

FARTHINGHOE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting
held on Wednesday, 19 April 2023 at 7.30pm



Councillors present: Cllr Mick Morris (Chair) (MM)
Cllr John Grant (JG)
Cllr Henry Bankes-Jones (HBJ)
Cllr Trevor Jarvis (TJ)
Cllr Barry Willett (BW)
Cllr Wendy Hancock (WH)
Mr Dave Weston (Clerk)
WNC Cllrs Rebecca Breese (RB), Rosie Herring (RH),
10 attendees from the public (MOP)

Apologies: Mr James Harrison (JH), Sid and Jane Atkins, Sharon Turner (School), Lisa Wenmouth

Item	
1	<p>Chairman's Welcome</p> <p>A warm welcome was extended to all present. Cllr Morris stated that he would ask for questions after each item was reached in the Agenda. Cllr Morris asked for more people from the village to register on the database to receive emails and to be used in cases of emergency. Cllr Morris expressed his disappointment at the low turnout for this years meeting. (Appendix 1)</p>
2	<p>To receive apologies for absence.</p> <p>Cllr James Harrison, Sid and Jane Atkins, Sharon Turner (School), Lisa Wenmouth Had all tendered their apologies to the clerk.</p>
3	<p>To receive and approve for signature the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 20 April 2022.</p> <p>The minutes were proposed by Rebecca Breese 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 20 April 2022.</p> <p>There were no matters arising.</p>
5	<p>To receive the Chairman's Report for the year 2022-2023.</p> <p>Cllr Morris presented his report (Appendix 2).</p> <p>There were no comments on the report.</p> <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.</p> <p>5.1 Village Hall Report.</p> <p>There were no comments; the full report is shown in Appendix 3</p>

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.

MOP: the report mentions concerns over pollution, road conditions and bus services. This is not being applied to us.

RB: raise the issue of the ward review and the preference of her and RH was a larger ward with 2 councillors servicing it. She asked for those present to support her.

MM: we are still waiting to hear from Kier about painting the yellow lines adjacent to the playpark. RB agreed to chase.

RH: There is an open day at Brackley Hospital on 13 May

RB: A large development planning application around J11 M40 is not supported by Cherwell Council and an appeal against the refusal has been withdrawn.

MM: we are concerned over the apparent lack of interaction between WNC and Cherwell over such planning matters. There are grave concerns over a proposed anaerobic digester and volatile substances being transported through this village.

RB: I have some funds available from the Covid recovery programme. Can I have suggestions please for the village?

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.

HBJ: The allotments are listed as an Asset of community Value and are protected as such for 5 years.

The full report is shown in Appendix 8

5.9 Northamptonshire Police Brackley Neighbourhood Team Report.

There were no comments; the full report is shown in Appendix 9.

5.10 Playpark Report.

JG: The jubilee tree has been damaged and unfortunately at this time won't be replaced.

MOP: Should the Parish Council budget for this?

	<p>BW: We do budget for the playpark, for example we could spend £1500 on bark to bring it up to and above standard but can't afford it.</p> <p>The full report is shown in Appendix 10</p> <p>5.11 Bypass Report</p> <p>There was no separate Bypass Report with the update on the matter being addressed in the Chairs Report.</p>
6	There were no general questions from the residents this year.
7	<p>Any other business.</p> <p>MM asked for advice from the village about what to do with the village sign which is now rusty and unreadable.</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

The meeting closed at 2038hrs.

Chairman's Verbal Presentation

Hopefully you will have had the opportunity to read my detailed written report which has already been posted on the Parish Council website.

Since my report was posted we have also received quite detailed reports from West Northants Council and from Farthinghoe School for which we thank them.

I will now present my report in less detail and after completing this I am happy to receive questions which I will endeavour to answer now or may reply with more detail in the next few days

Following on from this there are 10 further reports to be considered (the bypass report has already been included as an integral part the Chairman's report) and we will take questions and thoughts on these in turn separately and in turn.

Cllr Rebecca Breese has requested to take any questions concerning the recently submitted WNC report.

Firstly I would like to give my personal thanks to all of the Parish Councillors and to our Clerk for their consider efforts throughout the year and especially a welcome to Wendy who is attending her first APM having joined the Council in June.

Traffic Matters and the Bypass in Farthinghoe is a very long term subject and could be described as a long and winding road which has not yet been straightened.

Not Yet !!

Most of the developments on this subject have been fully detailed throughout the year be it in the Chronicle, the PC database or in the Parish Council Meeting minutes.

Whilst mentioning the PC database we only have 65 residents registered and we need more to ensure that we can reach as many residents as possible as quickly as we can, but at 3 pm on Sunday you will not be getting a noisy text from Dave Weston

I will try to keep it brief

We will be getting news during May from WNC Highways concerning the latest position on the preparation of the revised business case for the Bypass.

We have also submitted a request to the Chief Executive of WNC for an interim Weight Limit to be introduced on the A422 as an interim measure prior to the building of a Bypass and we await early details of the procedures and timings for this.

Moving on to bus shelters

Barry and Dave played a big part in the installation of the bus shelters which are now part of the village scene and you have doubtless seen the outcome of their current efforts, this being the map in the shelter adjacent to the Church.

The Parish Council have also invested in the considerable reprofiling of the hedge at the allotment to give the bus driver a clearer view of waiting passengers and vice versa

Thanks to the Village Hall Committee and to the Events Committee for their fine efforts and to Lynne, Joan and Marjorie who would all like to see more attending the Books and Bakes at the Village Hall especially as the weather is beginning to improve

The Village Hall Committee urgently need more residents to consider joining them to help push forward their plans

Thank you to Sharon for your detailed school report, my you have all been working hard.

A very big thank you to Nick, Rosemary, Vivienne and James for ensuring that we get our monthly village news.

To that I must add Tex Prep who have produced the Chronicle when things were tough for them.

Thank you to John for your Playpark report which you should all read in detail because we have important decisions to make to ensure that we keep this great asset.

More important detail is available on my full report concerning the Copse Lodge Solar Farm on the borders between Farthinghoe, Greatworth and Halse.

At the end of my full report is a subject entitled IMPORTANT INFORMATION

I implore you to read it and to consider making your own input

It is important to our village



Farthinghoe and Steane Parish Council

19/04/2023

Chairman's Report for the 2022/2023 year

At this time last year life had just reverted to more normal times in Farthinghoe, as in many places, following the seemingly endless affects of Covid. Unfortunately the tenuous situation in Ukraine was already seen to be developing very quickly.

