

FARTHINGHOE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting
held on Wednesday, 17 April 2024 at 7.30pm



Councillors present: Cllr Mick Morris (Chair) (MM)
Cllr John Grant (JG)
Cllr Sophie Nobes (SN)
Cllr Trevor Jarvis (TJ)
Cllr Barry Willett (BW)
Cllr Wendy Hancock (WH)
Mr Dave Weston (Clerk)
WNC Cllrs Rebecca Breese (RB), Phil Larratt (PL)
28 attendees from the public (MOP)

Apologies: 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 welcomed Cllr Phil Larratt Portfolio Holder for WNC highways to the meeting. He was pleased to see such a good turnout for the meeting.</p>
2	<p>To receive apologies for absence.</p> <p>Sharon Turner (School) and Lisa Wenmouth had tendered their apologies to the clerk.</p>
3	<p>To receive and approve for signature the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 19 April 2023.</p> <p>The minutes were proposed by Joan Mildren and seconded by Bryan Walker and were signed by the Chairman as a true record.</p>
4	<p>To review matters arising from the Annual Parish Meeting held on 19 April 2023.</p> <p>There were no matters arising.</p>
5	<p>To receive the Chairman's Report for the year 2023-2024.</p> <p>Cllr Morris presented an abridged version of his report shown in Appendix 1. The full report is in 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> <p>5.2 Primary School Report.</p>

	<p>There were no comments; the full report is shown in Appendix 4</p> <p>5.3 Parish clerk financial Report.</p> <p>There were no comments; the full report is shown in Appendix 5</p> <p>5.4 West Northants Council Report.</p> <p>The report hadn't been received until the day of the meeting but had been placed on the website.</p> <p>There were no comments; the full report is shown in Appendix 6</p> <p>5.5 The Church of St Michael and All Angels Farthinghoe Report</p> <p>Comment was made that the offertory box had been broken into over the weekend; the full report is shown in Appendix 7</p> <p>5.6 The Severn Sisters Tree site</p> <p>There were no comments; the full report is shown in Appendix 8</p> <p>5.7 Almshouses Report.</p> <p>There were no comments; the full report is shown in Appendix 9</p> <p>5.8 Allotments Report.</p> <p>There were no comments; the full report is shown in Appendix 10</p> <p>5.9 Northamptonshire Police Brackley Neighbourhood Team Report.</p> <p>There were no comments; the full report is shown in Appendix 11</p> <p>5.10 Playpark Report.</p> <p>There were no comments; the full report is shown in Appendix 12</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 and Cllr Larratt presentation.</p>
6	<p>Councillor Phil Larratt presented on the Farthinghoe Bypass.</p> <p>Cllr Larratt (PL) began by thanking Cllr Anthony Baggot-Webb who has been great support for Farthinghoe this year. PL stated the bypass for Farthinghoe remains a priority however, the business case (BCR) that has to be done before seeking funding to take it to the next stage comes out at a figure well below the requirements so at this time, the bypass will not be taken any further forward. He acknowledged that following the production of the BCR, Farthinghoe parish council has responded and officers were looking at these responses.</p> <p>He said other options are being considered including a traffic light system in the village albeit that is extremely unpopular with the villagers and also a weight limit. National Highways are resistant to this as the A422 is a strategic diversion from the M40. Any weight limit would be null and void if there was a diversion off the M40.</p> <p>PL said that the general state of roads was unacceptable and that no inspection had been carried out on work done by external contractors since 2016.</p> <p>PL said no guidance has been given on how to get the HS2 money promised and that it was weighted to the end of the seven year funding period. This year WNC will get £1.3m of it.</p>

Other topics mentioned included funding bus services beyond the governments 2 year plan, waste recycling as the contract for all tips in WNC is up for renewal including Farthinghoe. Consultations out at present include food, parks and home to school transport. Questions were then taken.

MOP: there were two power outages at the weekend taking out the traffic lights what is the reporting process?

PL there is an emergency I'll get details. **ACTION**

MOP: Why are some potholes left unrepaired when crews are out fixing others next to them?

PL: The contract is with Kier, don't think common sense is applied in these situations. Inspectors now finding work not being done which is claimed to be done.

WH: Communication from WNC is poor, vague information this evening, no responses to Farthinghoe's emails, press reports saying NNC are spending HS2 money in large projects, not receiving any response to emails is appalling and rude, when challenged the response from WNC is not acceptable. Last week Kier closed the A422 for some drain cleaning, traffic management was appalling and there was total chaos in the village, the council weren't even told in advance.

PL: We have received your comments on the BCR and these will be responded to.

MM: that went in from us 22 January and not even an acknowledgement received.

PL: The weight restriction Cllrs will have a battle with officers to make it a WNC priority, National highways will push back.

WH: The suggestion of compulsory purchase is a non-starter.

PL: We will not pursue that.

MOP: Who is responsible for getting us Value for money?

PL: WNC.

MOP: The bypass data used in the BCR was out of date. Why?

PL: That's down to those experts producing the report.

MM: the data used was 30% below the true figure, we keep getting told there's push back from Highways, who at Highways?

MOP: We have warehouses being built over the border, no-one from WNC appears to comment.

RB: We did respond its up to Cherwell Council to display or not display responses.

MM: Last application (refused) could have put 4000 HGV a week through the village, WNC not doing enough.

MM National Highways are riding roughshod over us, who specifically at National Highways is pushing back against the weight limit, if you won't defend us we will try.

PL: I want to advertise the introduction of a weight limit and see what National Highways do. I'll work with officers to get it done. WNC have the final say. **ACTION**

MOP: Is the bypass a priority or has it been canned totally?

It's a priority but BCR doesn't allow it at present.

WH: Pollution is a problem but the BCR says we don't suffer with it; monitoring is inadequate here.

PL: Monitoring done as per requirements.

PL: I've been told having traffic lights will help your BCR. Do you want them?

R: NO !

RB: if you agree to have a thousand houses built locally the roof tax will pay for the bypass.

