

## **Minutes of the Meeting of Fillongley Parish Council**

### **Held at Fillongley Village Hall on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2024 at 7.30pm**

Present: Cllr A R Pargetter, Cllr S Onions, Cllr A White, Cllr D Wardley, Cllr Antrobus and Cllr S Taylor. Clerk: Mrs H Badham. There were 16 members of the public in attendance.

#### **14166** AGENDA ITEM 1 APOLOGIES

There were Apologies received from Cllr J Hooke. Apologies also from NWBC Cllr Mark Simpson.

#### **14167** AGENDA ITEM 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chairman invited members who wished to do so to make declaration of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interest in respect of items on the agenda. None were made.

#### **14168** AGENDA ITEM 3 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the previous Council meeting held on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2024, having been previously circulated and read, were then approved on the proposition of Cllr White and Seconded by Cllr Onions. All in favour.

#### **14169** AGENDA ITEM 4 PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Meeting Closed. There was discussion with regard to;

- The Heritage Report commissioned by FPC for the solar appeal
- Emissions resulting from importation of wheat to replace that which would be lost if the solar farm went ahead
- Fillongley Flood Group wish to donate some money towards further investigative works that FPC could commission which is connected, but not exclusively, to the solar farm application and future flood mitigation.

Meeting re-opened.

#### **14170** AGENDA ITEM 5 PROGRESS REPORTS for information

- a. **Fibre to the Premises.** No further information.
- b. **Change of speed limit in Wood End Lane.** Cllr Humphries indicated that the officer (Jo Edwards) was against dropping the speed limit. There was discussion as to whether this should continue to be pushed or if the Council had done as much as possible. Cllr Humphries offered to keep persevering.
- c. **Dropped kerb on Wood End Lane.** This is to be completed by the end of the month.
- d. **Road marking on Coventry Road (pinch point).** This is to be completed by Christmas.
- e. **Trip rail proposal/parking on Eastlang Road.** Following a site meeting with the Clerk an officer at WCC suggested that a bund may be a simpler and cheaper answer. It was noted that during that meeting the vehicles were parked at the rear of the properties on the verge where FPC had proposed a car park area. It appears that the ground is beginning to become rutted due to the parking. A solution may be to use grasscrete. Councillors agreed that this should be put forward as a resolution to the combined issues.
- f. **Football Changing Rooms update.** Clerk received an update that the closing date for the SF Fund was brought forward so, thanks to help from Architect Alan Pearson and Fillongley Renovations the application was submitted in time. FPC have been notified however that it cannot go forward unless FPC adopt a Safeguarding Policy and Equal Opportunities Policy. Clerk has drafted these and circulated before the meeting and will be determined in Agenda Item 6.
- g. **Traffic in Church Lane.** Traffic survey not yet completed.
- h. **E Road Meriden Road – Kinwalsey.** No update.
- i. **Playground update.** Latest grant funding application was unsuccessful.
- j. **New Speedwatch camera.** No progress.

- k. **NWBC Dog Waste bins/signage.** Bin outside Caves has been replaced. Others requested are unlikely as they are property of FPC not NWBC so will not be renewed.
- l. **Traffic on Coventry Road/Give & Takes.** Clerk has had a site visit with WCC. The only location would be by the village hall and further out of the village. The cost for these would be in the region of £40k.  
It was also noted the same day, that surveyors were recording measurements at the crossroads with the information that WCC are looking at spending HS2 money on putting traffic signals at the crossroads. The Clerk noted that recent traffic lights outside Ayliffe Cottage had notably slowed traffic speeds (hence the letters), prevented vehicles hitting the cottage (again), provided a safer road by only allowing one flow of traffic at the thinnest point in the road and also provided a more predictable flow of traffic so that emerging at the crossroads was safer and suggested that this may be a better solution than a 4 way lights at the crossroads. Cllr Antrobus noted that traffic lights at the crossroads won't work because large vehicles cannot pass each other outside Ayliffe Cottage which already causes issues which would be worse with traffic queuing at the crossroads.
- m. **Replacement bridge at Castle fields.** Clerk has passes information to the Guides and asked them, as the landowner, to resolve it with WCC footpaths
- n. **Eastlang Road – Double yellow lines request.** Site visit has taken place. No further information.
- o. **Complaint re sewage waste on Broad Lane.** This has been going on for some time. NWBC are trying to resolve the issue but there is no resolution at the moment. Cllr Antrobus said that it is not helping the adjacent pond and it needs to be resolved quickly.
- p. **MP Rachel Taylor Visit.** Cllr Hooke attended the MP Surgery and received a letter of response however, MP was sympathetic to the plight of the Fillongley Flood Group but did not comment on whether she would support FPC in their fight against the solar farm appeal.