Few of us were anticipating the affect it would continue to have on the world more than a year later, both in human terms and in financial terms.

As an example, which is close to hand, electricity for the streetlighting is the Parish's largest continuous expense and this cost has already increased 3.2 times since the same period in 2022 with our annual streetlighting electricity now well in excess of £3000.

We have all seen similar affects on our own domestic energy costs along with the cost of items which we regularly buy in the shops.

Let's hope that good sense will soon prevail, allowing the people of Ukraine, with Global help. to rebuild their country and their lives.

Their courage and resilience is an incredible example to us all.

This year has again been tinged with sadness in Farthinghoe with the loss of Dave Hancock, Peter Tucker and Beryl Allen.

Dave, Peter and Beryl have all been long term residents in our Parish and their memories will always live on in our hearts.

Our love and prayers go out to their friends and families to help them to cope with their sad losses.

Continuing on with subjects mentioned in the 2022 report

1 Farthinghoe and Steane Parish Council

It is important to begin this report with an expression of thanks to Dave Weston for his fine efforts in the development and control of the Parish Council's accounts.

Dave's job title is Parish Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer, but as many will know he continues exceed these duties by some distance.

The Parish is really very fortunate to have him.

I would like to express my personal thanks to all of our Parish Councillors for their efforts and input during the past year. Efforts which are much appreciated.

The Parish Council had begun this financial year with a Councillor vacancy, a situation which was rectified when we were pleased to invite Wendy Hancock to join the Council at our June 2022 PCM.

2 Bypass

In 2021/2022 progress on the Farthinghoe bypass received a boost with WNC Cabinet approval, to be quickly followed by this progress being put on hold "paused" by Council Officers for reasoning which was never fully explained and with which we did not agree.

It caused considerable confusion and consternation with the Parish Council and throughout the Parish.

However, we are pleased to advise that an ill-conceived plan to introduce permanent 2-way traffic light controls at the pinch-point on the A422, along with a one-way traffic systems in Baker Street and in Chapel Lane appears to have been consigned to the history books where it clearly belongs.

To cut a long story short, after much dialogue, work has recommenced on the bypass plan and we have been promised a detailed update during May 2023. In the course of a couple years the estimate for the completion of a working bypass receded from 2024 to 2026 to 2028 and then to "turn of the decade" With this slippage and uncertainty in mind the Parish Council has pushed hard for an interim scheme to tide us over until the real McCoy can be planned and constructed,

The favoured interim scheme being an A422 Weight Restriction, a logical idea which had been brushed aside numerous times in the last 30+ years. This would virtually eliminate the through route for thousands of HGVs on the A422.

Our fortunes changed considerably when we were introduced to WNC Councillor Tony Bagot-Webb on December 9th.

On that day Tony saw, with his own eyes, the full force of the traffic problems which we experience regularly and he could not believe the mayhem on that morning.

His endeavours since that day have resulted in him asking that FPC make an official request to the Chief Executive of WNC for a Weight Restriction, a request that seemed to meet with Cabinet favour.

That request was duly complied with and recorded as item 03/23/231 in the minutes of the FPC meeting in March 2023.

We are awaiting details from WNC concerning the procedures which must be followed along with a timeline detailing when this can be made to happen.

It is this Parish Councils intent to fight on until the much needed Farthinghoe Bypass is in place, although we are sure that the adoption of an interim A422 Weight Limit is a meaningful step to bring some of the important benefits of a Bypass a little earlier.

3 Bus Shelters

The word New has now disappeared from the description of the bus shelters as they have now become an integral part of the village scene.

As many will have noticed Barry has designed and installed a map into the bus shelter adjacent to the church, a map which indicates the locations of all houses within the village.

We thank Barry for his endeavours and hope that everyone finds the map useful.

During the course of this year we had lost the Sunday and Evening 500 bus services, although the former has now been reintroduced for a period to assess its viability for continued operation.

The Government supported trial scheme of £2.00 journey fares, now extended to the end of June, seems to have boosted bus use considerably between Banbury and Brackley and we hope that this increase will continue and thus allow a complete return of the Sunday service and even be a stimulus to further thoughts about the evening services.

WNC has identified the design of our bus shelters as a public building and thus enforceable “No Smoking” signs can soon be put in place.

We would also respectfully request that users do not treat the bus shelters as rubbish disposal areas especially for cigarette butts—it is not conducive to the reputation of our village.

4 Village Hall

The Parish Council are extremely appreciative of the fine efforts put in by the Village Hall Committee and by the separate Events Committee all of which are combining to maintain the hall in such fine fettle

A separate report has been written by the Village Hall Committee and is available for all to read.

As mentioned in that report there is a pressing need for more residents to consider joining or working with that Committee to help with a variety of tasks which constantly need to be addressed.

5 Farthinghoe Primary School

No Annual report has been received

6 Farthinghoe Chronicle

A big thank you to Rosemary, Vivienne, Nick and James for ensuring that we get our monthly news and information come hell or high water

7 Farthinghoe Dashwood Playpark

John Grant has kindly prepared a separate report concerning the children's Play Park

I would like to reiterate the following from paragraph 3 in John's report

"We suspect that in the next couple of years we will need to replace the main wooden supports of the climbing frames, due to damp. This will not be a cheap option but if we wish to retain this valuable asset then we will need the support of the village in fund raising for this eventuality."

I would also like to make reference to John's final paragraph

John and James Harrison went to considerable efforts to produce and install a sign on the main gate

There are still a considerable number of instances where the message on this sign is not being adhered to.

My two extracts from John's report are very clearly related

8 Cope Lodge Solar Farm proposed on the Parish borders with Greatworth:

As mentioned last year the Solar Farm developer had presented a new Planning Application in February 2022 for around 190 acres of mostly good agricultural land, also affecting views, footpaths and wildlife.

The full cost of this representation was borne by the Council Tax payers of West Northants

The Application was rejected by West Northants Council Strategic Planning Committee in October 2022.

In February 2023 the developer appealed against this WNC decision and the Planning Inspectorate will now decide upon this Appeal in June 2023

Full details of this subject can be viewed on the West Northants Council Planning Portal under Planning Application reference WNS/2022/0557/EIA

9 Link to the Spring Message from Dame Andrea Leadsom MP

Dear Resident,

At last it feels like Spring! It has been a long and difficult winter for many, and I hope that the lighter evenings and the warmer days will give us all a renewed sense of optimism. One of the ways many residents have celebrated the better weather has been with litter picking - making our area beautiful ready for the King's Coronation on May 6!