	<p>MM: We have thousands of new houses going up in nearby towns and can't get any money from them to help us.</p> <p>JG: The SOC says they are considering 4 options, what are they and when will we get answers?</p> <p>MM: we have been told our streetlights are not good enough at present I asked in November when they would be upgraded?</p> <p>PL: I'll ask someone to meet you. ACTION</p> <p>SN: The BCR is all about economy noise pollution , we are in top 1% for worst noise pollution, and air quality are low factors. We have old buildings that cannot be improved, what can we do to improve our BCR score?</p> <p>PL: I will ask the question. ACTION</p> <p>RB: there is a local plan being developed, large housing projects locally have been reduced, self builds won't happen outside village confines. Plan out for consultation soon.</p>
7	There were no general questions from the residents this year.
8	<p>Any other business.</p> <p>None</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 was closed at 9.20pm.

VERBAL REPORT APM 2024
Chairman's Verbal Presentation

For a while now the Chairman's more detailed report has been posted on the Parish Council Website and I hope that you have all had the opportunity to read this.

Simultaneously a copy of this evening's Agenda had also been posted, along with hard copies being displayed on the Village noticeboards.

Having delivered my short verbal report I will be happy to take questions or suggestions concerning both my written and verbal reports.

This will be followed by questions and answers concerning the other reports listed on the Agenda (they will be considered in turn in the order shown)

These reports were added to the PC Website at various times prior to tonight's meeting for early reading.

Any questions which cannot be answered tonight will be noted, followed up and replied to in due course.

As, always, I would like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow Councillors along with our Parish Clerk, Dave Weston, for their considerable efforts throughout the year and to extend a warm welcome Sophie who joined the Parish Council in January and is attending her first APM

During the year Cllr Henry Bankes Jones had resigned from the Council owing to pressure of work and we thank Henry for his sterling efforts for the Council in the 9 years that he has been a Councillor.

Since my report was written we have also received reports from the Church, The Seven Sisters Tree Site, the Almshouses and from West Northants Council.

Anyone wishing to understand more about the Seven Sisters Tree Site should contact with Rosemary Jarvis

It is so good to see the churchyard, walls and footpath looking so prim this year

"Don't know where I found the time to go to work" is a phrase often heard in this respect.

It is also good to see considerable activity is going on with investment in the Almshouses

Many thanks to all of those involved.

The WNC report was received too late today from Ward Councillors to study in detail but will be responded to later and directly.

However we hope to have more detailed news from Cllr Larratt this evening concerning a Farthinghoe Bypass and news concerning the imposition of an Interim Weight Limit on the A422, news which was promised for Spring this year.

In view of their big push to clean up our Towns and reduce littering the Parish Council were astounded to hear from WNC that repositioning of a litter bin to a more productive area adjacent to a bus shelter was not considered worthwhile.

I have also received many adverse comments about the size of the increase in cost of the Garden Waste collection both in respect of this year alone and for the cumulative increases since charges were first introduced.

Questions for Cllr Larratt will be taken after he has completed his address his address, but not before.

On a personal basis it is so good to see that the monthly Church Coffee mornings and the Village Hall Books and Bakes afternoons are both flourishing and that the Village Hall Committee has seen an increase in membership.

For those who have still not signed up for the Parish Council Database messages I would implore you to do so as it is so important for us to be able to advise the village of urgent items at the touch of a button.

The chaos of the recent unannounced drain works and chaotic Traffic Management was a classic case for this need.

We currently have 100 signed up but need more.

All registrations will be transferred to the new PC Website once it is up and running later in the year.

Playpark Bark--We are upgrading the safety bark in the Playpark this Saturday at 10.30 am and have urgent need for willing helpers to spread it around. Bringing a rake or garden fork would be useful.

Mention was made in my full report about the Copse Lodge Solar Farm on our borders with Greatworth

Over a lengthy period of consideration I have to say that the WNC Planning input left a lot to be desired as it did with the similar Anaerobic Digester Planning Application at Evenley although the personal inputs by Cllrs Rebecca Breese and Rosie Herring at the Digester Strategic Planning meeting were admirable.

Thanks once again for the hardworking Chronicle Team of Nick, Rosemary, Viv and James for ensuring that we get our monthly news.

I would now like to move on to consideration of the various listed reports as previously mentioned



Farthinghoe and Steane Parish Council

17/04/2024

Chairman's Report for the 2023/2024 Annual Parish Meeting

In May 2023 the country celebrated the first Coronation of a UK Monarch in 70 years with the crowning of King Charles III.

For a large proportion of our population this had been a new experience and on Sunday May 6th the Parish Council invited all residents to a celebratory lunch with a bouncy castle for the children. Fortunately, the weather was very kind to us and the occasion was thoroughly enjoyed by all who came.

As a small boy in 1953 my first experience of a Coronation was also to see a television for the first time, albeit black and white with a very small screen and a magnifying glass. Never to be forgotten!!

Covid nowadays seems to have receded into the background for most of us, but unfortunately the events in Ukraine have now been added to by those in the Middle East.

We pray that political solutions can soon be found and that a peaceful life will return for all.

We reported last year that the Parish Council electricity costs had escalated considerably, but are now pleased to report that this year's streetlight budget appears to be more manageable.

This year has again been tinged with sadness in the Parish with the loss of Rosemary Ewen, Pippa Clayton, Neil Gunn, John Deeley and Bud Mason. Rosemary, Pippa, Neil, John and Bud will be greatly missed and their memories will always live on in our hearts. Our thoughts and prayers go out to their families and friends to help them to cope with their sad losses.

Continuing on with subjects mentioned in the 2023 report.

1 Farthinghoe and Steane Parish Council

Our thanks go out to Dave Weston for his fine efforts as our Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer.

We are truly lucky to have Dave helping us, again with efforts considerably outside of his remit.

I would like to express my personal appreciation to all of our Councillors for their efforts throughout the course of this year.

This year saw the resignation of Cllr Henry Bankes Jones whose increased work commitments in London have made it very difficult for him to attend meetings regularly. We appreciate these circumstances and thank Henry for

his 9 years of committed service to the Parish Council and will miss his valued input

We are pleased to welcome Cllr Sophie Nobes to our council this year. Sophie has really hit the ground running and for anyone who had seen her superb input in opposition to a huge Logistics Warehouse Complex at Junction 11 M40 will understand exactly what I mean.

Had this Planning Application succeeded we could have seen a twofold or even threefold increase in the numbers of HGVs coming through Farthinghoe. In contrast we were concerned to see no visible input from West Northants Council Planning or Highways to support or protect us against the same threat.

