

	<p>material contained in them, the panels are generally made in China potentially using forced labour. The current applicant intends only to get planning permission then sell it on. There are alternative sites i.e. brownfield or warehousing roofs that would be more suitable. A Bypass is supported because the majority of the village support this.</p> <p>Q: Have you validated the villagers opinion on the solar farm?</p> <p>R: MM: No validation done.</p> <p>Comments from the floor included , 'attitudes to renewable energy have changed, we should support initiatives,' 'HS2 route could have solar panels along it and warehousing should have them'.</p> <p>Q: Does the parish council have any influence on planning applications to make them install renewable energy?</p> <p>R:MM: we only have the same amount of influence as anyone else who responds. Write to your MP to get central government to change the regulations on installing renewable energy at warehousing sites.</p>
7	<p>Any other business.</p> <p>MM sked for all persons present who weren't on the village database circulation list to sign up to it.</p> <p>The full list of appendices is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 - Chairman's Welcome 2 - Chairman's Report 3 - Village Hall Committee 4 - Primary School 5 - Parish Council Finances 6 – West Northants Council 7 - Church of St Michael and All Angels Farthinghoe 8 - Allotments 9 - Northamptonshire Police Brackley Neighbourhood team 10- Playpark Report 11- Bypass.

The meeting closed at 2054hrs.

Chairman's verbal report

It really feels good to be back to relative normality and to be able to hold this meeting again without restriction in our own hall & to feel that things are improving following the last couple of years of real uncertainty.

Hopefully, you will have had the chance to read my written report which has been posted on the Parish Council website for almost a week now.

It is not my intention to go into the detail of that report, but just to highlight some salient points and then to take questions once I have finished talking tonight.

As you will note on the meeting agenda there are also 11 supplementary reports and again these reports have been logged on Parish Council website for all to see.

We will treat these reports individually & receive your relevant thoughts & questions for each separately.

Although this year has seen the pandemic situation improve considerably we have now been confronted with the dreadful events in Ukraine and clearly lessons from the past have not been heeded.

We have seen the worst side of humanity, but as often in these circumstances it has been countered with some wonderful acts of kindness & selfless bravery.

Kindness & selflessness such as that demonstrated by our school with their red nose day fundraiser and their remarkable donation.

Thank you, children, for your lead which your Parish Council intends follow with its donation.

This year has been tinged with sadness locally with the loss of 4 of our village stalwarts who have all contributed to this Parish greatly in their own individualistic ways.

Thanks to Cyril, Ian, Geoff & Mary for being such good friends for so many years. We loved you all and your memories will continue with us for years to come.

Our thoughts, prayers and good wishes are also with those amongst us who are currently afflicted with serious medical conditions.

Our school has seen a fundamental change this year but it is good to see the continuity with Sharon replacing Wendy as Head of School. We are proud of everyone involved with the school.

Historically we have always been advised that the key to moving the bypass forward was to receive Cabinet approval at Council, and this was achieved in September 2021 after numerous delays.

Then after receiving the news that it had been paused by Officers in November 2021 left us very confused about how the Council is controlled.

We will continue to press for progress for our bypass at a meeting chaired by Andrea Leadsom in May.

We will also press for imposition of a weight restriction as an interim measure whilst awaiting a bypass.

The suggestion of an interim traffic light system at the A422 pinch point leaves us totally unconvinced having received a negative response to our request for reassurances that this would not lead to longer jams with ensuing noise and pollution.

We have seen benefits such as

The completion of the new bus shelters

The school crossing is now updated and working much better

The footpath adjacent to the school is rectified and is much safer

We still have problems

With Manhole covers and drains

We have a pavement which is still awaiting rectification after 18 months without any indication of when it will be put right

End of Report

Mick Morris



Farthinghoe & Steane Parish Council

14/04/2022

Chairman's Report for the 2021/2022 year

The start of my annual reports for April 2020 and April 2021 began as follows,

““This has been a most unusual year, the kind of year that few of us have ever experienced before, nor want to experience again. It has been a year in which most communities have had to react with considerable discipline and fortitude.”

The situation at those times resulted in our meetings being either cancelled or in the case of 2021 we organised a zoom meeting.

Most unsatisfactory, but I am glad to say the 2022 will see a reversion to tradition with a meeting to be held in the village hall at which we can all meet in person.

A more satisfactory way whilst still being mindful of the lessons learned.

Medical developments with the goodwill and common sense of people worldwide have enabled us to create a good base to move forward post pandemic.

Unfortunately, as one problem recedes another raises its ugly head and our thoughts, prayers and help must be directed to the poor people of Ukraine whose lives have been and are still being turned upside down.

Farthinghoe has made a good start for which we must thank our school and particularly Daisy and we appreciate their guidance. The £1255.94 I am sure has also been much appreciated.

With your support we would like to make a charitable donation from the Parish Council funds to a Ukrainian support charity of choice and I am open to suggestions.

This year has been tinged with sadness with the loss of our friends Cyril, Ian, Geoff & Mary.

All four have been stalwart members of our society and have contributed greatly to the benefit of our Parish in their own personal & individualistic ways, for which we truly thank them.

Their memories will always be in our hearts

Our love & prayers go out to their families to help them to cope with their losses.

Moving on to catching up with the specific subjects raised in the 2021 report.

1 Farthinghoe Primary School;

Repeating my report of last year because it is equally relevant this year, I quote

“Our school is also an asset that we can all be really proud of. Added to providing an excellent education and social skills for the children who attend, I also understand that they have been immensely helpful, during these difficult times, to the children of key workers from other areas. Our thanks to the staff and to all of those involved in the running of the school for creating this superb reputation and for ensuring that it is maintained.

However, there are a couple important additions.

After eight years of her sterling input we have sadly lost Wendy Whitehouse as Head of the school.