Clockwise from top left: Aimee, Isabella, Mia, Daisy, Billi, Brook and Havan from Deanshanger spent some of their half term break helping to make the local area look clean and tidy, a top team in Abthorpe that collected 7 bags of litter, and volunteers in Hinton in the Hedges following their successful litter pick!

It has been a pleasure for me, as always, to visit schools across South Northants, including Blakesley C of E, St Luke's C of E, Caroline Chisholm, and Northampton School for Girls. Anyone wondering if children and young people have an interest in politics these days need only look at the questions asked by the students - from Gary Lineker's tweets about the small boats, to climate change, to the war in Ukraine - their awareness was only too apparent, and they kept me on my toes!



Clockwise from top left: with pupils at Northampton School for Girls, visiting St Luke's Primary as part of the Google 'Be An Internet Legend' assembly, a snowy scene at Blakesley Church of England School, visiting Caroline Chisholm School.

There are many highly successful businesses in our area, and from Small Business Saturday to local engineering and tech companies, it is clear South Northants is a highly desirable place to live and work.



Clockwise from top left: visiting Forge Coffee and the Evenley Shop during a recent Village Action Day, at Performance Projects in Silverstone, chatting with the residents of the Brackley Care Home

A trip to the new Brackley Care Home to meet residents and hear some of the challenges around adult social care as well as to answer questions on government policy was a real pleasure - particularly the tea and cake part...

Much time in the last year has been spent in helping and supporting Homes for Ukraine - trying to get visas approved for refugees escaping Putin's aggression, and also supporting the fantastic local efforts to get aid and vehicles out to Ukraine - St Lawrence Church in Towcester recently held an exhibition detailing all the local efforts. I have hosted a Ukrainian family myself so understand well how traumatic and terrifying their experience has been. Let's hope this year sees an end to the invasion.



At the Towcester Ukraine Aid exhibition

Towcester Relief Road

Many constituents are in regular contact with their continued concerns about progress of the **Towcester Relief Road**. Whilst Persimmon are making progress with its construction, I remain concerned with the slow speed of delivery against the section 106 commitments, and I have written to West Northamptonshire Council to raise this issue. I have asked the Council to instruct their enforcement officers to prevent Persimmon from building further homes until they have fulfilled their existing commitments under the planning permission. I am waiting for a response on this.

HS2

I also continue to raise the considerable issues of residents affected by **HS2** with the Department for Transport and the Minister for HS2, Huw Merriman MP. He has recently visited our area to see for himself the problems that residents are experiencing and I will be pressing for these issues to be resolved.

My team and I have dealt with over 6500 pieces of casework on a range of issues.

Parliament

In Parliament, the timetable has been busy, with many late nights of multiple votes. I have spoken in the Chamber on a variety of topics including on the economy, the Windsor Framework and the treasury's childcare proposals. I chaired a debate on 'the energy trilemma', which had wide cross-party support and raised the important issue of energy security and decarbonisation. I also presented a petition on behalf of residents about ongoing problems with Anglian Water.

All my speeches can be found on my [YouTube channel](#). I also regularly upload my contributions in the Chamber [on my website](#).

I have recently been elected to the Treasury Select Committee, which scrutinises the Treasury, the Bank of England and the Financial Services Regulators. The Committee meets on Tuesday mornings and Wednesday afternoons, and we run several different inquiries at the same time. Currently we are considering the most recent budget, the proposed changes to financial regulation, the prospects for crypto currency and will shortly begin an inquiry into quantitative tightening by the Bank of England. Public meetings of the Committee can be found on [parliamentlive.tv](#).

And finally, I was delighted that in February the Prime Minister and I launched a progress update on the rollout of the Vision for the Best Start for Life - a project I have been chairing since July 2020. We visited a Family Hub in Cornwall meeting parents, babies and early years professionals to discuss the work that has been done so far on implementing the Vision, and the funding that has been awarded to 75 local authority areas. Further information can be found [here](#).



With the Prime Minister and his wife, Akshata Murthy at a Family Hub in Cornwall.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

During the last 15 years we have seen an exponential growth in the amount of Logistics Warehousing in Banbury and elsewhere around the district.

Both West Northants Council and Cherwell District Council are over run by the number of such Planning Applications still being received and because of Government regulations it becomes increasingly difficult for both councils to defend against such over development.

All of these developments have made a profound contribution to the increase in the already excessive number of HGVs which come through our village causing danger, pollution and ruining the quality of our lives

Please give this serious consideration with a view to submitting your personal opinions to the relevant Planning portals.

I apologise in advance for my continued badgering but I truly believe that it important for the Parish Council to have a vehicle in place on which it can communicate important information to the whole Parish at the touch of a button.

Thus far we have only 65 people enrolled on our PC address database and we would like see this increase to 200/300

Please go to our website at

www.farthinghoeparishcouncil.org/contact

On this page you will see the chart below which is very to complete

To receive highly important & time critical updates from Farthinghoe Parish Council, please complete the form below in full.

Your details will be kept on file in the strictest confidence and will not be used for any other purposes. The database is restricted to residents of Farthinghoe and Steane Parish Councils only.



Send

Yours Faithfully

Cllr Mick Morris

Chairman

Appendix 3

Report of Farthinghoe Village Hall – year to 31st March 2023

The committee has continued to enhance the hall as follows :-

- Floor replaced in the kitchen and in the committee room
- Toilet floors also replaced
- Hot water system installation
- Tiling in the kitchen

We have still to do some finishing off in the kitchen including some painting.

Regular hirers now use the hall for approx. 42 hours a month (term time), and these hires come close to covering our overheads. One off hires are a mixture from our village and from outside. The hall has been hired for first aid training as well as for rehearsals for a Dramatic Society. We hope that in the future they may also be able to bring their play to us.

Our main costs are the electricity and for cleaning and our electricity contract was up for renewal in February 2023. The initial 'offer' was very high but a second offer at the end of January, took into account the reduction in gas prices and so this has reduced the increase. The committee made the decision to increase the hire costs for non-villagers to £18 (one off) and £12.50 regular hirers which will alleviate the heating increase.

The 150/200 club continues to contribute to the Village Hall Funds, but we would love to have new members, or lapsed members back to maximise the monies for the hall. The club year runs from 1st July so we will be back pestering soon.

Our bank balances remain strong, approx. £30k. The funds are held with Lloyds Bank and also now with the Epworth Charity Cash Fund, which at the time of writing, is paying 3.61% interest. All deposits received are held in a separate Lloyds account.