Work has begun in preparation for a new Parish Council website to be launched later in the year which will be inclusive of a hub for village activities.

2 Farthinghoe Bypass

I could continue to write reams on this subject in which we, as a Parish Council, are not happy with the performance of West Northants Council and a subject which seems to have receded in the interests of our Member of Parliament, having been stated as the number one priority during the General Election canvassing of November 2019. (See the video shown on the Parish Council Website)

However, this year the WNC Portfolio Holder for Highways, Cllr Phil Larratt, has accepted our invitation to attend our APM to give us an update and for us the opportunity to put our questions to him.

The Parish Council had written a lengthy mail to WNC Highways on 22/01/2024 questioning the completeness and accuracy of the 152 page SOC/BCR report and calculation.

Despite not having the courtesy of a reply to our mail Cllr Larratt deemed it right and proper to announce on two occasions on the BBC that the Bypass project has been curtailed.

We believe that his actions were wrong as well as being utterly and completely disrespectful.

Unfortunately, our opinion differs somewhat to that of our MP who sees this as a perfectly acceptable action or possibly inaction.

Put simply we see the bypass situation in the following terms

A major highway being not fit for purpose

170 homes with 400 people

12000 + vehicles per day using said highway.

The lives and safety of those people being totally ruined and put at risk by those 12000 vehicles using that unsuitable major highway, a road with serious geometric, structural and drainage deficiencies.

A recent meeting with Dame Andrea has cast light on the reason why her interest has recently seemed to wane.

She advised us that the most important part of her role as the elected Member of Parliament for South Northants is to be at Westminster 3 days a

week making laws and not to be listening to and helping to resolve important local issues which she considered to be the work of local Councillors.

It was made clear that neither she nor her assistant appreciated receiving details relating to issues such as our bypass on a regular basis.

As the meeting drew to a close it was clear that in her view the cheapest and quickest resolution to our highways problems was compulsory purchase of a number of homes which would then be demolished to allow for the road to be straightened.

Dame Andrea continued that this would speed up the traffic meaning that our situation would no longer be unique, but that we would join the other 77 parishes in South Northants in which traffic travels too quickly. Helpful thinking!!

It seems that being averse to too much detail extends to the point that she mistakenly feels that the short length of the pinch-point is the full extent of our highway problems within Farthinghoe Village.

How wrong could she be because, in reality, the problem extends from the allotment bus shelter to the driveways of London Barns and Little Farfield. We made clear to her that the Parish Council would steadfastly resist any such scheme which had the potential to increase danger and to destroy the character of our much loved village.

Times seem to have changed, but elections come and go along with people's opinions, so please draw your own conclusions.

A large proportion of the voluminous, incomplete and inaccurate 152 page BCR report produced by WNC Highways is actually totally irrelevant to our circumstances.

In spite of creating obstacles in providing us with a much needed and justified bypass WNC Highways seem to be hell bent on allowing the rest of the village streets to be overrun by potholes.

Their much-vaunted street inspections don't seem to be targeted at rectification and take little account of the fact that most of our streets are also used as our footpaths.

There is a system in place called "FixMyStreet" which we can all use to report Street problems

We should all make use this to report problems early because if we don't ask we will not get!!

If anyone needs guidance in how to use this reporting system then I am more than happy to help.

3 Bus Shelters

Recently we had requested that WNC consider the repositioning of an existing and little used litter bin in the village to be located adjacent to the "Allotment" Bus Shelter to assist us with encouraging a reduction in a growing littering problem there.

The reply was received from WNC stating that this could not be justified.

This reply seems totally at odds to recent mails which have been circulated by WNC encouraging residents to tidy up our town. --No mention of villages!! Cllr Larratt also has responsibility to Recycling and Garden waste collections. Whilst he is with us, perhaps, he might make which justification for the well above inflation increase in the charge recently levied for Garden Waste collection (almost 40% in 2 years)

4 Village Hall

Activities at the Village Hall seem to be progressing well according to the latest report and we look forward to seeing the Solar Panels in place along with the proposed new storage container in lieu of the sheds.

It is encouraging to see that the committee has increased in numbers this year and we thank everyone involved for their efforts.

5 Farthinghoe Primary School

It is so good to see such a comprehensive and energetic report from the school. It maintains its Outstanding Rating and I feel that it is appropriate to name and say a big thank you to all involved who contribute to us having such a fine school.

You make our village feel so proud

Sharon Turner- Head of School

Steve Elson - Year 5 and 6 teacher

Alex Fisher - Year 3 and 4 teacher

Heather Price - Teaching Assistant and Wellbeing Mentor

Emma Lear - Teaching Assistant and Lunchtime Supervisor

Linda Thompson - Teaching Assistant

Helen Hodson - EYFS Teaching Assistant

Katie Woolacott - Bursar

Rheanne Saunders - contracted (self-employed) Music teacher

Michelle Campbell - long-term supply teacher

6 Farthinghoe Chronicle

A big thank you to Rosemary, Viv, Nick and to James for ensuring that our monthly Parish news and information is delivered come hell or high water.

7 Dashwood Play Park

I would like to Hijack part of the Dashwood Playpark report

“We suspect that in the next couple of years we may need to treat/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 financial support from the Village in fund raising for this eventuality. Doing nothing is not an option, as it may necessitate closure of the Playpark, if we do not maintain the operational safety of the equipment, properly”

This is a very important aspect that needs to be considered village wide with thoughts of how we might begin to find finances to counter something which is inevitable.

If we do not take care of the Playpark we will lose it and losing it is also an expensive option and not just in money terms.

8 Copse Lodge Solar Farm

The Copse Lodge Solar Farm at Greatworth was at first rejected by WNC Planning but this was followed by an Appeal by the Developer against the judgement.

There followed a very lengthy, expensive and complicated appeal procedure in which the Planning Inspectorate overturned the WNC rejection.

However, it is now understood that a Greatworth resident has elevated this situation to the Secretary of State in order to overturn the Planning Inspectorate judgement.

Apparently a very similar situation has recently occurred with an almost identical Solar Farm at Gayton near Towcester in which the Secretary of State has eventually reversed the Planning Inspectorate judgement.

We will keep you posted.

