

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 Sophie Nobes (SN)
Cllr Trevor Jarvis (TJ)
Cllr Barry Willett (BW)
Mr Dave Weston (Clerk)
WNC Cllrs Rebecca Breese (RB), Rosie Herring (RH)
15 attendees from the public (MOP)

Apologies:

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.</p>
2	<p>To receive apologies for absence.</p> <p>No apologies were tendered</p>
3	<p>To receive and approve for signature the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 12 April 2024.</p> <p>The minutes were proposed by Wendy Hancock and seconded by Barry Willett and were signed by the Chairman as a true record.</p>
4	<p>To review matters arising from the Annual Parish Meeting held on 12 April 2024.</p> <p>There were no matters arising.</p>
5	<p>To receive the Chairman's Report for the year 2024.</p> <p>Cllr Morris presented an abridged version of his report shown in Appendix 1.</p> <p>There were no comments on the report.</p> <p>Cllr Herring stated that following the public meeting in the village to look at traffic mitigation measures for the A422, WNC have not said no to proposals made, however more work was needed. There is an opportunity to progress a weight limit through the village.</p> <p>Cllr Morris stated that Farthinghoe Parish Council have no faith in WNC capability to collect data to support such measures and in addition to the weight limit a 20mh limit was needed through the village supported by average speed cameras.</p> <p>Cllr Morris also raised the issue of the street lighting along the A422 through the village, Farthinghoe parish Council own and pay for the running of the streetlights, they are not up to a standard for such a strategically important A road and designated motorway diversion route. The council are waiting on a reply from either Phil Larrat or Stuart Timmins on this matter. WNC councillors agreed they would follow this up.</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. There were no comments; the full report is shown in Appendix 2</p> <p>5.2 Primary School Report. There were no comments; a report had not been received.</p> <p>5.3 Parish Clerk Financial Report. There were no comments; the full report is shown in Appendix 2</p> <p>Cllr Morris informed the meeting that the village has been allocated £60k from the solar Farm fund and asked those present to offer ideas for use in the village. MOP: Can you put some older childrens play equipment in the playpark. Cllr Morris invited the public to scope out some suggestions.</p> <p>5.4 West Northants Council Report. The report was presented verbally. The clerk asked the WNC councillors to email it to him ASAP. MOP raise the issue of fly tipping around the area. The full report is shown in Appendix 2</p> <p>5.5 The Church of St Michael and All Angels Farthinghoe Report Comment was made that the offertory box had been broken into over the weekend; the full report is shown in Appendix 2</p> <p>5.6 The Severn Sisters Tree site There were no comments; the full report is shown in Appendix 2</p> <p>5.7 Almshouses Report. There were no comments; the full report is shown in Appendix 2. Thanks were recorded to Jenny Forbes for her work with the Almshouses.</p> <p>5.8 Allotments Report. There were no comments; the full report is shown in Appendix 2 A comment was made that there had been a break in a couple of weeks ago to some sheds.</p> <p>5.9 Northamptonshire Police Brackley Neighbourhood Team Report. There were no comments; the full report is shown in Appendix 2</p> <p>5.10 Playpark Report. There were no comments; the full report is shown in Appendix 2</p>
6	<p>To take general questions from the public MOP: Does the council know why City Fibre were in the village? No knowledge MOP: Does the council know why Kier were in the village today? No knowledge</p>

	<p>MOP: The hedge near the KPH junction is pretty overgrown. Cllr Morris agreed the new householder would be approached to rectify it.</p> <p>MOP: comment that the hedge near the Hinton turn is always overgrown in the summer.</p>
7	<p>Any other business.</p> <p>Cllr Morris outlined the intention for the forthcoming VE day celebrations</p>

The meeting was closed at 9.08pm.

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Farthinghoe and Steane Parish Council

17/04/2025

Chairman's Report for the 2024/2025 Annual Parish Meeting

Another year has passed and although "Lock Down" has become a little used term nowadays we are still living in globally uncertain times.

Last year we were all praying for a political solution but alas it seems that Politicians were not listening.

I am talking globally but it is also time for local politicians to stand up to be counted and 2025 is a year when we can express our opinions and needs. Don't miss your chance to vote.