All the village felt the loss of Dave Hancock in November, as did the Village Hall. There isn't really an area of the hall that didn't have his magic touch. It was lovely that Wendy officially opened "Hancock's Bar" at the Valentines Night at the end of February. That event was our first one since Covid and it was a great evening. Run by the Events Committee, they are now going to start work on the Village Show scheduled for Sunday 24th September 2023.

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 2023

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

It has been an incredibly busy year at Farthinghoe Primary School and it has been wonderful to enjoy a full academic year with no COVID restrictions or limitations.

Following our previous report in April 2022, we enjoyed a busy summer term, our younger children (Reception, year 1 and year 2) visited Evenley Wood Garden on a monthly basis to enjoy Forest School sessions, led by a local business, Muddy Feet. We have continued this valuable learning this year, and the children are due to attend their second Forest session in May.

We marked the Queen's Platinum Jubilee with a fantastic Commonwealth Café. Each child was given one of the 56 countries and asked to create a typical/national dish. Our families and parents were invited into school to try the many delicacies – there was quite an array of flavours.

Last year we introduced a new leadership initiative 'Headteacher for the Day'. Open to our year 6 pupils, a whole school assembly was held and the candidates read their manifestoes and urged the other children to vote for them. The winning student was Elizabeth and on Friday 15th July she had the responsibility of being our Headteacher. Elizabeth observed a year 3 and 4 Maths lesson, allowed the key stage 2 children to play with the huge parachute on the field at lunch time and even ordered some fun play equipment for the playground. This initiative will continue in coming years and our current year 6 children are already canvassing their peers!

Our summer term was rounded off with Sports' Day, year 6 cycling proficiency and our leavers' service for year 6 at Farthinghoe Church.

September saw a change to my teaching arrangements. I am now in class 2.5 days per week and share my teaching responsibilities with my colleague, Mrs Pegg. The children are comfortable with the set up and are always aware of who will be in class each day. We continue to be supported by 2 Teaching Assistants in our EYFS, year 1 and year 2 class.

Brackley Food Bank visited in September and spoke to the children about the importance of what they do. We then collected for this worthy cause as part of our Harvest Festival. We held a parent assembly and each class made a hearty soup for everyone to sample.

Our year 3 and 4 children enjoyed a day trip to Edgehill Battlefield in October, which tied in with their History learning. The class visited Saint Peter's Church and explored the Battle of Edgehill Radley Exhibition.

We held an open morning in November for prospective Reception (Sept 2023) parents and their children. The event was well attended and we are hoping to meet our admission number of 6 in September.

The children continue to be keen to raise awareness and money for worthy causes, so far this year we have held a cake sale for CRY (Cardiac Risk in the Young), mufti days for Children in Need and Red Nose Day, Christmas Jumper day for Save the Children and a Santa Fun Run for Helen & Douglas House.

Our School Ties committee (PTA) have organised regular funding raising events this year. Our School Fair in the summer was held at the Village Hall and it was wonderful to see so many people from the village supporting us. Our Christmas Fair was held in school and included lots of craft activities for the children. We recently took part in a sponsored 'Boots & Bonnets' Easter event, organised by the committee. The children enjoyed a lengthy walk around the village followed by a scavenger hunt in the park. Each child was rewarded with a chocolate egg and the funds raised are set to be used to update and improve our outside area and storage.

In January our year 3 and 4 children embarked on a residential trip to Everdon Outdoor Learning Centre. Accompanied by their class teacher, Mrs Fisher and teaching assistant, Mrs Lear, the children enjoyed 3 days and 2 nights of shelter building, fire lighting and team building games.



We have just secured a further trip for our year 5 and 6 children to Longtown Outdoor Centre in January 2024.

Our pupil numbers remain steady and we have welcomed a number of new pupils in various year groups, since September. We had 3 new starters who do not speak English and the staff in school have been working incredibly hard to support these children. Their progress has been fantastic to see and I am pleased to report that they have come on so much since they joined us before Christmas.

As a school we had not previously split the children into houses/colours/teams. As staff we discussed the option of introducing a reward system. We decided that a great way to motivate the children and encourage excellent learning behaviours would be to introduce the House Point system. Every child, from Reception to Year 6, was allocated into one of our four houses, along with a teacher and teaching assistant. The colours were pre-determined – red, yellow, green and blue, however, we asked the

children to name the houses after inspirational people. A mini competition was held and the names were decided – Rowling, Attenborough, Mercury and Hamilton. We could not think of more apt names. The scheme has created a wonderful buzz around school and not only has it made the children keen to earn house points, but also encourages them to support their fellow house members too.

As you may have seen in passing, the School has also undergone a number of maintenance projects in the past year. We successfully received DfE funding to have the roof replaced. The impact and disruption to the staff and children was kept to a minimal and the majority of the works were completed during the summer holidays. Bird and bat boxes were re-installed as part of the works and we are pleased to confirm that we have had many sightings of the birds coming home to roost. We updated our perimeter fencing during the Christmas holidays. The new fencing provides greater safety for the children whilst also opening up the school and making us more visible to passers-by. We have also received confirmed funding for our windows to be replaced, however this work will need to be completed during the holidays and we are awaiting further information from the Academy.

We are intending to hold a tea party for the upcoming King's Coronation and we will continue to investigate ways in which we can be involved with the village and our local community.

If you ever have any questions, concerns or suggestions for us as a school, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sharon Turner
Head of School

Appendix 5

FARTHINGHOE PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
Financial report for year ending 31st March 2023.

In the financial year to 31st March 2023, 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 2022: £11,985.18 (this includes £1,500.00 for elections)

The precept for the year to 31st March 2023 was £12,500.00.

Income received in the year:		Expenditure in the year (incl. VAT):	
VAT refunds	£183.16	Street lighting	£1,817.57
Interest/Compensation	£321.30	Maintenance Grass/Dog Waste etc.	£4,622.14
Grants	£0.00	Subscriptions	£525.18
Precept	£12,500.00	Chronicle	£876.18
Chronicle Advertising	£12.00	Clerks Salary (Inc. Tax)	£3,371.40
Transfer from Defibrillator Fund	£281.94	Clerks Expenses	£300.00
Transfer from Playpark Fund	£1000.00	Insurance	£675.45
		Audit	£228.00
		Website	£193.18
		Training	£52.80
		Community Donation	£350.00
		Bank Fees	£72.00
		Jubilee/Passing of HM QE2	£737.56
		Village Maps	£213.00
Total Income Received	£14,298.40	Total expenditure	(£14,034.46)

Opening Balance	£11,985.18
Income received	£14,298.40
Expenditure	(£14,4034.46)
Closing Balance at 31 st March 2023:	£12,249.12 (£1500 of balance is reserved for future Election Costs)