9 500 Bus Service

After a period of concern, we are very pleased to see the introduction of the Banbury-Brackley-Bicester timetable allied with the extension of the Government sponsored £2.00 minimum fare scheme.

This has seen increased access to many parts of Brackley together with direct access to the Gateway Shopping Centre in Banbury.

Both Evening and Sunday services have also been reinstated.

In all a very welcome initiative which has seen considerable increase in usage of the bus services.

10 Parish Council Database

It is the intention of the Parish Council to send urgent and important information to every household in the Parish simultaneously at the touch of a button.

We are making good progress as almost 100 people have now registered.

It is intended to use only for important information and of course de-listing can be requested at any time.

PLEASE HELP US TO KEEP YOU INFORMED BY REGISTERING

Yours Sincerely

Cllr Mick Morris

Chairman –Farthinghoe and Steane Parish Council

Farthinghoe Village Hall Report - Year to 31st March 2024

Maintenance items carried out this year have been :

- Stage curtains track replaced, due to damage incurred
- Skirting heating damage repaired and all costs reclaimed through insurance, only resulting in a small increase in the premium.
- Silver Birch tree removed in preparation for solar panels being fitted.

Main projects going forward are :

- Replacing the wooden sheds with a metal storage unit similar to the one installed by the School at the back of the Hall.
- Solar panels fitted on one side of the roof. Two quotes have been obtained and we are in the latter stages of the application to HS2 for funding.

Also general maintenance will take place during the summer, i.e. kitchen walls finishing, new curtain poles installed, tidying storage area and some repainting.

Regular hire use of the hall has nearly doubled in the last year, not including the School. One-off hire remains a mix from the village and outside, mainly childrens parties. Brackley Chamber Music Society also hired the hall for a concert and are putting doing another one in May.

The main running costs are still electricity and cleaning. The 5-year electrical check, including PAT testing, was carried out and there were only a few minor items recommended to be rectified, which were done.

The 150/200 club continues to contribute to the funds, but requires more members, and we are going to work on this in the next month or so.

The bank balances remain strong with total assets of around £30k. Funds are held in Lloyds for day to day running costs, with the remainder in Epworth Charity Cash Fund, currently paying around 5% interest.

The Village Show was back up and running last September, which was very successful, and we will be looking at replicating that again this year. We also held a very successful Social Evening and two Fashion Shows, which were well attended. Our committee members have increased by 4 this year, so we will be looking at putting together a programme of events.

We would like to take this opportunity of thanking the people who keep the hall running smoothly, specifically Rachael who keeps it clean and tidy, Keith who looks after the lawn and hedges, and Jenny Phipps for giving her time to keep the garden tidy.

The Village Hall Committee

Appendix 4

Farthinghoe Primary School Head Teacher Report for the Parish Council April 2024

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

It has been yet another busy year at Farthinghoe Primary School, with our children continuing to thrive and enjoying all of their learning opportunities.

The 2022-2023 academic year began on Monday 5th September, with a positive intake of 6 new foundation stage children. Our staffing remained unchanged and everyone was ready to embrace the year ahead.

We are part of the Chenderit School primary schools' sports cluster, which entails a number of activities, held at Chenderit, with other local schools, throughout the academic year. The activities vary from cross country, tag rugby and multi skills. Our children always love the opportunity to take part and competing against their peers is always approached with positivity and enthusiasm!

Our Harvest Celebrations took place in October and began with an informative assembly from Brackley Food Bank. The children had many questions and were keen to understand how the food bank worked and who could benefit from it. This has now become an annual event, with Brackley Food Bank visiting once again in October 2023 and our family food donations are delivered to this very worthy cause.

As part of our ongoing support for our children and their mental wellbeing, we commenced a new project in the October called 'Nurture Sessions' with small groups of children visiting Limes Farm for blocks of 6 sessions. As a group of young people they were given the opportunity of enjoying a forest school environment where they experienced cooking and forest crafts with a qualified Forest School leader. These sessions helped to promote and support the children's social and emotional development. They were hugely successful and we were able to provide this opportunity to a large number of our children, across the year.

Our first school trip of the year was for our year 3 and 4 children who embarked on a day out to Edgehill Battle Field with their class teacher, Mrs Fisher and their teaching assistant, Mrs Lear. The trip included a visit to the Saint Peter's Church where the children were able to explore the Battle of Edgehill Radley Exhibition, before visiting the battlefield itself, where they re-enacted the event, along with an orienteering activity. This immersive day trip was hugely beneficial to the children's learning and they were all incredibly animated when they returned to school in the afternoon.

In order to ensure our pupil numbers remain strong, we held two open mornings in November, for families looking for Foundation Stage places in September 2023. We were overwhelmed by the amount of interest we received and at one point there was potentially more visitors in the school than children! The aim of the open mornings is to provide a snap shot of our school, our staff, our children and our values. Our year 5 and 6 children show our visitors around and then myself and staff are available to answer any questions afterwards. As well as these two annual events, we offer ad-hoc tours for prospective families.

Our School Council are a group of children, voted for by their peers to represent and take responsibility for certain activities throughout the year. The Council consists of 2 children from each year group and they meet on a weekly basis, with a staff member, to discuss any changes or ideas for our school. The School Council are also responsible for organising our charity events throughout the year. Children in Need, Cake Sale for CRY, Santa Fun Run for Helen & Douglas House and Christmas Jumper Day – are just some of the fundraising events they arranged for these very worthy causes.

In February we introduced our new breakfast club provision. The offering is available each morning from 8.00am and the children are offered a healthy breakfast consisting of cereal, fruit, toast and yogurts. We currently charge £4.50 per day and the uptake has been incredibly positive. We are pleased to be able to provide this additional support to our families, especially those that are working and need to be elsewhere, before 8.45am when the school day starts.

Following the success of the breakfast club, we conducted a parent questionnaire to understand the demand for an after school club. Although several of our parents would have benefitted from this service, unfortunately it was not financially viable and therefore we did not proceed. However, we continue to hold teacher-led clubs, every other half term. These clubs run for an hour after school and our fantastic staff have held clubs including Pop Art!, Watercolours, Sewing, Table Tennis and Debating Club – to name but a few.