#### **14171 AGENDA ITEM 6 MATTERS FOR DECISION**

- a. **Replacement trees at the War Memorial.** It would be acceptable to NWBC to plant trees elsewhere however FPC Are concerned that they have planted trees in the past in all available areas so at the moment are not keen to replant.
- b. **Little Oaks.** Following the definitive response from the Surveyor and the email from the resident, Cllr Wardley proposed that there would sadly be no negotiated solution, so FPC should engage a Solicitor to resolve the issue and ensure the land is reinstated back to the Common. Seconded by Cllr White. All in favour.
- c. **Walnut Cottage.** WCC Highways have confirmed that they will replace the kerbs at the roadside with the appropriate height kerbstones. Cllrs requested Clerk to write to resident and inform her that WCC will action the kerbs and that she will need to remove the trees over the winter.
- d. **Neighbourhood Plan Review.** Following detailed discussion, Cllr White proposed adoption of the FNP amendments, and that the Clerk should progress as per NWBC advice as quickly as possible. Seconded by Cllr Wardley. All in favour.
- e. **Solar Farm Appeal.**
  - i Cllrs asked the Clerk to represent the Council at the table at the Appeal
  - ii Clerk to work in conjunction with NWBC to work out a route for the Inspector to view the solar farm. Clerk to ask for permission to accompany the Inspector on his walk.
  - iii Discussion on whether the Heritage Consultant should attend on the day of the Appeal at a cost of £1200 plus disbursements and travel as previously circulated on email. Cllr Wardley proposed that Keystone Heritage should be present at the Appeal. Seconded by Cllr Onions. All in favour
  - iv There was further discussion with regard to the Fillongley Flood Groups request to further engage the hydrologist. The cost would be £1000. The FFG would be happy to donate £600 to the PC towards this cost which could produce a report directing the best way to address the flooding issues holistically. If

the hydrologist is not engaged for this there would be a cost for desk based work that he has already done towards the solar farm appeal. Cllr Wardley proposed accepting the cost and donation as the flood issues need to be resolved. Seconded by Cllr White. All in favour.

- f. **VE Day 80.** Clerk suggested that as VE Day was a huge community celebration, the opportunity to light the Beacon should be given to all Parishioners by way of a raffle; tickets costing £5 each and all proceeds going to the Royal British Legion. One winner to be selected at random. Clerk to check if FPC will need a gaming licence from NWBC to do this.
- g. **Charity Trustees.**
  - i The Chairman explained updates from the Avery Trust regarding the update of the Charity objectives. Clerk to expect an email from the Avery Trust Clerk.
  - ii FPC representative (Mrs E Peacock) has resigned from the Fillongley Education Foundation and FPC need to nominate a new representative who doesn't have to be a Councillor. Cllr White proposed that FPC advertise in the Parish Magazine, notice boards and Facebook for someone to represent them on the Charity Board. Seconded by Cllr Wardley. All in favour.
- h. **Edge contract limits.** The IT system has reached its income/expenditure limit and needs to increase a band. If this is a permanent increase (to the end of the contract in 2029) there is no administration fee however if it is a single year there is an administration fee. Cllr Wardley proposed that given the increased costs for the solar appeal and the various grant applications at the moment it would be prudent for a permanent increase at a cost of £70 p.a. Seconded by Cllr White. All in favour.
- i. **Solar farm finance.** So far FPC have spent £11226.16 (Ex VAT), with now further committed spend of £11,200. There have been direct donations of £1150 banked but disappointing donations through Go Fund Me. There are some reserves and NWBC have agreed to loan FPC money but would need to charge some Interest. The Clerk noted that there is a significant amount of money in the Cemetery account (which is income accruing for the future maintenance of the Cemetery) which is not gaining any Interest and the Council could in effect borrow from itself without any costs should it wish to do so. Cllr Wardley proposed that an internal transfer would be the most effective use of resources . Seconded by Cllr Taylor. All in favour.
- j. **Reaching communities grant/lottery.** The most recent grant application for the park equipment was unsuccessful as part of the funding was effectively from the same organisation. There is an option to return the £6k that FPC have already received and resubmit the larger application hoping that it will yield better results. Further to discussion it was decided to spend the £6k and keep applying for other larger grants.
- k. **Tree survey results.** From the report there are sites at Chapel Green, the crossroads, Wall Hill Road and the park that all require trees to be felled for public safety reasons. Clerk to obtain 3 quotes and also to apply for planning permission for works to trees in the Conservation Area.
- l. **Electricity supplier at Changing Rooms (end of contract).** Clerk has obtained new prices which have significantly reduced since the last contract. Cllr Onions proposed accepting a contract for 1 year with Scottish Power at the new prices. Seconded by Cllr Taylor. All in favour.
- m. **Lengthsman applications.** As it was necessary to discuss individuals, these were to be discussed in the closed part of the meeting with the Clerks review. There have been 3 applications. Following discussion it was agreed that all 3 candidates would be interviewed at the Village Hall, by Cllr Pargetter, Cllr Antrobus and the Clerk. Clerk to circulate available dates, agree date and inform the candidates.
- n. **Cemetery Christmas gifts.** Cllr Onions proposed purchasing similar items to last year, acknowledging that the cost will be slightly higher. Seconded by Cllr Taylor. All in favour.