Item	2023 costs (excl VAT)	2022 costs (excl VAT)	% increase (where applicable)
Street lighting			
- Electricity	£1726.69	£807.92	114%
- Maintenance	£153.60	£0.00	100%

Administration			
- Insurance	£675.45	£685.92	-1.5%
- Internal audit fee	£190.00	£185.00 £0.00	3%
- External audit fee	£0.00	£268.06	0%
- NCALC subscription	£276.00	£763.70	3%
- Chronicle printing	£876.18	£140.00	14%
- Election fee	£00.00	£2438.01	-100%
- Clerk's salary	£2697.40		11%
- Clerk's expenses	£300.00	£300.00	0%
- Clerk/Councillor training	£44.00	£38.00	15%
- Website domain name renewal	£70.98	£60.47	17%
- Website hosting and support service	£90.00	£59.40	52%
- IT equipment	£0.00	£0.00	0%
- Land registry	£0.00	£0.00	0%
- Jubilee/Passing of HM QE2	£610.00	N/A	
- Village Signs	£213.00	N/A	
- Bank Fees	£72.00	£18.00	300%
Mowing	£1005.00	£885.00	14%
General maintenance			
- Dog waste disposal	£174.72	£171.60	2%
- Playpark safety inspection	£105.00	£95.00	11%
- Playpark Maintenance	£1915.04	£0.00	100%
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 reduction in both income and expenditure is due to the purchase of 2 replacement bus shelters in 2022. Such significant receipt of grants and purchase was not replicated in YTE 2023.

We have had to make one repair to a streetlight this financial year. This explains the increase. The increase in electricity expenditure is down to the expiry of our fixed term deal in October and subsequently having to take a vastly increased market rate. At the time of writing we hadn't been credited with any Government support although this is being looked at.

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 336. The fees increased around inflation at the time.

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

The increase in printing for the Chronicle is due slightly larger editions and other papers printed for the bypass, jubilee and coronation.

Clerks Salary increased due to the 2021/22 pay increase back pay being paid this financial year as well as the pay increase for 2022/23.

Clerk expenses remained neutral. There was no increase in basic expenses in 2022/23.

The training budget increase reflects the fact one course for a new councillor was attended in 2022/23.

The council donated to the Red Cross Appeal for Ukraine. Additionally a sign indicating the location of all houses in the village has been purchased to reflect that many houses are named not numbered.

The Precept for the forthcoming year 2023/24 is £13000. This represents a 4% increase.

The playpark received significant expenditure to ensure all identified areas within the H&S report were complied with as well as deal with a mole infestation. This was part funded by a transfer from the Playpark fund with the remainder being paid for by the council.

The defibrillator needed new pads and a replacement battery. Worldwide shortage of parts meant the cost was significantly more than expected. This was wholly funded by the defibrillator fund.

The council also made a significant contribution towards the cost of the Jubilee celebration in 2022 and sadly purchased a book of condolence at the passing of HM Queen Elizabeth 2.

A VAT re-claim for 2022/23 has been submitted.

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 2022:	£1,697.47		
Income received in the year:	None	Expenditure in the year:	£1,000.00
Total:	£0.00	Total:	(£1,000.00)

Closing Balance at 31st March 2023 **£697.47**

Defibrillator funds

Opening balance at 1 st April 2022:	£436.48		
Income received in the year:	None	Expenditure in the year:	£281.94
TOTAL	£0.00	TOTAL	(£281.94)

Closing Balance at 31st March 2023 **£154.54**

TOTAL CLOSING BALANCE AT 31ST MARCH 2023:

Precept	£12,249.12
Playpark	£697.47
Defibrillator	£154.54
TOTAL	£13,101.13

Dave Weston – Parish Clerk 7
April 2023

Farthinghoe Parish Council - Accounts to 31st March 2023					
			To 31.3.23		To 31.3.22
Receipts					
Parish Council	Precept		£12,500.00		£12,240.00
	Transfer from Playpark Fund		£1,000.00		£0.00
	Transfer from Defibrillator Fund		£281.94		£0.00
	Chronicle advertising		£12.00		£0.00
	VAT returns		£183.16		£2,643.39
	Bank interest/NCALC projects		£321.30		£0.90
	Grants		£0.00		£10,000.00
			£14,298.40		£24,884.29
Playpark					
	Fundraising		£0.00		£0.00
	VAT returns		£0.00		£0.00
			£0.00		£0.00
Defibrillator					
	Fundraising		£0.00		£0.00
	Donations/Grants		£0.00		£0.00
	VAT returns		£0.00		£0.00
			£0.00		£0.00
	Total Receipts		£14,298.40		£24,884.29
Payments					
Parish Council	Electricity		£1,817.57		£850.44
	Maintenance - grass cutting, dog waste, Playpark H&S, Sign cleaning, street light repairs		£3,340.20		£1,244.92
	Subscriptions-NCALC, ACRE, CPRE, Microsoft, anti virus		£525.18		£459.04
	Chronicle		£876.18		£763.70

	Clerk's salary including Income Tax	£3,371.40			£3,046.81
	Clerk's expenses	£300.00			£300.00
	Insurance	£675.45			£685.72
	Audit	£228.00			£185.00
	Website	£193.18			£149.84
	Training	£52.80			£38.00
	Community Donations	£350.00			£835.00
	Bus Shelter Project	£0.00			£15,316.08
	WNC election expenses	£0.00			£168.00
	Bank Fees	£72.00			£18.00
	Equipment Purchases	£0.00			£158.75
	Coronation/passing of HM	£737.56			
	Total Overheads		£12,539.52		£24,219.30
	Asset purchase - village map	£213.00			£0.00
	Total Assets		£213.00		£0.00
	Total Payments		£12,752.52		£24,219.30
	Playpark				
	General maintenance	£1,000.00			£0.00
	Health & Safety equipment				£0.00
			£1,000.00		£0.00
	Defibrillator				
	Asset purchase - replacement pads	£281.94			£0.00
			£281.94		£0.00
	Total Payments		£14,034.46		£24,219.30
	Surplus/(Deficit) for year		£263.94		£664.99