In March our younger children enjoyed a brilliant day trip to Cadbury's World in Bourneville. As part of their rainforest learning, the children enjoyed a guided tour of the museum, followed by a learning workshop titled 'From Bean to Bar' exploring the journey of cocoa beans to the chocolate bars the children recognise from the supermarket shelves. The cost of this trip was subsidised by our Parent 'School Ties' committee, who covered the transport fees.

As in previous years, we resumed our monthly forest school for our Key stage 1 class, in the summer term. These whole day sessions are held at Evenley Wood Garden and are run by the experienced 'Muddy Feet' forest school leaders. The days are always action packed and the children absolutely love getting dirty, learning new skills and enjoying the outdoor space.

We marked the King's Coronation with a fabulous tea party on the playground. The event coincided with the end of year 6 SATS and everyone was in high spirits. Our families were invited to join us and the sun luckily shone on us for the celebrations.

In June our year 6 children participated in the national Bikeability, cycling proficiency training. This 2-day course ensures children are not only competent on a bike, but also safe and confident. The first day is primarily conducted on the playground but by the second day they venture out on to the local roads with the trained instructors. The group did fantastically well and showed real maturity – they all received their course certificate and badge at the end.

For the first time in several years, we welcomed two work experience students to our school, during the summer term. Both students attended Chenderit and were in year 10 and 12. They were a huge help around the school, offering support in all classes. The children absolutely loved having these 'big kids' around and we hope that their experience with us will have helped with career paths choices in the future.

Thursday 29th June was our annual Sports' Day. The children compete in their Houses and enjoy a variety of races and challenges during the morning. The event is held on our school field and our families are invited to join us and cheer on the children. This day also coincided with the end of PRIDE month and in celebration, we held our Colour Run. This is the second year we have taken part in this – with the children running around the field whilst being doused in various coloured powders! It is such a fun event and an absolute favourite of the children and staff.

At the start of July our Key stage 2 girls were privileged to be invited to a 'Girls on Track' day at Silverstone. The event is organised by Motorsport UK with the aim to encourage more girls into a career in the Motor Sport sector. The girls (along with Mrs Fisher and Mrs Lear) had an action packed day with a full tour of the Silverstone Museum, experienced life in a racing pit lane and performing a pit stop challenge, along with lots of other fun activities. This event has not been run since COVID, but we are certainly hoping to be invited again, in the coming years.

The final weeks of the year were rounded off with our usual celebrations and farewells. A year 6 pupil was crowned 'Head Teacher for the Day' and we all enjoyed our leavers service and whole school production of 'Wizard of Oz' in the Village Hall. Our year 6 leavers were a fantastic group of 6 who transferred on to Chenderit, Magdalen College and Sibford School.

Following another successful DfE funding application, our windows and door were replaced during the first few weeks of the summer holidays. These works have been hugely beneficial to us, not only with energy efficiency but also the aesthetics of the school.

We would like to thank you for your continued support and we enjoy being part of such a wonderful village. 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

	Year End expenditure 2022-2023	Year End expenditure 2023-2024
Street lighting		
Repairs and maintenance	192.00	0.00
Electricity	1,817.57	1,782.56
Grass cutting		
Grass cutting	1,005.00	920.00
Defibrillator		
Maintenance costs	281.94	0.00
Section 137		
CPRE membership	36.00	60.00
ACRE membership	35.00	42.00
Coronation 2023	0.00	654.50
Community Donations	350.00	0.00
Jubilee 2022	712.57	0.00
Admin. Expenses		
Clerk's expenses: Postage phone / copying / travel etc.	300.00	300.00
Chairman's Expenses		
Other printing costs		
Insurance	675.45	773.33
Bank Account Fees	72.00	72.00
Internal Audit fees	228.00	248.40
N A L C Subs	334.20	298.83
Election Fee		
Farthinghoe Chronicle	876.18	713.00
Website	193.18	207.58
Training	52.80	140.40
Playpark Inspection	2,694.80	138.00
IT equipment/software	119.98	119.98
Clerk's Salary (incl HMRC)	3,371.40	3,631.44
General Maintenance		
Dog waste removal	218.40	258.40
Sign/Shelter cleaning	230.00	250.00
Bus Shelter Maps	213.00	
Sub total of Expenses	14,009.47	10,610.42
Contingency Fund	24.99	156.89
Total Spend from PC accounts	14,034.46	10,767.31
other income	516.46	£1,085.53
Precept	12,500.00	£13,000.00
Grants		
Transfer from other accounts	1,281.94	
TOTAL INCOME to PC A/C	14,298.40	14,085.53
Income minus Expenditure for parish council fund	263.94	3,318.22
Monies paid into village accounts		528.36
income minus Expenditure for all accounts		3,846.58
Election reserves	1,500.00	1,500.00

Monies held on behalf of village		Year end 2022-2023		Year end 2023-2024	
DEFIBRILLATOR					
Opening Balance			£436.48		£154.54
Money Out	Replacement Pads	£281.94	£154.48	£0.00	
Money In		£0.00		£0.00	
Closing Balance 2022-2023			£154.54		£154.54
PLAYPARK					
Opening Balance			£1,697.47		£697.47
Money out	Transfer to PC for repairs	£1,000.00	£697.47	£0.00	
Money In		£0.00		From Village Show	£528.36
Closing Balance 2022-2023			£697.47		£1,225.83

Explanations of variances for the main accounts

We were able to transfer in 23/24 to a lower electricity tariff.

No donations were made in 23//24

The insurance premium rose significantly in 23/24.

In 22/23 significant repairs were made to the Playpark (supplemented by transferring £1000 from the playpark fund) and a large amount of replacement safety bark was bought.

The clerk salary in 23/24 included backpay for pay rise in 2022 and the pay award in 2023.

The contingency fund spends for 23/24 included expenditure on the reprint of the bus shelter maps and the councils Christmas decorations in the church display.

Income in 23/24 was from the precept increase, a VAT refund of over £821 and bank interest increased to £264.11. It was not necessary to transfer any money from accounts held on behalf of the village in 23/24.

Monies held on behalf of the village

The annual playpark health and safety inspection is funded by the PC from their account, therefore there was no expenditure from the playpark account in 23/24 however, top up safety bark has been ordered to be paid for out of the fund for 24/25. The Village Show raised £528.36 for the playpark fund.

No replacement parts were needed for the defibrillator in 23/24.