- o. **Hedge cutting at the recreation ground.** Price for Heritage Contracting of £290 + VAT (recoverable) to cut hedges and clear road, which compare favourably to previous years. Proposed by Cllr Wardley and seconded by Cllr White. All in favour.
- p. **New policies.** Further to the application from the SFF for changing room application, FPC are required to have an Equal Opportunities Policy and Safeguarding Policy in place to be considered. Draft proposed policies had been circulated before the meeting and these were discussed in detail. Cllr Wardley proposed FPC should adopt both Policies with amendments as agreed. Seconded by Cllr Onions, All in favour. Cllr Pargetter signed the Policies.

#### **14172 AGENDA ITEM 7 CORRESPONDENCE**

- a. Open Space Society Newsletter (circulated by email). *Noted.*
- b. Complaint re parking on The Common at Windmill Lane. *Cllr Hooke has spoken to parties involved and Clerk believes this is now resolved.*
- c. North Warwickshire Borough Council Ward Boundary Review. Circulated by email. *Noted.*
- d. Request for “horse slow” signs on Green End Road. *Clerk has put Parishioner in touch with temporary sign provider whilst permanent signs can be investigated.*
- e. NWAC & NWBC Annual Meeting 11/12/24 7:30pm in the Council Chamber. *Noted, Cllrs Wardley and Pargetter to attend.*
- f. Declarations of Interest update from NWBC. *Almost all Councillors have completed these which will go on the website.*
- g. Email regarding speeding in Fillongley. *Request to consider the other main roads when reviewing the give and takes or other options. Noted.*
- h. NWBC PSPO renewal Didgley Lane. *This is due to be renewed by NWBC. Noted*
- i. Lithium Ion battery campaign update. *Noted*
- j. Email of thanks from resident re Solar Appeal. *Noted.*

#### **Planning Applications to consider;**

**PAP/2024/0451** 1 The Cottages, Newhall Green Lane. Proposal: Rear ground floor extension. *No objections.*

**PAP/2024/0457** Arden Livery and Menage, Tippers Hill Lane. Retention of 4 stables and to include 3 containers. *Objections and FPC would request that this is decided by the Planning Board*

**PAP/2024/0483** Blabers Hall Farm, Green End Road. Application to vary condition 2 of FAP/2003/7885 (17/3/2003) relating to Change of use to 30 bay touring caravan site with associated shower/toilet block. *No objections.*

**PAP/2024/0515** The Cliffs Farm, Tippers Hill Lane, Fillongley. Prior Approval for Proposed Change of Use of Agricultural Building to Dwellinghouse: Conversion of double storey height agricultural barn to two storey dwelling house with balcony. *No objections.*

#### **Planning Decisions made by delegated powers;**

**PAP/2024/0476** The Cliffs Farm, Tippers Hill Lane. Proposal Prior approval for a proposed -Formation, alteration or maintenance of private ways for agricultural or forestry use. *No objections.*

**PAP/2024/0474** The Cliffs Farm, Tippers Hill Lane. Prior approval for agricultural building and associated hard standing. *No objections.*

**PAP/2024/0466** Margos Barn, Shawbury School Lane, proposal; Erection of Forest Garden Kimbrey Log Cabin (5.2 x 4.2 m) = 21.84sqm measurements include roof overhang. Ground footprint is W 4.8 x D 3.5m = 16.8sqm. In rear garden of Application site. *No objections however would like condition to only be ancillary accommodation*

**PAP/2024/0458** 4, Castle Close. Proposal; Works to tree(s) in Conservation Area. *No objections.*

### Determinations of Planning Applications;

**PAP/2024/0350** The Cornmill, Tamworth Road. Variation Of Condition 2 Of Pap/2023/0053 Relating To Increase In Size Of Buildings 105A And 106B To Store Hay And Agricultural Equipment. *Granted.*

**PAP/2023/0125** Slowley Hall, Tamworth Road. Proposal: Conversion And Extension Of Garages Into 2 Holiday Lets. *Refused*

**PAP/2024/0238** Land South Of The Shawburies, Shawbury Lane. Proposed Extension Of Existing Domestic Curtilage And Erection Of Oak Framed Garage, Mower And Implements Store. *Refused*

**PAP/2024/0441** Village Farm Lodge, Meriden Road. Prior approval for erection of general purpose agricultural building (12.192m x 36.576m). *Further Details Not Required*