This year has again been tinged with sadness in the Parish with the loss of Tony Deeley, Ruth Dashwood, Bryan Walker, Mick Jeffs, Geoff Hovland, Angela Redrup, John Stubbs, Michael Lunn, Mike Fortnum.

Tony, Ruth, Bryan, Mick, Geoff, Angela, John, Michael and Mike will all 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.

On the bright side I had the chance this week to meet and interact with our new neighbour Florence, who was born in January. What a delight.

Continuing on with subjects mentioned in the 2024 report.

1 Farthinghoe and Steane Parish Council

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

We are truly lucky to have Dave helping us, his commitment to our Parish continues unabated.

However, there is a sad side, in November Dave will be retiring and he will be sorely missed.

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

This year has seen the resignations of John Grant, after more than 16 years as a Councillor, and Wendy Hancock.

Wendy along with Sophie and James Harrison have taken responsibility for the development of the new Parish Council website and we hope that you like it. It is now up and running and can be found using

www.farthinghoeparishcouncil.gov.uk .The NEW email addresses for all Parish Councillors and the Parish Clerk can also be found on the website.

2 Farthinghoe Bypass along with Mitigation Options

Our Bypass still remains a long-term option but will not be considered in any depth for at least 5 more years, unless there are fundamental changes in Central Government funding policies for roads, but we do know that current changes to Planning Policies could make our traffic situation considerable worse.

Keep your eyes open for substantial new Planning Applications for Housing and for Logistics Warehousing complexes.

We will do our best to keep you informed and our best means of contact will be the Farthinghoe Chronicle and the Parish Council Database (more about this later)

With the bypass on pause we will now concentrate our thoughts on Mitigation options.

Last year we had mentioned the apparent decline in interest in our traffic problems by our previous Member of Parliament and this has been exacerbated by the Farthinghoe Bypass not being included on the list of priorities which was passed to the new MP in July 2024.

We are not impressed as having one meeting with Sarah Bool MP in September 2024, where promises were made and virtually nothing has been heard since.

Not impressed is an understatement.

As mentioned, the Parish Council database is an important tool for keeping in touch and we thank everyone for attending the Kier/WNC Highways Exhibition at the Village Hall on 10March.

Your turnout proved that easy communication is so important and hopefully we were all able to make our points at the exhibition and that we were being listened to, which has not always been the case.

One thing became clear to me was that none of the visitors had a clue about the traffic queues turmoil we experienced during the numerous roadworks on the A422 with 2-way traffic lights in place.

Currently we have only 96 people registered on the email database but we need more, many more.

Please email Dave Weston on clerk@farthinghoeparishcouncil.gov.uk along with your name and street address and you will be included. Very straightforward.

Following the 10March meeting Nick Henstock, Assistant Director WNC Highways, has promised to take a detailed look at a revised Weight Limit scheme, inclusive in this scheme will be a 20mph limit (with the limit extended beyond the airfield road) along with Average Speed Cameras in place at the extremities of the speed limit.

No point in a limit if it is not enforced and a side benefit would be the disappearance if that ugly rusty monstrosity close to the allotments.

He has promised a written response in June and will come to the Parish Council meeting in July to discuss that response with Councillors. I would add that the Parish Council criticism of the 152 page bypass justification report has never been satisfactorily answered.

We were advised by WNC highways in 2023 that our streetlights do not meet the required standards for an MRN (Major Road Network) Highway.

This is double whammy because the carriageway doesn't either.

As Residents we did not ask for the road to be upgraded to an MRN and therefore do not feel it a Parish responsibility to upgrade the lights to that standard.

However, we have fielded numerous fears about the safety and security caused by the inadequacy of this lighting.

We have asked Cllr Larratt numerous times since November 2023 about this but with no answer-Is it a Dft or a WNC responsibility?

Finally, we recently learned from Stuart Timmiss via Cllr Herring that this will be addressed in June or July

Enough for now!!

3 Village Hall

The Solar Panels mentioned last year are now in place and the economics of this allow the hall to be kept at a more comfortable level for users—Good news indeed.

As I write this report the new storage container has quite literally landed off the end of a Hiab Crane and can be seen close to the hall.