Wendy has contributed greatly to the development and reputation of the school, along with enhancing its relationship with all other aspects of the Parish.

We wish Wendy all the best in her future with Hornton Primary School and are sure that they will already be feeling the benefits.

Wendy was a great help to us in the fight for our A422 bypass and she will be reminded of us every day as she crosses the self-same A422, albeit it in a more peaceful situation, on her daily commute to Hornton.

Simultaneously we must congratulate Sharon Turner on her promotion to being the Head of the school and also wish her well for the future.

Sharon has already invested a considerable five years of her life and skills into the development of our school having worked closely with Wendy in that period.

Included below are two quotes from Sharon with which I completely concur, sentiments which are a very good indicator that the school remains in good safe hands with a continued bright future.

“I am in the fortunate position to be able to say that I have taught every child in the school and I know them and their families very well”

“Our whole school community live by our school ethos”

Bypass;

During the course of the year we have tried our best to keep everyone updated concerning the progress of the bypass although meaningful information has sometimes been hard to come by.

We hope that communication will begin to improve soon.

A separate report has been prepared by John Grant concerning the bypass along with added details concerning possible interim measures which might be considered to ease our situation whilst we await a bypass.

We have always been aware that once HS2 work begins in earnest at Greatworth, regular traffic will migrate from the Welsh Lane to the A422 thus increasing our woes. NCC Highways have always aware of this threat but have never deemed it important enough to have meaningful dialogue with HS2.

Despite a promise from the HS2 Minister that the A422 in Farthinghoe would not be used for HS2 Construction traffic it became apparent at the turn of the year that a very significant and growing number of 20 tonne tipper trucks were breaking this promise. Fortunately, we were able to enlist early intervention by the Minister to rectify this situation.

It is clear from the above that HS2 is not in complete control of its contractors and thus we must all remain vigilant. If you become aware of any unusual traffic patterns developing locally then please let me know.

At risk of being accused of continually repeating myself we really do need to improve the ability of the Parish Council to communicate quickly and easily with every household. It would be good to have at least one member of every household registered on the Parish Council email database.

School Crossing;

The crossing revision is now complete and we are pleased with the outcome which brings greater safety with reduced inconvenience to the traffic.

Queen Street Rat Run;

Mentioned in John's separate report.

We are also taking a closer look at the revised Northants Police Community Speed Watch scheme which might benefit Queen Street and Cockley Road.

Read more about this in the May Issue of the Chronicle.

New Bus Shelters

Now fully operational and have received a good reception.

The extra notice boards specified with each are also receiving good comment.

Drains;

Not a good story as Highways seem to be unable to come up with a lasting solution and we are waiting in hope.

Manhole covers on the A422 at the junction of Chapel Lane are again starting to rattle despite promises made by Thames Water and overseen by KierWsp. The repairs have only lasted 8 months this time.

Could it be that the A422 road is not fit for the traffic that travels on it.

I wonder!!

The road surface covering the new drainpipe installed between London Barn and the Limes Farm entrance has broken up after 8 months with the repairers suggesting that this will need doing again and again at the same frequency.

In addition to drains we have a dangerous footpath adjacent to the Main Road which has been on "fixmystreet" since November 2020 and despite a multitude of follow ups it remains untouched with no indication of when it might be rectified.

Fortunately after much pestering the footpath on the Cockley Road adjacent to the school fence has finally been repaired

It would also appear that the problems causing flooding on the "S" bend on the airfield road have finally been addressed

Farthinghoe Village Hall;

This will be covered by a separate report.

We thank everyone involved with the running of the Hall and its events for another successful year.

A great asset to the village

Farthinghoe Chronicle;

During the year we have had a change of Editor and we thank Ollie for his tremendous efforts in keeping us all informed during his period as Editor especially as a lengthy part of this time was in very trying times.

Welcome to Nick Hunt who has kindly volunteered to take on the responsibility and we look forward to working with Nick.

A big thank you also to Rosemary and Vivienne for ensuring that it comes through our door reliably through hell and high water. Latterly also some thanks to Nick, Anna, Max and Monty.

The Dashwood playpark:

A more detailed report is also available produced by John.

Thanks again to Jon for reliably keeping the park looking spick and span along with other areas of green throughout the village. It is truly appreciated.

I add a couple of points

We will need to find additional finance soon to ensure that the equipment can meet the required safety standards

No Dogs Allowed really does mean NO DOGS ALLOWED (unless of course they are Assistance dogs)

Playpark equipment is expensive to keep maintained and the manufacturer states that 12 is maximum user age

NO ADULTS PLEASE

Playing on the roof of the structures is particularly dangerous for children or adults and I am amazed that adults, whoever you are, have been seen on top of these structures

Parish Council

A separate financial report has been prepared for this meeting by our clerk Dave Weston.

We are indebted to Dave for his tremendous efforts throughout the year to keep things moving.

Recently we, unfortunately; received the resignation of Pippa Clayton from the Council.

This will leave us one Councillor short and during the latter part of the month we will begin the process to find a new Councillor

It will be advertised on the notice boards and in the Farthinghoe Chronicle, as well as being circulated on the Parish Council database.

Anyone who is interested and would like to know more should contact Dave Weston

In the report last year mention was made of "Things to look out for"

Solar Farm Greatworth/Farthinghoe Borders

The Solar Farm Planning Application did appear but was cynically withdrawn a couple of days before the Planning Officer was due to announce his recommendations in December 2021

However, it was re-presented at the end of February in a revised format as a new Planning Application, the same power output as before but with very little change.

For full details you can look at West Northants Council Planning Application Number WNS/2022/0557/EIA where you will find many objections already submitted.

If we want to retain this beautiful food producing valley with all its inclusive social benefits then we all have to support it by having our own individual say on the Planning Portal.