Bank Accounts

Bank Balances	Year end 2022-2023	Year end 2023-2024
Savings Account	£9,975.38	£10,239.43
Current Account	£3,125.75	£6,708.28
Total	£13,101.13	£16,947.71

Consisting of:

Parish Council Fund	£12,249.12	£15,567.34
Play Park Fund	£697.47	£1,225.83
Defibrillator Fund	£154.54	£154.54

Dave Weston Clerk and RFO

Report on West Northants Council:

This report is in two parts: The first gives an overview of WNC financial governance and then moves on to some local issues that may be more relevant to local residents. The Second Part gives a general overview of the breadth of some of the activities undertaken by WNC over the past year. This report runs to four pages – but it could be much much longer.

Good financial governance:

WNC has saved £34 million of taxpayers money as a result of our Unitary status and this year we will be delivering another balanced budget. This has been achieved through actions such as closing the Daventry Council offices and rationalizing the office space in Northampton – with more to do. The Forum in Towcester (the former SNC offices) is now the base for Planning for West Northants. In the last year we have created a new dedicated legal team which provides services to specialist areas, for example, Northampton Childrens Trust, Environmental Crimes, Planning – saving considerable sums in external legal fees.

Financial Pressures continue for the delivery of local services. The areas where we are obliged to meet demand as it presents itself, Adult Social Care and Childrens' Social Care continue to pressure our budgets like never before. The spike in inflation and other lingering effects of the financial pressures to the UK and world economy by Covid and Ukraine continue to have ramifications in the finances of WNC. The numbers seeking help from Adult Social Care are increasing as are the numbers of children coming under the care of Social Services.

Added to the financial pressures are the difficulties in finding staff for key areas. Carers, Social Workers, Planners, and Educational Psychologists are some of the areas in short supply and add to costs as we seek to attract permanent staff while using contract staff .

We have raised Council Tax by 4.99% of which 2% goes straight to supporting the adult social care budget.

Circa 50 Councils are on the verge of issuing Sec 114 notices (banning any further non-statutory spending because of severe financial distress). We are not in financial distress and have our budget under control.

Local Issues:

Being on the perimeter of the Council area brings many significant challenges, and we suffer the frustration of seeing most attention paid to Northampton, the largest town, which has significant issues – and therefore sees, not surprisingly, the focus of initiatives, funding, and grant funding. Keeping Middleton Cheney Ward's profile high is a constant work in progress!

HS2 construction causes significant issues in our ward, engagement through our HS2 Marshall, has been particularly useful in tackling various issues as they emerge. The

suggestion that Silverstone Station should be included has not been well received, nor seems to have any central government support.

Roads – Potholes – WNC have, this year, bought a PotHole Pro machine that does 4x as many repairs and to a better standard. I continue to bring potholes and damaged roads to the attention of the council, having suffered 2 flat tyres in the last 12 months. WNC has been allocated a further £2.8m from government funds to tackle pothole repair.

Farthinghoe Bypass – Despite ongoing and determined engagement by the Parish Council with WNC Highways, there is no positive news to report at this time. It remains on the WNC priority list should a solution be found. The Council (Highways) have indicated that they are not prepared to expend the funds on developing any further plans while the Business Case does not reach the required return on investment for capital funding from central government sources. Any WNC Highways capital funding would require a vast housing allocation in Farthinghoe area to contribute.

Public Transport – The Council continues to engage with private providers to ensure continuation of existing services. WNC works with Ability – a not for profit “on demand” provider who are actively seeking to extend the range of services they can offer in our ward.

Farthinghoe Recycling: There are NO plans to change the service. It is much loved and well used. Plans had been proposed to try and control access to WNC recycling and reuse sites, by, for example, permit, advance booking or restricting access to WNC residents however Rosie and I have resisted this for Farthinghoe Recycling Centre and plans were dropped.

Social Housing Allocations are moving to a different model. Applicants on the Social Housing Register will be able to bid on available properties which will then be allocated amongst the bidders according to the applicants housing need status.

Acorn Biodigester: Following the refusal at Committee of the application in Evenley Parish but adjacent to Croughton, an appeal has not yet been lodged but is expected. The applicant has until mid June to make their appeal.

Planning Engagement:

Engagement between Cherwell District Council and WNC is not as effective as it could be. It is something I am working on and encouraging a more collaborative approach but our interests are not necessarily aligned.

The Council are purchasing a traffic modelling programme which will enable the council to better understand the impact of large developments in both in the County and on our perimeters that will feed into planning applications and inform decisions on road capacity. When it is up and running I have asked that a paper be prepared that looks at existing development, granted planning applications and future allocations both in our Council Area and adjacent areas (like Cherwell and Milton Keynes) to understand the implications.

Local Plan consultation. This is live now and there is a Consultation day in Brackley on the 1st May at the Old Fire Station Community Rooms between 2 and 5 pm. It is important to remember that this is a draft plan – and will be refined and adapted as a result of the consultation process. Important points to note for Middleton Cheney Ward is that there are NO new strategic allocations for either housing or economic development. This does not mean there will be no applications but that evidence obtained during development of the plan means that the housing numbers have been scaled back as have economic development allocations.

Self Build outside of the village confines will no longer be supported. Self Build allocations will now be part of allocations in larger planning applications and within village confines or as part of an ‘exception site’ where social housing may be given permission because of local need.

As part of the Consultation there is a Call for Sites, which is part of the “good practice” associated with Local Planning. Any site that comes forward would then be judged against the requirements of the emerging plan.

Wider WNC work and initiatives in 2023/24:

Crack down on fly tipping – active investigations and pursuit through the courts were there is evidence to support.

CO2 omissions address climate change – a focus on reducing CO2 emissions and building resilience to changing weather patterns and environmental events.

Cleaner Communities Campaign – educating residents about their own role and the impact of environmental crime such as fly-tipping and littering.

Central Government money has been granted to introduce electric buses in Northampton.

Green flag status for WNC parks, Towcester Water meadows to work towards same award.

Trading standards focusing on the supply of illegal vapes in shops across WNC – and taking steps to dissuade, particularly young people, from vaping (WNC hosted a vaping conference for young people earlier in the year)

Food standards inspections across the council area are a priority and especially having Silverstone circuit on the doorstep with the various food business associated with activities.