4 Farthinghoe Primary School

There is a very large streamer currently attached to the very tidy new fencing. It states

“2024-2025 OUTSTANDING”

Need I say more

Thank you all.

5 Farthinghoe Chronicle

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

And a big thank you to our new editor Lynne

6 Dashwood Play Park

I have nothing to add to John Grant's report

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.

We need your help to identify the culprits, from outside the village, who misuse it ultimately at our expense

7 Copse Lodge Solar Farm

As we are now aware the final appeal to the Secretary of State by a Greatworth resident against the building of this Solar Farm was rejected.

How was she informed?

She saw large construction machines arriving to site well before she was officially informed.

How did we find out?

Cockley Road was overwhelmed with fleets of tippers and low loaders.

This, despite the fact that we had fought successfully for 3 years to ensure that Planning Conditions were in place to make Cockley Road a "No Go" area.

What are Planning Conditions worth?

WNC has a Planning Enforcement Team which at first seemed reluctant to enforce or maybe were unsure if they could legally enforce.

In any event it took them weeks to do what one phone call should have done within a day if receiving reports.

Still trying to grow back the hair I pulled out!!

However, many hours of searching uncovered a record of a throwaway aside made at a meeting 3 years ago about possibility of Community Funding to be administered by Parish Councils.

This fund for £60,000 has now been agreed with the Village Hall and the School having already benefited from an allocation.

The school really suffered from the noise and dangers of all those trucks and machinery but I hope that they will find the state of the art interactive Smart Boards to be helpful for the teachers and for the children's education.

My thanks to Sharon, Katie, Theresa and Maz for keeping me informed whilst we fought to stop those tippers

8 500 Bus Service

I know that we get the occasional hiccup but as a small village we are really very fortunate to have this service

9 Parish Council Database

PLEASE HELP US TO KEEP YOU INFORMED BY REGISTERING

Don't forget clerk@farthinghoe-parish-council.gov.uk

HELP US TO HELP YOU

Yours Sincerely

Cllr Mick Morris

Chairman –Farthinghoe and Steane Parish Council

Appendix 2

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Farthinghoe Village Hall Report

Year to 31st March 2025

Improvements carried out this year :

Solar panels have been fitted to one side of the roof and are now successfully generating sufficient electricity for the hall's needs, with excess being sold to the grid, which is enabling us to provide a much more comfortable temperature in the hall.

A new storage container is being delivered on Wednesday 16th April, which will replace the two sheds taken down during the Christmas break and provide a much safer storage facility for the marquees (and stop the mice feeding off them). The sheds were broken into on one occasion during the winter, but thankfully nothing was taken.

The new curtain rails were installed and panelling in the kitchen finished ready for painting.

Future Improvements will include :

A noticeboard to go on the outside wall combining a new Farthinghoe Village Hall sign to enable notices to be displayed advertising events taking place at the hall. A large amount of painting needs to be done and hopefully we can get some of this completed during the summer.

Hirers

Income from Regular bookings has increased this year, with two new regular hirers. One-off hire remains strong, both from the village and outside, mainly childrens parties. Three wedding packages have been booked for this year and two next year, with deposits paid.

Events

Various events were organised during the year including the Village Show at the end of September, which despite the weather was very successful, and planning is in progress for this year. There was a Panto in December, enjoyed by all who attended, 80+ tickets were sold for the concert by Swing From Paris at the end of March, which was outstanding, we also held another Fashion Show in April, which again proved very popular and Brackley Chamber Music Society have again hired the hall for a concert in May

General

The main running costs remain electricity, cleaning and garden maintenance. 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 £23k. Funds are held in Lloyds for day to day running costs, with the remainder in Epworth Charity Cash Fund, currently paying around 5% interest.

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. We would also like to give special thanks to Jane & Sid Atkins, who always offer to help when we need "an extra pair of hands".