If anyone needs help on how the portal works then I am pleased to assist.

On the new application all planning costs have to be met by us, West Northants Tax payers according to Planning Law-A legal injustice if I can use the oxymoron

The 700 homes development west of Brackley is still held in abeyance, but we have been assured that it does not fall within the Council's local plan.

Wishing everyone well and please continue to take care.

Yours Faithfully

Mick Morris

Chairman

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Report of Farthinghoe Village Hall - 1st May 2021 to 15th April 2022.

The work on enhancing the hall has continued, which includes :-

- A major Kitchen upgrade
- Floor repair – including removing the ‘bumps’

In hand and to be completed very soon

- Kitchen floor
- Committee room floor
- Floors of both toilets
- Hot water system installation

Regular hirers now use the hall for approx. 60 hours a month (term time), and these hires come close to covering our overheads. Since July the hall has been used by villagers (72 hours) and by people outside the village (113 hours) – not including the table tennis session on Mondays.

We had a great Village Show in September and raised £840 after costs. The profits were split between Dogs for Good and Macmillan.

Our main costs are the electricity and for cleaning and like everyone, our electricity bill will increase, but we have a new contract which will maintain the rates for the next two years. We look at hire costs each year and we will be reviewing them after the AGM.

The 200 club continues to contribute to the Village Hall Funds, but we would to have new members, or lapsed members back. The 200 club year runs from 1st July so we will be back pestering soon.

We currently have £29,500 in the bank, not including deposits which are held in a separate account. Out of that balance, we will need to play for the fitting of the floor and the other plumbing work.

Dave and Wendy Hancock have very sadly resigned from the committee due to Dave’s health and we thank them both so much for all their time, work and enthusiasm over the past years.

Our AGM will be held in July and the current committee is required to resign and stand for re-election at that meeting. At that meeting a new chair will also be elected.

We are reduced in our numbers on the committee and we love for new people to come and join us. The hall is a fantastic asset to the village and new people and new ideas will help us move even further forward.

If you want more information as to what is involved, please email treasurer@farthinghoevillagehall.org or bookings@farthinghoevillagehall.org

Finally we thank everyone who has been involved with the running of the hall in the last year, those seen and those unseen. Without you the hall simply couldn’t exist.

The Village Hall Committee

Appendix 4

Farthinghoe Primary School Head Teacher Report for the Parish Council April 2022

*Farthinghoe School where all children are valued and given the opportunity to shine
Be kind, Be resilient, Be brave, Be you!*

Farthinghoe School has gone through a few changes since your last meeting.

Wendy Whitehouse moved on in January 2022 and is now the Headteacher at the Hornton Primary School near Banbury; she had ably lead the school for many years, but was ready for her next challenge. Families and staff, at a Christmas Celebration in the Church, celebrated Wendy's time at Farthinghoe at the end of the autumn term.

I was fortunate enough to have worked with Wendy as her Deputy since 2016 and when she announced her promotion within our Academy, I was invited to 'step up' as the Head of School in Wendy's place. I continue in my role as Lead teacher for EYFS and Key Stage 1 but also have time out of class, weekly, to lead and support the staff and children at our wonderful school.

In the same way as I continue to teach, Wendy also taught in Years 3 and 4, so I was delighted to welcome Mrs Alex Fisher to our school in January 2022. Alex teaches in Years 3 and 4 in the mornings and Mr Steve Elson continues to teach across Key Stage 2 in the mornings and afternoons. I am lucky to have such a strong and committed team of both teachers, teaching assistants and office staff.

We are currently awaiting an OFSTED visit and so much of our focus of attention is on making sure we do as well as we can when this happens. We currently have an 'Outstanding' judgement but this was awarded in 2015 and the criteria for this grading has changed greatly since then. We await our visit with excitement and interest.

As many of you know, we are part of The Warriner Academy Trust, which we joined in 2018. During 2020, leaders from the Academy looked at how we could enhance our academic offer and improve on our curriculum. Since September 2021, all MAT schools started using the same curriculum which has been designed to offer diversity, equality and challenge for all our children. This is very much a work in progress, with regular meetings being held between subject leaders and staff to ascertain relevancy and appropriateness of subject content and information. We are very much enjoying the variance of ideas and subjects this new curriculum is offering us.

In January 2022, the staff and children were asked to consider what they felt our values should be and their relevance to our school. The words put forward were then used to create our new School Values and have since informed our Behaviour Policy, Vision and Ethos. The children know and understand the values, and in April, were part of a parent presentation in which they spoke, drew and presented our values and explained why these values had been chosen and what they meant to them and the other children across the school. To find out more, please look at our school website, where we have created a page of the children's ideas around these values.

The school has always been proactive when it comes to fundraising but in March 2022, the children, staff and parents excelled themselves by coming together with the village to support the Ukrainian people and raise money for the Red Cross to support refugees with food, clothes, water and medicines. The Year 6 at the school, led by a young woman from Farthinghoe, Daisy Booker, set up a number of fundraising events and a Wheelathon, which were well received by all. Emails were sent out to village members and parents and many came into the school over the course of the day to

celebrate and donate to such a worthwhile cause. As I write, the money is still being counted but as at today (23rd March 2022) we have raised in excess of £1,000, which is amazing and a fantastic achievement. I am so proud of the Year 6 pupils and the whole school for putting so much time and energy into such an important cause and showing how empathetic they can be. A true showing of our values and how we, as a school community, live by them every day.

In a week's time, we will be breaking up for Easter. We will be celebrating with an Easter Bonnet parade, Easter egg hunt, a cake sale and uniform swap. All planned for and led by our lovely School Ties Committee.

We are also presently looking at how we will be celebrating the Queens Platinum Jubilee and investigating ways in which we can be involved with the village and our local community.