Cost of living crisis and anti poverty strategy:

WNC gave holiday meal vouchers for all children on free school meals

Money given to pensioners to help with fuel bills

Warm spaces which have now morphed into welcoming spaces. There are 88 across West Northants. The aim is to provide, not just a warm space but an environment that will reduce social isolation and loneliness. Brackley Library is one of the spaces available nearby. There is not one at the moment in our ward, but the Council would pursue an opportunity with Parish Councils or community groups if an opportunity presented itself.

Improving Life Chances and Quality of life:

Get up and Go exercise classes Towcester and Brackley

A new special needs school for 250 pupils is being built near Towcester to prevent children having to be educated out of our area which is an enormous drain on council resources – both in fees to the schools and in transporting children to out of area schools.

Local Area Partnerships (LAPS) (Integrated Health) are working together on Integrated Care: further information on LAPS can be found at:

– <https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/health-and-wellbeing-board/local-area-partnerships>

Partnered with Hope Centre to support rough sleepers in Northampton and area

Government Money allocated for adult numeracy

School attendance support service

Support for care leavers – including ensuring they get full support for liabilities like Council Tax in their first years after leaving care.

Armed forces covenant awarded gold status

Pothole pro machine to fix potholes faster and to a better standard. There is not enough money available to do all the necessary repairs fast enough!

WNC are building a new state of the art mortuary in Northampton, which will enhance services to bereaved families in difficult circumstances.

Rural Business grants available – supporting our most rural businesses, matched funding of between £2,500 - £100,000 in DEFRA’s designated rural areas.

Local Consultations are live on : -

Flood Risk assessment. Make sure West Northants know where the local issues are

Transport – specifically Brackley area. The group want to know what journeys are needed by bus. Where do people need to travel to and when.

There is some Government money for improvement of rural transport and we have been chosen as a pilot area.

Ability (on call bus) was allocated a substantial grant to develop services in the rural areas £54m is going into social housing during the next financial year. The remit of Northampton Partnership Homes has now changed and covers all of West Northamptonshire. This gives the opportunity to develop Social Housing in our Ward, owned and managed by the council rather than a registered Local Housing Provider.

**Report of Parochial Church Council of
St. Michael and All Angels Farthinghoe
To Farthinghoe Parish Council April 2024**

Since September 2022 we have been an interregnum and we continue to look for a replacement. We hope that we may have a new Rector soon. We thank everyone involved in arranging and taking services.

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 was very successful and our monthly coffee mornings in the vestry go from strength to strength. If you haven't been already, do come along – it is usually on the second Friday 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.

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.

Thank you also to our congregation, and to those of you in the village who have attended any of life events during the last year.

12th April 2024

The Seven Sisters Tree Site Report APM April 2024

This Site was created in 2000 by a group of six Trustees and their families. Each Trustee family has an oak tree as a living memorial.

The seventh tree is dedicated to residents of Farthinghoe, where ashes of villagers may be scattered. A fee is charged. Stewardship membership is open to all at an annual subscription of £10.

A time capsule is buried at the site, to which children of the School in 2000 contributed along with other villagers.

During the last 2 years, sadly 2 of our original Trustees have died, namely Bud Mason, and John Deeley.

Take a walk up to the site and enjoy the view across the valley.

**FARTHINGHOE ALMSHOUSES
THE CHARITY OF THOMAS AMPHLETT (212077)**

The trustees of The Charity of Thomas Amphlett are pleased to confirm that the three Almshouses in Farthinghoe remain occupied.

Improvements continued in 2023 with the installation of new bathrooms by Town & Country Plumbing & Heating, with walk in showers, which have greatly improved Almshouse living for the Residents and look very smart.

Further work is due to start this year with proposed insulation to the bathrooms and double glazing replacement.

As always, a big thank you to the trustees, who are all voluntary and give generously with their time: Andrew Bowyer, Victor Tolchard and Merry Wadlow.

For further information, please find details on the Farthinghoe Parish Council website or contact Jenny Forbes on 01295 711942.

Jenny Forbes (Chairman of Trustees)

March 2024

Allotments – report to Annual Parish Meeting April 2024

Church Piece Allotments and the Dashwood allotments continue to provide an important resource for those wishing to grow vegetables or cut flowers or raise chickens.

Bad weather in recent months, especially the strong winds, have damaged or flattened large erections such as sheds and green houses. However, tenants remain undaunted and the returns of having a plot of ground to cultivate and enjoy clearly outweigh the necessary investment in time, energy and cost of repair.

Plots have changed hands over the past season but the overall tenancy remains reasonable, generating sufficient funds to pay for the costs of insurance.

There are vacancies in both the Church Piece site (no chickens allowed) and the Queens Street site (chickens welcome!).

If anyone is interested in renting a plot, please contact Henry Bankes-Jones or Ruth Brittain, Allotment Trustees. Contact details can be found in the cover of the Farthinghoe Chronicle.

Rental remains at £12 per plot per annum.

Challenges to the allotments site are predominantly those of maintaining the boundary hedges, particularly along the Main Road and where there is no tenant in the plot alongside the hedge. Maintenance of the paths between plots is also haphazard. Not every plot holder has the necessary equipment to mow the grass or cut the hedges.

Allotment Trustees:

Henry Bankes-Jones

Ruth Brittain

11th April 2024

Annual Report and You Said, We Did March 2024

South Northants Neighbourhood Policing Teams have welcomed a couple of new members to the team and have also seen a couple move onto pastures new. PC Mohammed Mir has joined Brackley and PC Stefan Macovei has joined Towcester. PC Frankie Smith has moved to a seconded post as a Dog Legislation Officer with the Force and PCSO Paris Jones has left to take up a role as a civil servant. PCSO Jen Harrison is supporting our team whilst working as a dedicated anti-social behaviour officer.

Hopefully most villages will have now been visited by the Beat Bus, an initiative launched in late 2021. We aim to use this and other resources to bring officers to your doorstep and offer some of our more isolated residents the opportunity to speak to officers on a 1-2-1 basis whilst the officers also complete some of their existing workload in an agile manner. Our focus is driven by you and if you feel that your village would benefit from any additional visits then please contact us – details can be found at the end of this report. We would rather become involved in resolving any issues or concerns at an early stage to prevent situations escalating or deteriorating. Ideally our visits should be timed alongside community events, meetings or gatherings to maximise opportunities to meet your local officers.