The Village Hall Committee

FARTHINGHOE PARISH COUNCIL FINANCIAL REPORT 2024-2025

	Expenditure 2023-2024	Expenditure 2024-2025
Street lighting		
Repairs and maintenance	0.00	456.00
Electricity	1,782.56	1,387.31
Grass cutting		
Grass cutting	920.00	1,120.00
Defibrillator		
Maintenance costs	0.00	208.80
Memberships		
CPRE membership	60.00	60.00
ACRE membership	42.00	84.00
Community Donations	0.00	100.00
Admin. Expenses		
Clerk's expenses: Postage phone / copying / travel etc.	300.00	300.00
Chairman's Expenses	0.00	0.00
Other printing costs	0.00	0.00
Insurance	773.33	821.47
Bank Account Fees	72.00	71.40
Internal Audit fees	248.40	264.00
N A L C Subs	298.83	310.79
Election Fee	0.00	0.00
Farthinghoe Chronicle	713.00	795.50
Website	207.58	343.59
Training	140.40	0.00
Playpark Inspection	138.00	1,752.33
IT equipment/software	119.98	119.98
Clerk's Salary (incl HMRC)	3,631.44	4,283.93
General Maintenance		
Dog waste removal	258.40	237.12
Sign/Shelter cleaning	250.00	280.00
Sub total of Expenses	10,610.42	12,996.22
Contingency Fund	156.89	136.35
Total Spend from PC accounts	10,767.31	13,132.57
other income (bank interest/VAT refund/adverts)	1,085.53	685.68
Precept	13,000.00	13,573.00
Grants & Insurance claims		2,785.00
Transfer from other accounts		762.00
TOTAL INCOME to PC A/C	14,085.53	17,805.68
Income minus Expenditure for parish council fund	3,318.22	4,673.11
Monies paid into village accounts	528.36	0.00
income minus Expenditure for all accounts	3,846.58	4,673.11
Election reserves	1,500.00	1,500.00

Accounts Explanation

For 2024-2025 there was a £440.43 underspend against the precept.

Income

There is a figure of £2785.00 received as an insurance payment to the council for damaged caused to a streetlight. The light is not yet fully repaired so payment has not been made to the company.

A total of £762.00 was moved from the playpark fund to the general fund as part payment towards replacement bark.

Expenditure

There was a purchase of replacement bark for the playpark

There was a salary increase for the clerk

The electricity reduced as a result of moving to a different tariff

Monies Held on behalf of the village

	31 March 2024	31 March 2025
Defibrillator Fund	£154.54	£154.54
Playpark Fund	£1225.83	£463.83
Bank balances	31 March 2024	31 March 2025
Current Account	£6,708.28	£7,548.03
Deposit Account	£10,239.43	£13,310.81
Total	£16,947.71	£20,858.84
Consisting of:		
Parish Council Fund	£15,567.34	£20,240.47
Defibrillator Fund	£154.54	£154.54
Playpark Fund	£1,225.83	£463.83

Dave Weston Clerk/RFO

WNC Councilors Report

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As we are in the Preelection period, my answers may not be quite as fulsome as I would like but I will try to inform you as best as I can what the council has achieved this past year.

The most important fact is that WNC has delivered a balanced budget for the fourth year. Despite increases in demand from social care, housing and Children's services and despite the fact that at least 20 councils are officially bankrupt and about 30 more on the brink, West Northants has managed the budgets prudently and steadied the ship.

Children's services were failing under the old County council but now fostering and adoption services are rated GOOD by Ofsted and leadership OUTstanding

Social care has moved from Inadequate to requires improvement and we are waiting for the next inspection to chart the onward improvements.

8 SEND units were commissioned attached to existing schools and the new Special Needs school at Tiffield is due to open in September. This will accommodate many children who at the moment have to make long journeys out of the area to attend a special school.

A new initiative called the Family Hub has opened in Towcester and there are 2 more planned for Daventry and Northampton.

Unlike the family centres they will offer help and advice in one place for all age children not just 1-5 year olds.

10 million has been spent on roads and pothole's and 1 extra million in the budget next year for footpaths.

Free parking has been maintained in Brackley and Towcester to keep the high streets vibrant.

The Recycling centres have been kept open and are under new contract at Farthinghoe

Cllr Breese is hot on the trail of fly tipping and protecting our green spaces.

A new tree strategy was adopted and there is an initiative to have more wildflower verges.