I love being the Head of School at Farthinghoe Primary School and I look forward to finding ways for us to become more involved with the village and our local community. Farthinghoe Primary School is lucky to be part of such a supportive village.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sharon Turner
Head of School

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Appendix 5

FARTHINGHOE PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL PARISH MEETING Financial report for year ending 31st March 2022.

In the financial year to 31st March 2022, the Parish Council continued to provide for Precept funds, Playpark funds and Defibrillator funds separately within the accounting process to ensure that the funds raised so diligently by parishioners can be clearly accounted for. The Financial Report therefore reflects this accounting process.

Precept funds

Opening balance at 1st April 2021: £11,320.19 (this includes £1,500.00 for elections)

The precept for the year to 31st March 2022 was £12,240.00.

Income received in the year:		Expenditure in the year (incl. VAT):	
VAT refunds	£2643.39	Street lighting	£850.44
Interest/Compensation	£0.90	Maintenance Grass/Dog Waste etc.	£1,244.92
Grants	£10,000	Subscriptions	£459.04
Precept	£12,240	Chronicle	£763.70
		Clerks Salary (Inc. Tax)	£3,046.81
		Clerks Expenses	£300.00
		Insurance	£685.72
		Audit	£185.00
		Website	£149.84
		Training	£38.00
		Community Donation	£835.00
		Bus Shelter Project	£15,316.08
		WNC Election Fees	£168.00
		Bank Fees	£18.00
		Equipment Purchases	£158.75
Total Income Received	£24,884.29	Total expenditure	(£24,219.30)

Opening Balance	£11,320.19
Income received	£24,884.29
Expenditure	(£24,219.30)
Closing Balance at 31 st March 2021:	£11,985.18 (£1500 of balance is reserved for future Election Costs)

Item	2022 costs (excl VAT)	2021 costs (excl VAT)	% increase (where applicable)
Street lighting			
- Electricity	£807.92	£1098.09	-26%
- Maintenance	£0.00	£163.20	-100%

Administration			
- Insurance	£685.92	£666.13	3%
- Internal audit fee	£185.00	£180.00	3%
- External audit fee	£0.00	£0.00	0%
- NCALC subscription	£268.06	£269.07	-21%
- Chronicle printing	£763.70	£931.60	
- Election fee	£140.00	£0.00	
- Clerk's salary	£2438.01	£2438.53	0%
- Clerk's expenses	£300.00	£300.00	0%
- Clerk training	£38.00	£253.00	-84%
- Website domain name renewal	£60.47	£48.96	19%
- Website hosting and support service	£59.40	£59.40	0%
- IT equipment	£0.00	£0.00	
- Land registry	£0.00	£0.00	
Mowing	£885.00	£890.00	-1%
General maintenance			
- Dog waste disposal	£171.60	£171.60	0%
- Playpark safety inspection	£95.00	£90.00	5%
- Playpark Bark/Signs	£0.00	£609.29	
Council for Protection of Rural England subs	£36.00	£36.00	0%
ACRE Subs	£35.00	£35.00	0%

Explanation of increases/decreases

The significant increase in both income and expenditure is due to the purchase of 2 replacement bus shelters. The cost of the 2 shelters including installation was £15316.08. with grants received and reclaiming VAT, the councils contribution was £2823.40.

We have not had to make any repairs to any streetlights this financial year. The savings in electricity expenditure are down to our first full year of a new supplier. We are however budgeting for a substantial increase in 2022/23.

NCALC is the Northamptonshire County Association of Local Councils. The subscription fee pays for membership of NCALC and of NALC, the National Association of Local Councils. The subscription is based on the number of electorates of 342. The fees remained roughly the same.

The internal audit is conducted by NCALC, the increase is inflationary.

The reduction in printing for the Chronicle is due to 2 bills extra bills bring paid in 2020/21 carried over from the previous year and other papers printed for the bypass consultation. We have however increased the number of pages in recent and future publications to enable larger font to be used.

Clerks Salary has remained neutral due to an elongated process for deciding a pay increase for 2021/22. This was finally agreed nationally at the end of the financial year.

Clerk expenses remained neutral. There was no increase in basic expenses in 2021/2022.

The training budget decrease reflects the fact only one additional course was attended in 2021/22.

The council donated to the Brackley Community Hospital to assist with refurbishment after their expansion and additionally donated to Brackley Heartstart for defibrillator training and purchased a 'Tommy' silhouette statue to mark Armistice Day.

The Precept for the forthcoming year 2022/23 is £12500. This represents a 2% increase.

The playpark inspection has increased slightly above inflation.

A breakdown of the accounts is uploaded monthly to the website so that at any time, parishioners will be able to see the current funding status for the parish. This is contained within the signed minutes and financial report.

Playpark funds

Opening balance at 1 st April 2021: £1,697.47			
Income received in the year: None		Expenditure in the year: None	
Total: £0.00		Total: (£0.00)	

Closing Balance at 31st March 2022 **£1,697.47**

Defibrillator funds

Opening balance at 1 st April 2021: £436.48			
Income received in the year: None		Expenditure in the year: None	
TOTAL £0.00		TOTAL (£0.00)	

Closing Balance at 31st March 2022 **£436.48**

TOTAL CLOSING BALANCE AT 31ST MARCH 2021:

Precept	£10,485.18
Precept reserves (for elections)	£1500.00
Playpark	£1697.47
Defibrillator	£436.48
TOTAL	£14,119.13