Accounting Balances						
	Parish Council	£12,249.12			£11,985.18	
	Playpark fund	£697.47			£1,697.47	
	Defibrillator fund	£154.54			£436.48	
	Annual Total		£13,101.13			£14,119.13
Bank Balances as at 31 March 2023						
	Current Account	£3,125.75			£6,297.11	
	Business Savings Account	£9,975.38			£5,116.04	
	Unity Bank				£2,705.98	
	Total		£13,101.13			£14,119.13
		Opening balance	Receipts	Payments	Closing balance	Surplus/ (Deficit)
Annual Accounts 2022-2023						
	Parish Council	£11,985.18	£14,298.40	£14,034.46	£12,249.12	£263.94
	Playpark funds	£1,697.47	£0.00	£697.47	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
	Defibrillator funds	£436.48	£0.00	£281.94	£154.54	£281.94
		£14,119.13			£13,101.13	£1,018.00
		Opening balance	Receipts	Payments	Closing balance	Surplus/ (Deficit)
Annual Accounts 2021-2022						
	Parish Council	£11,320.19	£24,884.29	£24,219.30	£11,985.18	£664.99
	Playpark funds	£1,697.47	£0.00	£1,697.47	£0.00	£0.00
	Defibrillator funds	£436.48	£0.00	£0.00	£436.48	£0.00
		£13,454.14			£14,119.13	£664.99

April-June 2022

-Cabinet members approved the Council's new Anti-Poverty Strategy, setting out how we will support people struggling financially, what we will do to stop people falling into poverty and how we will work to influence the Government and other national organisations to get the best deal for the people of West Northants. This crucial strategy has brought support to many families, being a collaboration between the council and all the relevant voluntary organisations.

-Work to support people coming to the UK as part of the Homes for Ukraine scheme continued. There have been over 400 generous sponsors across West Northants, who between them have welcomed around 700 guests. WNC carried out home and welfare safety checks to ensure everything was in place for arrivals from Ukraine, and to arrange support such as the £200 payment that each guest receives for subsistence costs. Homes for Ukraine workshops for parish councils were held to advise villages and towns on how they could assist.

-WNC announced its new Highways contract with Kier which commenced in September 2022. The contract includes priorities and requirements specifically tailored to West Northamptonshire and a fresh flexibility to meet the changing priorities of the council and needs of our communities. We increased investment to the service by more than £1million per year, and put in place our own contract management team to monitor performance, which includes clear, strong goals for improving customer focus and providing value for money. For next year's contract we have included a further £1, aimed at fixing more potholes, in addition to which the Govt budget has given us an additional £1.8M

- Jane Carr was appointed as the Director of Communities & Opportunities, which brought together housing and communities services as well as a range of place-making services including libraries, economic regeneration and cultural services. These changes were made to bring our community focussed services together and helping us join the priorities of these services more collaboratively.

-The Council organised and facilitated a huge number of events to mark the late Queen's Jubilee, as thousands of people turned out to enjoy a spectacular bank holiday weekend of events and activities. A number of commemorative beacons simultaneously lit across our area, including the Northampton Lift Tower becoming a 'virtual beacon' lit up in red, white and blue. On the Saturday the crowds turned out for a spectacular countywide pageant, which saw military and emergency services personnel, youth and community groups and businesses from across Northamptonshire parade through Northampton town centre, all ensuring a very fitting tribute.

-The Birmingham 2022 Queen's Baton Relay visited Northampton on Sunday, 10th July. Held in the run-up to the Commonwealth Games which took place in Birmingham, the Queen's Baton Relay provided an opportunity for communities to experience the excitement in the run-up to the big event.

July-September 2022

-WNC was given approximately £2.6million from the Department for Work and Pensions' Household Support Fund, to support those most in need of help to cope with the rising cost of living. Around a third of the money was used to support families with children, with more than 10,500 children receiving £20 per week food vouchers to use during the school summer holidays. Over 6,500 residents across West Northants who receive Pension Credit each received a £100 payment from the fund, while anyone who receives the Pension Credit Top Up for pensioners with severe disabilities received an additional £50 payment. Further allocations of funding were received later in the year to enable this much needed support to continue.

-A comprehensive review was launched into the way our council deals with Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) in response to concerns, particularly in urban areas such as Northampton, where some people say they have a detrimental impact on local communities. The aim of the Council's HMO review is to thoroughly investigate the issues concerning housing of this nature within West

Northamptonshire. It will include a robust analysis of current policies concerning HMOs in Northampton, alongside looking at ways we can use best practice from elsewhere in the country.

-Northamptonshire formally established its new statutory integrated care system on 1 July. This was a new legal requirement not just for our county, but for the whole of England across 42 local areas. An integrated care system is a partnership of local health and care organisations that come together to plan and deliver joined-up services and to improve the health of people who live and work in the area. Our integrated care system is called Integrated Care Northamptonshire. It replaces and builds upon the partnership work undertaken over the last few years by Northamptonshire Health and Care Partnership. This has subsequently led to the establishment of Local Area Partnerships across West Northants, a pioneering approach that has for the first time brought together council, health, police and other services to identify and meet the specific needs of local communities.

-West Northamptonshire joined the rest of the country and people around the world in mourning the loss of Queen Elizabeth II. Services in memory of the late Queen took place across the District and hundreds of people gathered outside All Saints Church in Northampton on Sunday 11th

September for an historic ceremony, when The High Sheriff of Northamptonshire, Crispin Holborow DL, formally proclaimed the beginning of King Charles III's reign to the people of Northamptonshire.

October-December 2022

-The Council's new Highways contract came into effect. Kier set out its commitment to working with the Council on its sustainability goals to achieve net zero emissions by 2030, as well as increasing social value to the service to benefit the wider West Northants community and economy, such as supporting local disadvantaged groups and working with local sub-contractors.

-The budget for a new 250-place school for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) was given the go ahead. The Council will convert an empty facility in Tiffield near Towcester into a SEND school for children aged four to 18. The unit will cater for children who are on the autistic spectrum (ASC) and have speech, language and communication needs (SLCN), and those with severe learning difficulties (SLD). The plans come in addition to a £1.1 million expansion and the creation of 50 new specialist places at Hunsbury Park Primary School, which was given the go ahead earlier last year. A number of further school extensions to increase SEND capacity have subsequently opened or are currently under construction.

-Daventry Country Park, Abington Park, Bradlaugh Fields and Delapre Park all retained their Green Flag Awards - recognised as the benchmark for the management of recreational outdoor spaces around the world. There are plans to work towards achieving similar accolades for Towcester's Water Meadows and Hunsbury Country Park.

-WNC approved a fresh strategy for improving housing for residents across West Northants while tackling issues including homelessness and the cost of living crisis. At the Cabinet meeting on 23rd September, members agreed to progress proposals for the new Housing Strategy, which focuses on four key objectives:

- Deliver homes people need and can afford
- Improve the quality, standard and safety of homes and housing services
- Support residents to live healthy, safe, independent and active lives
- Support thriving and sustainable communities

-Our Council increased payments for Homes for Ukraine hosts to £550 a month from December through to March 2023, with the additional £200 to help cover rising living costs.