The council is there in an emergency. There was a fire in Northampton over the weekend in private flats. Some are too dangerous to go back into, so an emergency center was opened up with our staff helping about 40 people with their housing options.

There was also terrible flooding last year which also affected Middleton Cheney. The worst hit was Billing with dozens flooded out. And still the rain came down. Again the council mobilized to help people find shelter. I have been involved through the LAP getting a home for Men in Sheds based at Evenley Wood and we got HS2 with a lot of arm twisting to supply the concrete base. The council grants funded the shed, and it is all now up and running. It has been so successful that a second shed is now on order funded by lottery money.

I am also an appointed Board member for SNVB who you will know best as supplying volunteer drivers and garden buddies.

They were in danger of going under despite the huge success of the Towcester Larder. I lobbied and promoted their cause, and they will now have a permanent home at Riverside in Towcester on the site of the larder.

There was a horrible incident recently involving youths with knives and an unacceptable delay in the police response. We wrote to the Crime commissioner and the Chief Inspector who as a result will be visiting the Middleton Cheney area May 1st. This is for him to see firsthand the particulars of policing Middleton Cheney and surrounding villages so close to Banbury and the M40.

Rosie Herring 23rd April 2025

Church Piece Allotments April 2025

In the past 12 months, rentals on the allotments have remained steady in numbers although a few have changed hands. There are still several vacant plots for anyone who is interested. Some come with sheds and water butts, one has a greenhouse. The plot with the apple tree now has a tenant – simply for the apple tree! If you want to keep chickens, there remains one plot available on the Queens Street patch.

Sadly, petty theft still occurs, with sheds being damaged and broken into, and mechanical tools taken. If anyone has any useful information in this regard, please inform the Trustees.

Rental cost has remained the same at £12 per annum, payable on the first Monday of September. Should you be interested in renting one of the allotments please contact either Ruth Brittain or Henry Bankes-Jones

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Seven Sisters Tree Site Report

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.

This year marks our 25th anniversary.

Name plaques have been placed on the fence to indicate who bought and planted the tree. This should save confusion when villagers wish to scatter ashes.

DRAFT

Farthinghoe Almshouses
The Charity of Thomas Amphlett

The Trustees of the Charity of Thomas Amphlett are pleased to confirm that the three Almshouses remain occupied, with no change of residents in the last year.

We have been delighted to welcome two new trustees, the Reverend George Frost and Councillor Rebecca Breese, and I would like to extend my thanks to them, our Treasurer Merry Wadlow and our long-standing trustee Victor Tolchard. I would also like to emphasise our gratitude to Jenny Forbes for all her untiring work, commitment and guidance during her many years as Chairman.

Improvements to the houses have continued during the last year, including insulation to the bathrooms and the replacement of the flat roofs and guttering to the rear of the houses. It is proposed that the interiors will be re-decorated during the summer.

For further information please refer to the Farthinghoe Parish Council website or contact Andrew Bowyer on 01295 816555.

Andrew Bowyer

Chairman of Trustees
Charity of Thomas Amphlett

March, 2025

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NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

POLICE

Fighting Crime. Protecting People.

Brackley AGM Report for 2025



We have seen some changes in staffing this year; PC Andreia Mackenzie has left the team to join our Domestic Abuse Investigation Unit and PC Frankie Smith has taken on an extended secondment as a Dog Legislation Officer. Both officers still work closely with us within their new roles especially Frankie due to the increase in reports of dogs being illegally held, in breach of regulations or out of control.

PC Matt O'Brien has joined the Silverstone Beat as PC Mel Carter has moved over to cover the Towcester area. PC Owen Sturgess has joined us on the Brackley Town Beat and PC Sam Dyson will be joining the team in May.

Staffing changes do bring some challenges in building and maintaining community contacts, and this will always be a work in progress however the team have already made inroads into some complex neighbour disputes that have required a multi-agency approach. These and safeguarding issues do take the lion's share of our time after attendance at emergency incidents. As a community team we have the capacity to work on longer term problem solving for issues that don't have an immediate resolution available.

Officers have been welcomed into local schools to assist in tackling drug, knife, online safety and violence issues. We work with teaching staff, pastoral staff and parents with an education and safeguarding first approach rather than looking to criminalize children. Where there is no choice but to consider a more formal step then we look to utilize Immediate Justice as an initial option.