Dave Weston – Parish Clerk
18 April 2022

Farthinghoe Parish Council - Accounts to 31st March 2022					
			To 31.3.22		To 31.3.21
Receipts					
Parish Council					
	Precept		£12,240.00		£12,000.00
	Transfer from playpark fund		£0.00		£0.00
	Chronicle advertising		£0.00		£0.00
	VAT returns		£2,643.39		£105.27
	Bank interest/Compensation		£0.90		£4.61
	Grants		£10,000.00		
			£24,884.29		£12,109.88
Playpark					
	Fundraising		£0.00		£272.28
	VAT returns		£0.00		£0.00
			£0.00		£272.28
Defibrillator					
	Fundraising		£0.00		£0.00
	Donations/Grants		£0.00		£0.00
	VAT returns		£0.00		£0.00
			£0.00		£0.00
	Total Receipts		£24,884.29		£12,382.16
Payments					
Parish Council					
	Electricity		£850.44		£1,153.01
	Maintenance - grass cutting, dog waste,H&S, Sign cleaning		£1,244.92		£1,479.76
	Subscriptions-NCALC, ACRE, CPRE, Microsoft, anti virus		£459.04		£430.05
	Chronicle		£763.70		£931.60
	Clerk's salary including Income Tax		£3,046.81		£3,047.93
	Clerk's expenses		£300.00		£300.00
	Insurance		£685.72		£666.13
	Audit		£185.00		£180.00
	Website		£149.84		£135.45
	Training		£38.00		£253.00
	Community Donations		£835.00		£500.00
	Bus Shelter Project		£15,316.08		
	WNC election expenses		£168.00		
	Bank Fees		£18.00		
	Equipment Purchases		£158.75		
	Total Overheads		£24,219.30		£9,076.93
	Asset purchase - computer equipment		£0.00		£0.00
	Total Assets		£0.00		£0.00
	Total Payments		£24,219.30		£9,076.93
Playpark					
	General maintenance		£0.00		£0.00
	Health & Safety equipment		£0.00		£731.15
			£0.00		£731.15
Defibrillator					
	Asset purchase - defibrillator and casing				£0.00
			£0.00		£0.00
	Total Payments		£24,219.30		£9,808.08
	Surplus/(Deficit) for year		£664.99		£2,574.08

Accounting Balances						
	Parish Council	£11,985.18			£11,320.19	
	Playpark fund	£1,697.47			£1,697.47	
	Defibrillator fund	£436.48			£436.48	
	Annual Total	£14,119.13			£13,454.14	
Bank Balances as at 31 March 2022						
	Current Account	£6,297.11			£3,339.00	
	Business Saver Account	£5,116.04			£10,115.14	
	Unity Bank	£2,705.98				
	Total		£14,119.13		£13,454.14	
Annual Accounts 2021-2022						
		Opening balance	Receipts	Payments	Closing balance	Surplus/ (Deficit)
	Parish Council	£11,320.19	£24,884.29	£24,219.30	£11,985.18	£664.99
	Playpark funds	£1,697.47	£0.00	£0.00	£1,697.47	£0.00
	Defibrillator funds	£436.48	£0.00	£0.00	£436.48	£0.00
		£13,454.14			£14,119.13	£664.99
Annual Accounts 2020-2021						
		Opening balance	Receipts	Payments	Closing balance	Surplus/ (Deficit)
	Parish Council	£8,287.24	£12,382.16	£9,076.93	£11,320.19	£3,032.95
	Playpark funds	£2,156.34	£0.00	£731.15	£1,697.47	-£458.87
	Defibrillator funds	£436.48	£0.00	£0.00	£436.48	£0.00
		£10,880.06			£13,454.14	£2,574.08

DRAFT

Update from Rebecca Breese

I apologise that I am not able to attend this evening. This is unexpected but cannot be avoided.

Herewith an update from me. Please contact me if you have any questions.

- Childrens services have been recognised as being on an improvement journey and is being recognised as such by OFSTED
- A cross party Anti-Poverty Strategy has been adopted that was developed with partner organisations and charities with a view to improving the life chances of individuals and families in the area
- Health and Social Care integration is being developed and will enable local neighbourhood areas to identify priorities and influence spending.
- Brackley Library has seen considerable investment and improvement
- There has been a crackdown on fly tipping offences and successful prosecutions
- Northampton has applied for City Status and in addition has been granted considerable funds from central government to improve the town centre to create a county town we can be proud to visit
- The Highways Contract will be awarded in the next few weeks based on a 50 /50 ratio of quality versus price. In addition, a further £3.7 million has been allocated by cabinet to fund pot hole and other highways repairs in the next financial year
- The Council has delivered a balanced budget and will report a slight underspend on this concluding financial year. We have managed to prepare a balanced budget for the next financial year.
- Work continues to join up local services across the West Northants area, to drive visible improvement and be more cost effective
- As of the 19th April there are 189 households who have offered refuge to 385 individuals in West Northamptonshire who will receive support from the council • The WNC website has detailed advice for potential hosts of Ukrainian families
- West Northamptonshire is the site of two hotels housing Afghan families who are receiving support from council officers and two hotels accommodating single asylum seeking men who are being supported by the home office.

Planning Update

Rebecca Breese Portfolio Holder for Planning

It has been a challenging year bringing together the four previous Local Planning Authorities into a new single planning unit – albeit with their own Local Plans to guide local policies. Each of the four previous planning authorities had their own processes and IT, ways of conducting planning committees, managing the call -in of applications, managing the public interface in terms of planning applications, and approach to enforcement.

In addition – policy work is ongoing with 2 adopted Part 2 Local Plans (Daventry and South) and one in its final stages (Northampton Borough) and the work required to deliver the updated West Northamptonshire Strategic Plan ramping up. Also ongoing work on Conservation Areas and other Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD's).