January-March 2023

-A report confirmed that our new unitary authority has exceeded the original savings target we inherited when replacing the former Daventry, Northampton, South Northants and County councils on 1 April 2021. Savings of £84m were estimated from merging the eight councils across Northamptonshire into two new single-tier authorities, with £49m of these delivered before the abolition of the legacy councils prior to vesting day. This left our Council and our neighbouring new authority North Northants Council a requirement to deliver the remaining savings of £17.5m each in

our first few years. The figures shared at the Cabinet meeting show we are on course to have exceeded these savings by the end of 2025/26, including an additional £16.4m as part of the transformation journey to bring together and improve services from the four legacy councils.

-In common with local authorities across the country, the Council has been facing severe financial pressures due to factors including the current economic climate, high inflation rates driving up running costs and an increase in demand for services, particularly around supporting children in care and vulnerable adults. Despite these pressures, the Council worked hard to balance the books and has set a balanced revenue budget for 2023/24 of £383.5m (excluding grant funded schools spending of £443.7m). The budget includes a Council Tax increase of 4.99%, well below current inflation rates and in line with the Government's allowance, crucially generating extra funding of around £12m – with 2% of the increase going towards funding adult social care. This represents an average increase on a Band D property of £80.50 a year, the equivalent of £1.55 a week. We are also pleased to confirm that in 2022/23 the council has managed its finances conservatively and is expected to report a very modest underspend when the figures are confirmed. This however is subject to the final costs of the Children's Trust which are demand led and are likely to exceed their own budget.

-The additional plans in the budget included investing an extra £1m in the year ahead towards repairing local roads and changes to car parking proposals include putting in place two hours' free parking on Saturdays and Sundays in Northampton's town centre off street car parks and a set weekend all-day charge of £2.20 for off street car parks, introducing free parking up to 10.30am on Saturdays at Daventry and Brixworth country parks and reducing the proposed maximum daily charge at the two sites by a third to £8. In addition to this, the Council will be investing up to £215,000 in the year ahead towards bus services. This continues the funding allocated for the current year, while the Council shapes a new bus strategy and considers the most viable options for supporting and delivering the services in the future.

-WNC launched its plans to encourage Town and parish councils to get involved in a Bank Holiday weekend of special events being planned to mark the Coronation of King Charles III. His Majesty will be crowned at Westminster Abbey in London on Saturday 6 May 2023, the first of three days of celebrations as communities across the country are invited to come together to mark the historic occasion. Plans are under way to organise a packed weekend of festivities in West Northamptonshire from 6 to 8 May, including street party-style activities and big screens in Northampton town centre on the Saturday, a Big Lunch at Delapre Abbey on the Sunday and local volunteering opportunities for the Big Help Out on Bank Holiday Monday.

-Our Council presented its baseline emissions report for 2021-22, as we strive to meet our sustainability goal to be net zero by 2030. Sustainability is high on the agenda for our Council, with work underway to meet the Government's call for local authorities to support the delivery of the UK's sustainability agenda. Our baseline report provided a robust set of baseline CO2 emissions data for the Council's first year, April 2021 – 31 March 2022 and outlined our intentions to eliminate or reduce these. Establishing the baseline for our emissions will enable the Council to develop a detailed emissions reduction plan and monitor progress towards our targets.

-The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) released its proposals for new Council electoral boundaries, with draft recommendations for 76 members to represent 35 wards across West Northamptonshire. The LGBCE recommendations are out for consultation until 15th May. The Boundary Commission has reported a preference for our Middleton Cheney to be split into two separate one councillor wards. Called Middleton Cheney and Kings Sutton it also involves Greatworth being moved into Silverstone Ward, and Thorpe Mandeville moving away from Silverstone into Middleton Cheney. We would prefer a two member single ward as we believe it provides resilience and additional support for a large rural area with villages ranging in size from large to very small hamlets. Parish Councils and residents can make representations to the Consultation which ends on the 15th May, details of which can be found on WNC's website. <https://westnorthants.citizenspace.com/cet/local-government-boundary-changes-1/>

-A new Assistant Director of Planning, Stephanie Gibrat, was appointed and is taking steps to implement the recommendations of an independent review of our planning services. One priority is being given to improving the way in which WNC handles section 106 agreements and getting payments to local organisations in a more timely fashion and another is communication with Parish Councils. In

addition a programme of training and engagement with Parish Councils is being planned over the next year or so.

-Finally, we are very proud that West Northamptonshire Council is receiving widespread recognition for its work this year after being shortlisted for six national awards.

WNC is among only a small number of finalists out of hundreds of entries from councils across the country for two leading local government sector awards ceremonies, the LGC (Local Government Chronicle) Awards and MJ (Municipal Journal) Awards. We were delighted to learn that this is not just for one award, but for six awards!

The Council has two members of staff as finalists for both the LGC's and MJ's Rising Star categories, with its Customer Services Team also being shortlisted for LGC's Large Team of the Year. Its Sustainable West Northants initiative also beat off stiff competition to become a finalist for LGC's coveted Climate Response award, and as a leading partner for Integrated Care Across Northants the Council has also been shortlisted for both awards' health and social care categories.

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

We are very pleased to be back to normal this year following the previous two that had seen the restrictions brought in for covid stop services and fundraising.

Since September 2022 we have been an interregnum – our Rector, Revd Cooper left us and we continue to look for a replacement, but as of writing (March 23) although we have advertised, sadly we have not had any applicants. This seems to be the case throughout the country, especially for rural multi parishes but we continue to remain hopeful.

Our service of Remembrance was well attended as were our Christmas services – it is always lovely to hear those well known carols sung out by lots of the villagers!

Fundraising has continued – our Fete raised approx. £1400 and our monthly coffee mornings in the vestry raised over £1000 this year. If you haven't been already, do come along – it is usually on the second Sunday of the month at 10 – 11am.

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. There have been two changes this year -

- Pauline Mason moved to Australia in June 2022, having served on the PCC for many years. We miss her contributions.
- Henry Bankes-Jones took over as Secretary in May 2022.

We are so very lucky to have a team of volunteers who get involved in cutting and tending the graveyard, clearing gulleys and generally keeping the outside of the church in good order. Thanks also to those who have cleaned, tidied and polished inside. There is a lot of work that goes on, often unnoticed, and it is really appreciated.