Immediate Justice Introduction

The Immediate Justice scheme was launched in 2023 for Northamptonshire through OPFCC funding. The scheme means those found committing anti-social behaviour or low-level crimes, can be made to repair the damage they inflicted on victims and communities. This could see them being made to pick up litter, remove graffiti or carry out other work to make environmental improvements in the community.

In 2024 the scheme lowered the participant age down to 12 and extended the funding. This allows officers to tackle young people who are committing low-level offences with outcomes that are impactful but will not harm their future with a criminal record.

In the Brackley beat area, we have made 5 x Immediate Justice Referrals which have totalled 26 hours unpaid work in the community. We have a further 2 referrals awaiting completion with 18 hours unpaid work. These referrals have been for offences of theft, criminal damage and drug possession. The hours have been used to clean up the churchyard at Kings Sutton (photos below). The response from offenders and the public has been very positive.



Operations

Throughout the year, the team have been involved in various targeted operations in the community.

Op Lapland – (December – January) Patrols to disrupt shoplifting during a higher risk time of the year for retailers.

Op Sceptre – (All year round) Intelligence led sweeps to search for potential hidden or discarded knives, provision of amnesty bins and knife crime inputs at schools from our Early Intervention Team.



Op Limit – An annual campaign that runs every November – January to target drink/drug driving. This year, we visited all of our local pubs/bars and delivered free beer mats, bar mats and posters to raise awareness of the consequences of drink driving. The team completed intelligence led patrols for drink drivers and carried out various stops and breath tests in South Northants.

Officers have also been present at numerous community events where the public can come and chat with us.

Street Watch & Volunteering

Brackley's **Street Watch Scheme** has lost members over the last few years and are actively recruiting for new members. If you know of anyone that would be interesting in supporting us, please contact rhianan.turner@northants.police.uk or alternatively your local Sergeant Michaela Simons micki.simons@northants.polic.uk

You can see the Street Watch Recruitment video which features Towcester and Sergeant, Lorna Clarke via this link: [Street watch](#)

We have a large team of **Special Constables** that cover the Daventry and South Northants area. These officers give up their time free of charge to assist the community. The officers have the same powers as regular officers and contribute a large amount of hours in support of local teams. If you are interested in becoming a Special Constable, then please visit:



[Volunteering opportunities | Northamptonshire Police](#) for more information.

Thank you from South Northants Neighbourhood Teams

Dashwood Playpark Annual Parish Council meeting April 2025

Our enhanced Village Playpark has now been in existence for 10 years this September, 2025, and is unfortunately beginning to show her age. It is lovely to see children, both from our Village and from the surrounding area, enjoying the facilities, peace and quiet and the panoramic views. We are very fortunate to have such a beautiful Village Playpark and your Parish Council are working hard to ensure the safety and integrity of this Village asset.

Our annual Health & Safety Inspection was carried out, late 2024, 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. Some of the fixings and tables are showing signs of rot or screws becoming lost, impacting on the safety of specific climbing items. We are also required to upgrade some swing seats and supports. Overall, we are looking at up to £9000.00 of expenditure.

This year has identified to be the most expensive in the upgrading of the Playpark and your Parish Council are seeking methods of funding available that will not necessitate an increase in Precept spending. We will keep you informed on our success with securing funding.

We have currently contained the attack from Moles reported in our previous report and hopefully, have seen the end of these little devils, however, as Rural folk we appreciate this is difficult to promise.

We still 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.

Those who walk the dog or use the playpark with their family will see that the double yellow lines to deter parking, mentioned in our previous report, are now in existence. A recent inspection of the Playpark has highlighted that the double yellow lines and the road itself are beginning to fade or crumble and require attention from Highways. We have notified WNC of this situation.

We are still receiving reports of the family dog joining the kids in the Playpark, kids climbing on top of the equipment and even Adults enjoying the facilities. These activities, create danger to the individuals and damage to the equipment that you pay for. Dogs are prohibited from the park by means of a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO). Please help your Parish Council and report any anti-social action of this kind.

Farthinghoe Parish Council