Highlights:

- Northampton Local Plan Part 2 has been through Examination and subject to some modifications, should soon be adopted by the Council
- The first public consultation response for the revision of the West Northamptonshire Strategic Plan brought in excess of 1600 responses, an exceptional number, and with useful observations to guide the next phase
- There is now a single Enforcement Policy and team operating across the West with a single online access point. This has streamlined processes and responses and includes a useful Q & A page to inform the public
- The whole Planning Department is undergoing a programme of transformation to unify the teams in terms of IT, culture, process and location in order to increase resilience, capacity and productivity
- After a period of hiatus, redacted objections are again being published on the planning portal
- Consistently high numbers of planning applications reflect ongoing resilience and confidence in the local economy

Over the year we have learnt how important it is to develop effective communication with our Parish Councils and work is ongoing to develop and perfect how we do this, via the monthly Parish email newsletter, Parish Forums and direct communication.

Farthinghoe Bypass Update

The plans for the bypass have hit a stoppage for now. Any major investment requiring government funding needs to satisfy a Business Case Analysis that shows the investment will be MORE than cost effective. At this point there are no identifiable grant pots that would support the c£26m cost. As a result officers have said that they do not advise spending the £3-4 million required to get a proposal *shovel ready* for an activity that has a limited shelf life is good use of council (public) money. This money would be spent on all the technical work required as well as land assembly (public inquiries etc before compulsory purchase of land) and would only be valid for a limited time before needing to be revised again.

Officers have worked up an interim solution which would help the business case, but not provide a solution that I suspect residents would find satisfactory.

I have written to Andrea Leadsom on behalf of the village and other WNC Councillors requesting that she set up a meeting, preferably face to face, with Grant Shapps (Secretary of State for Transport) so that we can explain in detail that it is not just the economic impacts that need to be considered but the social, environmental and community aspects that are even more important in this case and funding must be found.

The Parish Council and I communicate regularly on this as we try and move it forward.

A few words from Cllr Jonathan Nunn, Leader of the Council

One year ago today our new Council was launched and we embarked on a fresh start for local government in West Northamptonshire – and what a year it’s been! It’s hard to believe that Vesting Day was only 12 months ago, when you reflect on the significant achievements in this short space of

time. We have made strong progress bringing together everything from the four legacy councils which has been no mean feat in itself, whilst continuing to guide our communities and support our vulnerable residents through the Covid pandemic. We have also laid foundations for the future through our ambitious Corporate Plan and shaping a number of important strategies, including our anti-poverty strategy, and a bold new approach for quality of inward investment. Other transformational plans taking shape include progressing work to join up health and social care services to help people live their best lives, and striving to make West Northants a more sustainable place to live and work, to protect and improve the local environment, economy and society for future generations. Born from the biggest restructure of local government in Northamptonshire in over 40 years, I'm pleased to say our Council now heads into its second year with a balanced budget and additional investment in services ahead. We're really proud of how everyone has risen to the challenge this year, with elected members having played a key role in the excellent progress we've made so far.

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Report of Parochial Church Council of St. Michael and All Angels Farthinghoe

The report for the year ending 31st December 2021 is again a different one from normal.

Like all of our lives, everything in the church life has been affected - our church services, our ability to meet and visit and to fundraise in a way never seen in recent times.

Due to Diocese regulations, the church was closed after Christmas 2020 but we re-opened on March 2021. For re-opening, we were under detailed guidance and regulations both from the Government and from the Church of England. Services were shortened initially, and sometimes we had to limit the number of people who were able to attend worship.

We would like to thank everyone who has attended a service during these restrictions and for adhering to the regulations. Services are all now back to normal!

We were able to have our Remembrance Sunday service as normal next to our memorial in Church and were able to have our Fete in September 2021, thank you to all who manned stalls and of course all of those who attended.

Our Christmas 2021 services went ahead as usual and it was lovely to see everyone at the church.

Our Friday coffee mornings are back and it has been a real delight to see everyone again.

In writing this in April 2022, we are very sad to report that we have lost two of our church members, Geoff Wenmouth and Cyril Jarvis and we remember them and all that they did with grateful thanks, and of course we greatly mourn their loss.

We would like to thank all the volunteers who work so hard, some visible and others less so. We thank all members of the PCC who have served in the year without whom we could not function. Thanks go to Mrs Ruth Dashwood who resigned from the PCC in April 2021 after 40 years' service!

We are very lucky to have a team of volunteers who get involved in cutting and tending the graveyard. Thanks also to those who have cleaned, tidied and polished the inside of the church especially after long closures.

We are very grateful to the work done by our church wardens, for all the work that Rosemary Jarvis does in the church and the community and for Lisa Wenmouth for playing the organ in our services. And not forgetting the congregation who continue to offer support and take part in our services.

We are looking forward to engaging with the whole village during the Jubilee celebrations.

Lisa Wenmouth
11th April 2022

Farthinghoe Church Piece Allotments
Annual report April 2022

All allotment plots bar 2 are currently rented. The remaining 2 have been vacant for several years and thus overgrown with couch grass and some blackthorn bushes. However, one of the tenants has very kindly offered to try and clear the plots to bring them back into usability.

The rental collection for September 2021 is virtually complete, however one payment remains outstanding.

The bank which is currently used to hold rental monies is HSBC and they are now levying a charge on charity accounts. The allotment trustees are therefore taking steps to move the account to a different bank with better terms.

Ruth Brittain and Henry Bankes-Jones, trustees April 2022

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South Northants Neighbourhood Teams

Annual Report March 2022

The last 12 months have continued to present challenges to police and public alike, with COVID-19 having a huge impact on our lives and how we interact with each other. Thankfully the lockdowns and restrictions seem to be behind us, hopefully for good.

There have been many positives in the past year, and we have seen an increase in the number of officers on the Neighbourhood Policing Teams (NPT). We now have a team of 11 based at Towcester Police Station, consisting of 5 Police Constables, 5 Police Community Support Officers, and 1 Police Sergeant. There is a team of 7 based at Brackley Police Station, consisting of 4 Police Constables, 2 Police Community Support Officers, and 1 Police Sergeant. This uplift in officer numbers means more time spent out and visible in the community, providing reassurance and having a greater ability to address the issues and concerns of the communities we serve.

The Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner (Stephen MOLD) funded two Beat Buses which were successfully launched in late 2021. There is one for each side of the county, and South Northants shares ours with Northampton and Daventry. These specially converted vans are designed to enable us to provide a visible and accessible point of contact for the many villages within South Northants. Whenever possible we will endeavour to have the Beat Bus out at least once a week, and we publish our location ahead of time using social media – this is still a work in progress, and we hope to be publishing this on the Force website consistently. We have also publicised the names and contact details of your local officers, and these are on prominent locations such as parish noticeboards and in village shops and have been circulated to Parish Councils and Neighbourhood Watch.

Over the last year Policing priority surveys have consistently highlighted that road safety; acquisitive crime and drugs use/supply are the most significant areas of concern for most people. As such these are the issues that you can expect the South Northants Neighbourhood Teams (NPTs) to be working on as a priority. There are a number of problem-solving techniques that we utilise to address these issues, including making early interventions in partnership with other agencies such as schools, housing associations and the local authority (the new unitary West Northamptonshire council). A key role that we undertake is safeguarding of vulnerable people in the community, as well as dealing with anti-social behaviour. We also work with our neighbouring forces; Thames Valley and Warwickshire Police; to share information and undertake days of action to detect, disrupt and deter criminality.

With the national lockdowns having ended, and people returning to work, we expected to see a rise in acquisitive crime (theft, burglaries etc.) – we have thankfully not seen a significant rise. Our road network makes South Northants vulnerable to criminals that travel into our area from elsewhere. Whilst some of these will be opportunistic, there have been cases where these criminals have made reconnaissance visits to locations that they later target. Crime levels are consistently low in South Northamptonshire, and it remains one of the safest areas to live in the country. We work hard to keep it this way, but the police are not able to do this alone – we can only ever be part of the solution. If you notice something that seems unusual, it is far better to tell us and it turns out to be nothing, than to keep it to yourself and we miss an opportunity to disrupt criminals. We need you to tell us what is happening, which is why we want to build strong relationships with the Parish Liaison Representatives for each village.

Neighbourhood Officers will, where they can, monitor local social media sites and often note comments regarding a lack of Police in an area or that a crime or anti-social behaviour would have been prevented if there were more Police about. We have also noted comments such as ‘there’s no Police so why bother reporting it’. All communities have a Neighbourhood Policing Team. Some teams are bigger than others due to area crime trends and demographics but all are available to tackle issues identified as an area of concern by the community. Many issues go unreported and as such Police are not aware. You have an opportunity to shape Policing activity by reporting the issues that affect you; including those daily ongoing situations that are considered as anti-social behaviour. If you are not telling Police that there is a problem in your part of the community then our resources are likely to be focused elsewhere where an issue has been identified and reported.

Your Neighbourhood Teams are based within the Community at Brackley and Towcester Police Stations and are often the first port of call for an emergency as the closest Police resource. This will always take priority especially where there is a risk to life. The teams also have a wealth of other responsibilities in respect of safeguarding vulnerable people, working with educational establishments, crime investigation and intelligence gathering. The team are dedicated problem solvers and will seek to address long-term issues which range from low level neighbour disputes, persistent anti-social behaviour to larger volume crimes.

Crime and anti-social behaviour will always happen due to constantly changing social and economic factors but we can be better prepared to fight it as a cohesive community. Effective community cohesion may be achieved via; public consultation (Independent Advisory Groups, Policing Priority surveys etc.), the identification of capable guardians and community champions (Emergency Services, Neighbourhood Watch, Street Watch, clubs and organisations) and partnership working with a problem solving approach. You can join and/or support the people that work within your community and help us make the area less attractive to criminals.

We use social media (Twitter: **@SthNorthantsNPT** and Facebook: '**Daventry and South Northants Neighbourhood Policing Team**') and Neighbourhood Alert in order to inform you about crime and incidents relevant to your area and some of the work that the team undertake. There are a lot of aspects of our work that we cannot report back on due to the vulnerabilities of the persons involved, and their right to privacy but this does not mean that we are not doing anything.

We currently have two volunteers that work with the Neighbourhood Teams and the Rural Crime Team. These volunteers undertake visits to farms and other isolated premises within the area with a view to offering crime prevention advice and a means to improve communication regarding criminal behaviour. The Rural Crime Team work on a wide range of issues ranging from interference with badger setts to thefts of caravans and trailers. You can follow the work of our Rural Crime Team via Twitter: **@hutch472 & @NorPolRural**

Neighbourhood Alert is an email messaging system that all Schools, Parish Councils, Neighbourhood Watch and community members can sign up to. In registering your email address you will receive up to-date information regarding crimes, policing activity and crime prevention advice. You can sign up to the Neighbourhood Alert Messaging System at: www.northamptonshireneighbourhoodalert.co.uk

Towcester and Brackley currently have Street Watch schemes. Street Watch is the equivalent of a mobile Neighbourhood Watch. It can cover the entire Community and members help tackle issues such as; vandalism, anti-social behaviour, drug abuse and dog fouling. If you have a spare couple of hours per month and are interested in helping your community and joining your local Street Watch scheme please contact a member of the Neighbourhood Policing team.