We are very grateful to the work done by our church warden, 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.

Lisa Wenmouth
13th March 2023

Appendix 8

Farthinghoe Church Piece Allotments

Report for Parish Annual Meeting April 19th 2023

The Farthinghoe Church Piece Allotments continue to be utilised for horticultural purposes by residents of the village and nearby.

The majority of plots are rented, with 2 plots currently vacant. The rental cost is £12 per annum. Rentals are due on the first Monday in September, every year. There are two allotment holders with outstanding rental payments due from September 2022.

The allotments alongside Queens Street may be used for keeping chickens, for which the main allotments may not. There is currently one of these plots vacant.

The only regular outgoing from the financial account is to pay for insurance, which takes most of the income.

Plans to change the bank account to one which is suitable for a small charity and does not attract bank charges made significant headway last year but did not reach completion. The intention is to continue the search for an alternative banking arrangement.

Maintenance of the boundary hedgerows is the responsibility of the tenant of the plot which borders the boundary. As the hedgerow along the main road affects users of the narrow footpath, it is particularly important to keep this under control. To this end, the Parish Council has very kindly offered to layer this hedge, presumably between October and March when the birds have finished nesting.

It is understood that there are plans to have the allotments officially listed as a "Valued Community Asset" by West Northants Council.

The Trustees: Henry Bankes-Jones and Ruth Brittain

South Northants Neighbourhood Teams



Annual Report March 2023

South Northants Neighbourhood Policing Teams have maintained continuity of officers based within the area which is important for developing local knowledge, contacts and confidence. We have benefited from an additional PCSO joining the Brackley Team and we would like to welcome PCSO Paris JONES to the area. Paris has already started to develop a wealth of local contacts within the short time she has been with us.

We have previously mentioned the Beat Buses which were successfully launched in late 2021. Hopefully you will have seen this resource out in the local villages bringing officers to your doorstep and offering isolated communities the opportunity to speak to officers on a 1-2-1 basis. Rather than wait for Beat Bus availability officers have also been conducting additional village surgeries generally at village halls. We do publicise these visits well in advance but often only find a few people come to see us. This is a really great opportunity for you to come and discuss concerns on your doorstep even if they are just minor. We would rather become involved at an early stage to prevent situations escalating or deteriorating.

Our Community identified Policing priority surveys continue to highlight that road safety; acquisitive crime and drugs use/supply are your real areas of concern. So these are the areas that we have put a lot of effort in to tackle. Over the last 12 months we have conducted a number of warrants under the Misuse of Drugs Act and also proactive operations targeting criminal use of vehicles. At present officers within the teams are working on 5 investigations into offences of possession with intent to supply class A and B drugs as a result of these interventions. These investigations do become protracted and we will bring you the results of these once complete. All of these investigations have been instigated due to you, the public, bringing us your concerns about other people living in and bringing harm to the area.

We have also undertaken a lot of work with the Force's licensing team as a result of concerns raised regarding the sale of drugs within pubs and also of alcohol and tobacco products being sold to minors in shops. Some of this has involved conducting test purchasing and completing pub walkthroughs with a drugs indicator dog.

We strongly recommend that all living and working within our communities sign up to **Neighbourhood Alert**. This is an email messaging system that all Schools, Parish Councils, Neighbourhood Watch and community members can join. In registering your email address you will receive up-to-date information regarding crimes, policing activity, crime prevention advice and much more. This system is a two-way process and offers you a chance to respond to information provided as appropriate. If the majority of the community sign up then we can create a virtual network of additional eyes and ears, watching out for suspicious activity, looking out for vulnerable friends,

family and neighbours and receiving information about local events and activities that can help alleviate fear of crime and promote a safe and secure lifestyle.

You can join the Neighbourhood Alert Messaging System easily via:

www.northamptonshireneighbourhoodalert.co.uk

The Neighbourhood Policing Teams are based within the Community at Brackley and Towcester Police Stations. We will endeavour to attend as many local events as possible to build up our local networks and offer you an opportunity to meet with us. We acknowledge that many older residents in the area may not use email or social media so they may miss out on Policing information that is relevant to them. If you have an event, regular group meeting etc. that you would like us to attend then please get in touch via the email addresses below.

Please do follow us on social media where possible (Twitter: **@SthNorthantsNPT** and Facebook: **'Daventry and South Northants Neighbourhood Policing Team'**). We try and promote as much of our day to day activities as we can however if there is anything else that you would like to see us report back on then let us know. Your feedback is important to us. There are some aspects of our work that we cannot report back on due to the vulnerabilities of the persons involved, and their right to privacy but we will try and let you know as much as we can about the type of work that we get involved with.

We work closely with our Rural Crime Team and you can follow their work via Twitter: **@hutch472 & @NorPolRural**.

At present we are finding that a lot of our time is consumed in dealing with crimes perpetrated via social media. The vast majority of this involves children of school age but is not exclusive to them. Children may not be aware that sending of malicious communications – nasty, abusive messages on platforms such as Instagram, WhatsApp, Snap Chat etc. are criminal offences. The same principal applies the sending of intimate images between children. We urge parents to take an overview of the chat groups that children join or just who they are communicating with online. There is a wealth of support available for these situations which parents can find via West Northamptonshire Council and organisations such as Service Six. We also work closely with schools to try and disrupt and deter this sort of behaviour as it often stems from relationships developed within a school environment.

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 the South Northants Policing Team

Dashwood Playpark

Our enhanced Village Playpark has now been open since September 2015 and remains a valuable asset for the Village. It is lovely to see children, both from surrounding areas and our Village, enjoying the facility.

We are required to have an annual Health & Safety Inspection and recently these have highlighted a number of issues that require attention, including “top up” of the safety bark and replacement of swings and fixtures. This was not totally unexpected in view of the time the Playpark has been open and we have spent very little on the upkeep. We have also had an attack from moles who are also enjoying the facility as much as the children and we have had to employ the services of a mole catcher to eradicate their attention.

Having dealt with all these current maintenance issues we now only have £697.47 in our playpark account which is “ring fenced” for future requirements. We suspect that in the next couple of years we will need to replace the main wooden supports of the climbing frames, due to damp. This will not be a cheap option but if we wish to retain this valuable asset then we will need the support of the village in fund raising for this eventuality.

West Northants Council (WNA) has agreed to implement double yellow lines to deter parking on the corner of Queens Street/Clarks Lane. We are just waiting for them to confirm a date for this work to be undertaken.

We appreciate that the family dog 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. Finally, we would ask adults to respect the Playpark equipment. We recognise 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