Overall, South Northants is a pleasant and safe place to live. Crime levels are relatively low and if you wish to look at more detailed information in respect of these then you can visit [Police.uk](https://www.police.uk) - Your area

Our community identified policing priority surveys, highlighted that road safety; vehicle crime and rural crime are your real areas of concern and these were chosen to be the priorities between December 2023 and March 2024.

Road Safety:

As a Neighbourhood Team, we have responsibility for engaging with all of our local schools across all year groups. We receive many reports relating to the use of vehicles around school times from the public and schools themselves. These reports are followed up by ourselves, or by us linking in with partner agencies and enforcement will be undertaken where appropriate. We acknowledge that many schools are located within tight road networks and that societal changes are often the cause of sheer volume of traffic utilising these to get children to and from school. Therefore, much of our work in tackling issues will be educationally based in order to, disrupt and deter issues. Enforcement will be a last resort but is always an option for persistent issues.

In December 2023 during the Force's Drink and Drug Drive campaign, an operation was carried out during a night in South Northants. This resulted in 27 people submitting to breath tests, 3 arrests for drug drive, disqualified driving and handling stolen goods (diesel). 18 offences were identified, 5 vehicles seized and a quantity of stolen property recovered. For anyone believing that it is unfair Police targeting motorists clearly this proves that notion to be misguided. Criminals use our road network and drive vehicles also.

Vehicle Crime:

Nationally there is a trend in stealing load and diesel from HGVs parked up overnight. Currently these offences are low in number in South Northants and affect major trunk road predominately. Thefts of tools from vans is more problematic and officers aim to follow up all offences of theft from a motor vehicle with a call or visit to the victim, completion of any CCTV enquiries, house to house

where appropriate and a media report for witnesses. These offences are opportunistic in nature and hard to second guess where they may occur. Vans are a particularly vulnerable target for stealing tools however these types of vehicles are parked in most streets and activity around them doesn't always draw attention. We encourage 2 van owners or operators to invest in lockable options for items within the van and consider marking tools to make them less attractive for onwards sale.

Rural Crime:

The rural crime team has seen a much quieter start to 2024 than 2023 with far less thefts and rural crime activity happening. We have noted an increase in plant machinery thefts and building sites are proving favourable. The team have been busy with numerous warrants alongside the RSPCA for animal welfare related incidents as unfortunately we are seeing an increase in people abandoning their animals or just not caring for them. We have had several arrests for rural crime which are progressing at this time and cross border working with our neighbouring forces where we see offenders committing crime across several counties. We have delivered training inputs to all the young farmer groups across the county which have been well received. We have also been on training inputs with the other regional forces in Lincolnshire and Leicestershire on wildlife crime matters and to the LAMMA show at the NEC where we build working relationships with other forces and manufacturers as well as engaging with our own rural community who attend the event. We have recovered several stolen items and returned them to their owners and are continually developing intelligence around offenders. We've also had several reports of livestock worrying and where we had a particular problem which resulted in a warrant being obtained and the dogs seized and eventually rehomed. We will continue to support the rural communities through attending events and being visible and ask that any information no matter how small you may think it is, report it as it may be the missing part to a wider problem.

Please consider signing up to Northants Talking. 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 Northants Talking Messaging System easily via this link: [Northamptonshire Talking](#)

Your Neighbourhood Policing Teams are based within the Community at Brackley and Towcester Police Stations. These are Police bases so don't have an open front office to visit but officers are there daily. We would like to attend as many events, local groups, warm spaces, community larders as possible to allow you opportunities to meet us and share your concerns, we can offer information and advice and tackle community issues with your support.

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 and you should be part of any changes we implement. 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. 3 We work closely with our Rural Crime Team and you can follow their work via Twitter: @hutch472 & @NorPolRural.

We have previously reported a rise in issues associated with the use of social media to send offensive messages and/or images. This has especially been an issue with children of school age from school years 6 upwards (ages 10-16). Thankfully work between Police and schools seems to have reduced the amount of reports. We will always focus on safeguarding, education and intervention as first choice but there have been occasions where this type of behaviour has had to be tackled at a higher level with Youth Offending Team intervention to prevent children entering the Criminal Justice System. Officers will be undertaking further assemblies and class inputs with schools over the coming months.

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-boundary-disputes/>

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 Annual Parish Council meeting April 2024

Our enhanced Village Playpark has now been in existence for almost 9 years. Yes, difficult to believe, but true. It is lovely to see children, both from our Village and from the surrounding area, enjoying the facilities, serenity and panoramic views. We are very fortunate to have such a beautiful asset in our Village.

Our annual Health & Safety Inspection was carried out, late 2023, and a number of issues were identified, which require attention. The prime requirement is for the safety bark to be “topped up” so that if children fall from the swings or climbing frames they will be protected to the best of our ability. We currently have a “ring fenced” amount of £697.47 in our Playpark account and the “top up” of bark is anticipated to cost £840.00 inc. VAT. We are able to accommodate this extra cost thanks to the generosity and wonderful donation from the Village Hall Committee, of £528.36, following the success of the Village Show in 2023. We have also approached Tesco, Brackley, and requested to be included in their Community Grants portfolio. If successful, any amount we receive will ease the burden on our account. We will keep you informed of our progress.

An order has been placed for the safety bark and we are planning to distribute this in April, 2024. Any help that you can provide will be gratefully received. We will notify the Village when this exercise is due to be undertaken.

We suspect that in the next couple of years we may need to treat/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 financial support from the Village in fund raising for this eventuality. Doing nothing is not an option, as it may necessitate closure of the Playpark, if we do not maintain the operational safety of the equipment, properly.

We advised in our 2023 report that West Northants Council (WNC) had approved the implementation of double yellow lines to deter parking on the corner of Queens Street/Clarks Lane. We are pleased to report that the work has been completed. We would request any Villager who is aware of abuse of the parking regulations to advise your local Councillor of the vehicle registration and if possible, take a photograph with your mobile phone. We can then follow up with necessary action.

We appreciate that the family dog is happy to join with the children in the Playpark. However, it is now illegal to take dogs into the playpark, as a result of a recent bylaw by WNC, and subject to a substantial fine. We would respectfully 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