**PAP/2024/0442** Village Farm Lodge, Meriden Road. Prior approval for erection of general purpose agricultural building (12.192m x 12.192m). *Further Details Not Required*

**PAP/2024/0458** 4, Castle Close. Proposal; Works to tree(s) in Conservation Area. *No Objection to Works.*

### Ongoing Planning Infringement issues;

- Heart of England Camping issues
- The Cleeve, Meriden Road CMP/ 2020/00101
- Land to the North of Aston Farm, Newtown Lane CMP/2024/00024
- Mill Field Farm CMP/2023/00020

### 14173 AGENDA ITEM 8 FINANCE for approval;

There were a number of additional invoices for the Appeal that had been submitted since the Agenda was circulated.

Payee	Reason	Nett	Reclaimable VAT	Gross	Method
H Badham	SCP 24 October, O/T & NJC agreement				
HMRC	Tax				BACS
H Badham	Broadband November	10.00		10.00	
MB System Networks	Invoice 156478	7.35		8.82	DD
Scottish Power	Changing Rooms	86.10		86.10	DD
Water Plus	Chg Rm inv 07181855	21.78		21.78	DD
	Chg rm inv 07488656	22.48		22.48	
Water Plus	Cemetery inv 07497491	9.92	1.98	11.90	DD
	Cemetery inv 07193294	9.66	1.94	11.60	
No 5 Chambers	Initial meeting	1500.00	300.00	1800.00	BACS
NJC	Survey	675.00	135.00	810.00	BACS
Keystone Heritage	Initial investigation	958.16		958.16	BACS
	Heritage report	3750		3750.00	BACS
C J Events	Road closure	275.00	55.00	330.00	BACS
Tyler Parkes	Interim invoice less deposit	851.33	170.27	1021.60	BACS
	Invoice for report	1250.00	250.00	1500.00	BACS
Royal British Legion	Wreath	50.00		50.00	BACS
Tom White Waste	Cemetery IAC141004	24.02	4.80	28.82	BACS
Unity Trust	Monthly charges	6.00		6.00	DD
Unity Trust	Monthly charges- CEM	6.00		6.00	DD
Andy Maw Design	Visualisatons	2500.00	500.00	3000.00	DD

Cllr Taylor proposed approval of payments, Seconded by Cllr Antrobus. All in favour.

**14174 AGENDA ITEM 9 COUNCILLORS REPORTS and items for future agenda**

- Cllr Wardley wished to record thanks to the Clerk for the work that she has put in, particularly with regard to the solar farm Appeal.
- Cllr Wardley reported that footpath M373 is still blocked at both ends and asked the Clerk to report it to WCC.
- Cllr Wardley reported that rottweiler dogs had been out on Hardingwood Lane/Broad Lane again. Clerk noted that she has been in touch with the homeowner who is investigating metal fencing as the wooden fencing is not containing the dogs.
- Cllr Antrobus reported that the footpaths officer is chasing the landowner regarding the tree in Didgely Lane. Clerk noted that it was to be removed the following Monday by WCC tree officers.

**14175 AGENDA ITEM 10 CLERKS ANNUAL REVIEW (Closed Meeting)**

- a. Lengthsman applications. Following discussion it was agreed that candidates would be interviewed at the Village Hall, by Cllr Pargetter, Cllr Antrobus and the Clerk. Clerk to circulate available dates, agree date and inform the candidates.
- b. Clerks Annual Review- Confidential Minute 14175a. Cllr Wardley proposed engaging WALC at a cost of £220 to independently review the Clerks salary. Seconded by Cllr Onions. All in favour.

**14176 AGENDA ITEM 11 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Date of next meeting to be 19<sup>TH</sup> December 2024. Meeting closed at 10.45pm

**14177 AGENDA ITEM 12 VILLAGE HALL BUSINESS**

- **New lease.** There will be a stakeholder meeting in the new year regarding changes to the Avery Trust.
- **Asbestos Survey.** Not yet completed. Chairman to give details of another company to the Clerk to investigate.
- **Roof repair.** Clerk thought that the roof had been repaired, though no invoice was yet received. Parishioner noted that they thought that there had been further damage. Clerk to check

Payee	Reason	Gross	
J Moore	VH bkgs/Manpower October		
HMRC	Tax		
EE	October	10.01	
Domestic & General	Contract -November	43.00	
British Gas – gas	Inv 9226269	77.52	
British Gas - electricity	Inv 9228622	96.01	
Water Plus	Inv 07388477	77.03	
Tom White Waste	IAC 139327	90.96	
Unity Trust Bank	Monthly Charges	5.40	
Astleys	Inv 196522	272.98	

Cllr Antrobus proposed approval of payments, Seconded by Cllr Taylor. All in favour.