

FARNHILL PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF FARNHILL PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 6TH JANUARY 2020 AT 7.00PM AT KILDWICK /FARNHILL INSTITUTE.

PRESENT Councs. D Atkinson (Chairman), Councs. M Scarffe, J Waring, D Akrigg, S Wood, CDC Representative Counc A Brown & Clerk S Harding-Hill .

1/20 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Four members of the public attended the meeting to put forward their views on the retrospective planning application for exterior lighting at Farnhill Hall. Some of the points made referred to why if the lights were security lights were they pointing up and not down and that the lighting seems to be increasing with the gardens floodlit and being on most of the night. The lights were causing light pollution and could be seen not only by Farnhill Residents but also by people of neighbouring villages. It also impacts on birds of prey and wildlife. The lighting was excessive for the house which is a listed building in a village of character within a conservation area. People were not against the property having security lighting but there should be conditions that stand up to planning law and a balance between appropriate external lighting and the rights of the community. It was also noted that neighbours had not been notified of the application.

2/20 COUNCILLORS APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Councs. S Nelson,

3/20 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

None

4/20 PLANNING

- a. **Application Number:** 2019/21158/LBC
Proposal: Alterations and change of use of part of existing garage/workshop to form holiday accommodation and retrospective exterior lighting installed to Farnhill Hall
Location: Farnhill Hall, Main Street. Farnhill

The Parish Council delegated 3 members of the Council to formulate a letter based on the discussions in the meeting and send to the Clerk to respond to CDC with the observations (see appendix 1)

b. To receive response to Tree Work at Hall Gardens

CDC responded to our request regarding tree work at Hall Gardens by saying that they have visited the site and spoke with the owner. They will update us as soon as they are able.

5/20 FINANCE & ACCOUNTS

- a. The following accounts were approved for payment by the Council
- | | |
|--|---------|
| Relate Pennine Keighley & Craven
(Young People's Counselling Service) | £250.00 |
| Viking Brother Toner & Drum | £ 92.38 |

6/20 PARKING AT MARY STREET

Residents of Newby Road, Mary Street, South View and Hanover Street have received a letter from CDC regarding obstruction to Waste & Recycling Collection Services due to parked vehicles. They say on a number of occasions access is being made difficult for their collection vehicles to collect from properties on Mary Street and they have had to make a return trip to collect. They state that to ensure that they can continue to provide a service they request that vehicles are parked in such a way as not to obstruct access to their vehicles between the hours of 6.30am and 4.00pm on the day of collections. If this continues the bins will be left till the next scheduled collection. Clerk to write to CDC saying that we understand their frustrations but would they consider using a smaller vehicle for Mary Street or collecting after 9.00am when most people have left for work. Clerk to also write to residents asking them to be more considerate when they or visitors are parking to leave access for the collection vehicles and also emergency vehicles.

7/20 PLAY AREA

No further updates.

8/20 DISCIPLINARY & GRIEVANCE POLICIES

The Parish Council's Disciplinary Policy & The Parish Council's Grievance Policy which were recommended by NALC and previously circulated to Councillors were adopted by the Parish Council after taking a vote in which 2voted for 1 against and 1 abstained.

9/20 CORRESPONDENCE

Clerks & Councils Direct January 2020

Appendix 1

Planning Application ref 2019/21158/LBC Farnhill Hall Farnhill

This application appears to be in two parts

1. An application for alterations and change of use of part of existing garage/workshop to form holiday accommodation;
2. A retrospective application for exterior lighting installed to Farnhill Hall

Farnhill Parish Council have already commented on the first part of the application and those comments stand with an additional comment that the notice for the application suggests that a public right of way is affected but we can find no reference to that in the application documents

The Parish Council wish to object to the retrospective application for the installation of lights as follows:

1. Craven District Planning does not appear to have notified near neighbours of this application, nor, as far as we are aware, any residents across the valley in Crosshills and Cononley, who are also affected by this development.
2. The exterior lighting around the Hall was installed in late Autumn and since then the Parish Council has been made aware of a considerable amount of local objection to the lighting and the following are typical of the concerns raised by local residents and which are shared by The Parish Council.
 - a. "Analysis of the application suggests that a conflict exists within the document itself about the type of lighting being installed (security lighting v floodlighting) and the power, position and purpose of that lighting".
 - b. "The lighting appears to floodlight the Hall and the adjacent gardens, fields and woods and quite clearly it is far in excess of security needs. The lights are positioned mostly at ground level thus throwing the light upwards into the surrounding trees and sky and outwards towards the trees and woods. Additional lighting has been installed in the walled garden and the newly constructed pond."
 - c. "The lights are excessively bright and use intense white light which has been proven to adversely affect both humans and wildlife. The canal side woods and fields are home to a variety of wild life species including tawny owls bats badgers and rabbits which are normally active during the night and it is to be expected that their life patterns will be harmed by the lighting."
 - d. "The lighting comes on in early afternoon and remains on until dawn making the property highly visible along Main Street, much of Farnhill and even in areas of Cross Hills, Glusburn and Cononley and it creates a constantly lit sky in the local area which is detrimental to both the scenic and rural nature of the area as well disturbing and annoying local residents. The fact that none of the other isolated properties in the immediate vicinity have seen any need to install anything like the amount of security lighting used here just makes the overall effect worse."
3. It is not entirely clear whether the Application relates to the lighting as installed or to a revised scheme.

4. If it is the former the Parish Council considers the Application should be refused on the grounds of excessive light pollution.

If it is the latter, there is insufficient information included with the application to gain an appreciation of the overall effect of the proposed lighting. The Council is aware of the recently adopted Local Plan which covers the subject of light pollution in the Craven Area extensively and we trust the Planning Officer will take full account of the requirements of all relevant policies when dealing with this Application, not least clauses

- a. ENVI1f which states:-

“Exterior lighting proposed as part of any new development should be the minimum required and only appropriate to its purpose, so as to protect the area's natural surroundings and intrinsic darkness. Proposals for exterior lights shall demonstrate there is no significant adverse effect, individually or cumulatively, on the character of the area; the visibility of the night sky; biodiversity (including bats and light sensitive species); and residents, pedestrians or drivers.”

- b. Para 5:16: Dark Skies – page 124 which states

“where significant lighting is proposed for example through the installation of floodlights, developers will be required to submit a lighting assessment and strategy demonstrating how impacts will be minimized and appropriate mitigation incorporated”

4. In addition the Council considers a site visit by the Planning Officer during the hours of darkness when the lighting is on is absolutely essential to appreciate the full impact of this lighting on Farnhill and the Grade one listed building of Farnhill Hall and its environment.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

THURSDAY 23RD JANUARY 2020 IN KILDWICK/FARNHILL INSTITUTE AT 7.00PM

All members of the village are welcome to attend