If you wish to have up-to-date crime statistics for your area then we recommend that you visit: <https://www.police.uk/>

Should you wish to discuss a particular issue that is of concern to you or meet a member of your Neighbourhood Policing Team then please contact either team via: NT-SouthNorthantsBrackley@pnn.police.uk or NT-SouthNorthantsTowcester@pnn.police.uk

PLEASE DO NOT REPORT CRIMES VIA THESE EMAIL ADDRESSES

Reporting an issue or crime to the Police can be made in a number of ways. This includes ringing 101 or online. Northants Police's new website offers a reporting system for

- A road traffic incident
- Missing person – no immediate harm
- Terrorist activity
- Fingerprints appointments – this could be asked for when travelling abroad
- Hate Crime/ Incident

So that your report can be managed as quickly as possible, it's important to consider the following information and have it ready to provide:

- the date and time the crime happened
- the location, such as address or road name along with the town or village
- a description of any people involved
- the details of any witnesses or suspects
- if you think there's any other evidence such as forensic evidence or mobile phone footage
- if there is clear CCTV footage of the offence being committed

The above reporting tool can be reached via:

<https://www.northants.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime/>

USEFUL LINKS

Northamptonshire Police Website: <http://www.northants.police.uk/>

Check if a vehicle is taxed or untaxed and report if necessary: <https://www.gov.uk/check-vehicle-tax>

Useful link for all matters related to driving: <http://think.direct.gov.uk/>

This link will provide you with useful information to help protect yourself from scams:

<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/scams/check-if-something-might-be-a-scam/>

Trading Standards – Advice and help for consumers: [West Northants Trading Standards](#)

Contact Crime Stoppers anonymously about crime:

<https://crimestoppers-uk.org/>

Fearless - a site where young people can access non-judgmental information and advice about crime:

<https://www.fearless.org/>

Northamptonshire Neighbourhood Watch:

www.ourwatch.org.uk

Report to South Northants Council - Fly tipping, dog fouling, Litter, noise pollution and other issues:

[West Northants Council](#)

Advice on boundary disputes with neighbours: <https://www.ricsfirms.com/residential/legal-issues/boundaries/rics-consumer-guide-boundarydisputes/>

Street Doctor – reporting Highways issues:

<http://www3.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/northamptonshire-highways/roads-andstreets/Pages/report-highway-problem.aspx>

Thank you from South Northants Neighbourhood Policing Teams

Dashwood Playpark

Our modernised Village Playpark has now been a local attraction since end September 2015 and the setting and facilities are being enjoyed by parents and children alike.

We are required to have a Health and Safety Inspection annually and our last report recommended a number of issues that need to be undertaken to ensure continued safety for children. The first and most expensive requirement was to replenish the safety bark underneath the swings and climbing frames. Your Parish Council has purchased and distributed new bark, at a cost of in excess of £705.00. Currently, the Playpark fund is sitting at £1647.47 and these monies are ring fenced for activities of this nature. However, to fully meet the report requirements will need us to approach the supplier of the equipment, and secure a quotation to undertake this work. It may be necessary to have a fund raising exercise in the Village to support this work. We will report further on the outcome of these discussions.

Inconsiderate parking has been raised as a problem for residents who live near the playpark and considered highly dangerous for children crossing Clarks Lane. Your Parish Council has raised the issue of Parking Restrictions with West Northants Council, who are studying possible options and we have requested consideration should be given to double yellow lines to deter parking on the corner of Queens Street/Clarks Lane. This suggestion appears to be under consideration, as we have been advised that before the Council can move to the next stage of advertising the proposals in the Public Domain that Parish Council feedback on the proposals for double yellow lines is required. Closing date for our comments was required by 8th April, 2022. Your Parish Council has responded and provided support for the parking restrictions proposed, using double yellow lines which can then be policed and fines issued if vehicles are parked on double yellow lines.

Any other solutions, we believe, are included in the Interim proposals which we have declined to engage with West Northants Council until they can assure us they will seek a weight restriction on the A422 through Farthinghoe as a realistic interim solution to our Bypass.

A further issue is the inclusion of the family dog that is happy to join with the children in the Playpark. Dogs are not permitted in the Playpark and we would therefore request that dogs are kept out of the Playpark, for the safety of children.

We would ask Adults to respect the Playpark equipment. We appreciate that Adults enjoy the opportunity to revisit their childhood, but the swings and climbing frames are not built to withstand adult attention. Please do not use the equipment.

Farthinghoe Parish Council

Farthinghoe Bypass Update

As advised in March 2022 edition of the Farthinghoe Chronicle, we have been notified that West Northants Council have "paused" work on the development of the Farthinghoe Bypass until Government funding (that they would have a good chance of securing) becomes available.

At the same time we were also advised that WNC intended to focus their future efforts on developing a robust solution (Interim solution) to alleviate the issues on the A422. This was to include Traffic Lights on Main Street (A422), a one way system on Queens Street and one way traffic up Chapel Lane & Baker Street.

We felt that these Interim proposals would not benefit the Village as we were extremely sceptical about the effectiveness of traffic lights and requested WNC to reassure us that this would not cause traffic tailbacks and increase noise and pollution. We were informed this information was not available.

We requested WNC to investigate the possibility of an HGV weight restriction on the A422, which would avoid the financial expenditure and physical resource associated with the Interim solution. WNC responded that this would only be possible if the A422 and the B4525 were re-categorised. A meeting was then scheduled for the 28th February, 2022, to discuss the proposed Interim solutions. Subsequently, a caveat was added that we should not raise the subject of the HGV weight restriction during the meeting on 28th February, 2022.

We strongly feel that an HGV weight restriction is the only viable and acceptable alternative to a Bypass so we disengaged from any further meetings or discussions until we received a detailed explanation of the reason why an HGV weight restriction could not be imposed on the A422 through Farthinghoe.

We have also elevated this situation to our MP, Dame Andrea Leadsom and a meeting is now scheduled with WNC officers for 9th May, 2022, and Dame Andrea Leadsom will chair the meeting.

We will keep you notified of the outcome of this meeting and we refuse to lower our long term objective of securing a Bypass for Farthinghoe.

Farthinghoe Parish Council