

**DRAFT MINUTES OF FARNHILL ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 9<sup>th</sup>**  
**MAY 2024**

**PRESENT** Councillor. D Atkinson (Chairman), NYCC Representative Councillor A Brown, Clerk J. Fieldhouse, 4 Councillors & 12 Members of the public.

Chair opened the meeting to celebrate living in Farnhill amazing views, a celebration of what has been achieved over the last year.

Chair set out how the meeting will be run. Introduction to all Councillors and Clerk. Description of what the Council do. Try to get things done, monitors to make sure what needs to be done is done and innovators to bring something new to the village. 3 years ago designed a development plan to become a bit more proactive, more efficient and better informed and extended awareness, to get more people involved and to improve the village and its environment. Areas found that the Parish Council are responsible for or had involvement in – Highways, Street Lighting, Play area, Village Maintenance, Footpaths , Emergency planning, Waste, Finance , Legislation etc.

Highways – drainage, parking, speeding, road markings

Village assets – lighting installation upkeep, repairs , energy seats, land , identified more of what we own but it's a long process.

Emergency planning – well on our way with that

Social activities – to try and include others within the parish particularly some young children but not been successful with that as yet. Identified that we needed better communication with residents which we have been doing with update flyers etc.

Staffing – Clerk now been here for going 2 years

**Finance house tax information** - now band D. Precept typically we get £70 average . It was increased by 4.5% as not increased for a number of years but with the rising the costs had no alternative. Estimated income £16918. Precept 15618. Breakdown given from budget.

**Issues with parking on Grange road** - the Parish Council has spoken with the land owner who cleared the overgrowth and Highways who have promised to repaint the no parking areas but wont do anything else.

**Hanover Square light fitting** - which was ordered 4 years ago, was finally installed about 6 weeks ago. In the process of fitting the same the contractors managed to drill a hole through the gable wall causing a leak into the home. It was repaired the following day. At the same time they were going to install LED lamps to save thousands on energy but this has been once again halted, we are still waiting for this.

**Recurring issues over the last years with drainage** - We now actually have an agreement with Area 5 who are going to look at drainage at the top of Main Road and the water that should be going under the road in pipes. This is a working progress. Built up a relationship with area 5 and kept informed regarding drain cleaning. Said cars are always stopping so agreed to provide dates to residents requesting cars be moved on that date which worked very well all residents participated and it was a great success.

**Play area wall / carpark** - The retaining wall to the back of the carpark/playarea is moving and breaking owing to the building placed above it making it very dangerous. There is a plan now in place but it is not going to happen any time soon, the repairs require a lot of work done from different contractors. It needs to be pinned and a complete new wall needs to be built at the back of the play area. Working progress but the area cannot be opened until it is safe and complete.

**Canal and River Trust** – Councillors met with the engineer and walked around pointing out all the things that were dangerous and things that just needed maintaining. Redmans Bridge has been repaired some barriers are being repainted and they have been removing vegetation from the walls. The Council secured a Grant and applied for signs for canal for pedestrian right of way to go on the canal. But this has been halted by someone higher up in the C&RT but hopefully this will be resolved.

**Work in the Arbour** – The Parish Council hired an arboriculturist and received a detailed assessment and advice. The Council then applied for planning which was approved and the work has now been undertaken. There is one item outstanding a Cherry Tree however following the other works being undertaken the Tree Surgeons advised against undertaking this work.

**Path with Connonly** - plan drawn up and approved to install steps to safely access the canal bank and vice versa.

**Heritage scheme sign** – The idea is to promote the history of the village and its heritage using blue plaques. Chair has spoken with the history group who is keen to assist with this.

Following the last meeting of the Parish sadly 2 members of the Council announced that they wish to resign. Chair provided personal thanks for their contributions over the years and improving what we have got. Provided details that if anyone would like to join to speak with Clerk after the meeting.

**Cllr B. McDonald then took the stand to discuss the Emergency plan** – We are required to have a plan in place so the aim is to devise a plan for the village of Farnhill to respond efficiently and effectively in the expected events. Cllr McDonald is corresponding with Kildwick Council who now have a copy of the draft plan and they are going to pull ideas together. The idea of the Emergency Plan is to prevent emergencies and reduce the effects of emergencies. Some possible hazards to consider are catastrophic power failure, gas leak, falling trees, flooding, fire etc. The last emergency Farnhill had was when the mills burnt down 1905 1906 – The manager of the mill said something to the fire brigade but because they had not been paying their fire bills they let it burn down. There are currently 3 Possible Refuse Centres that we could look at meeting using but these are yet to be confirmed. Option One. The Institute option Two. The church and maybe the third could be the pub. We are also looking for Community Volunteers to come help if they themselves have not been effected – to under roles such as making tea, chat, comfort people effected. Parish Councillors will be key holders but the details need to be ironed out. Contact numbers for all agencies that can be contacted in emergencies will also be included. The finalised document will be published in the not too distance future.

**Vice chair Cllr J Waring then took the stand to discuss South Craven Response Bus Service arrangements.** Cllr Waring has spoken at length about this matter. You need to call

the service between 10 and 12 to book in a morning . They want to know that you can't get in any other way. They do pick various people up in the village. They can pick you up at home and will take you to Cowling or Skipton the return fee is £8 cannot use bus passes.

**Cllr S Close then took the stand regarding speeding** – The average speed on Main Street is 21.2MPH if someone doing 40 then someone else behind eg. a tractor doing 10mph it brings the average down. They didn't do Grange Road. Police therefore wont invest in speeding monitoring equipment. The Council has also looked at the price for getting a smile face/ angry face electronic monitor but looking at around £4000 to get one of these. Member of public confirming that the speed on Starkey Lane is shocking. Chair confirmed that it has been suggested to put 20mph on every lamppost and there is a suggestion to put a smiley face on the river bridge in Kildwick. Chair is meeting with Kildwick Councillors and the senior person from NYC to advocate getting them in Farnhill too and will raise Starkey Lane.

**NYC Representative** – It is very hard to have a voice and raise concerns for the smaller areas who are going up against the likes of Scarborough Councillors and York which are much bigger but he will keep trying. There is a new Gymnasium going in Crosshills on Station Road however Cllr Brown was not allowed to provide the extra local knowledge of the traffic issues regarding this area.

Cllr Brown has been dealing with a lot of case work helping a family who were not getting any education because of Special Educational Needs. He is happy to report that thankfully all his work has paid off and he has succeeded to sort this issue out.

Grants available for little projects.

### **Feedback from residents:-**

It was noted by one resident that there is a lack of younger people participating within the Village. It is noted the real question is how do we go about bringing in younger representatives and getting them more involved. The resident was invited to come join the Council with a view to tackling this issue.

A further question was asked about the drains. When the Main Street was done could it not have gone further on to Bradley Road to help with the build up of water on there. If asked them to move the cars on there as well they may have continued up Bradley Road. This will be addressed with NYC. Resident thanked for the input.

A resident asked if a wide angled mirror could be placed on Mary Street so drivers can see what is happening on Newby Road. NYC will not approve this however if someone is happy to put one on their house then can by all means put them on but the Council won't take responsibility for it as you cannot rely on the mirrors catching everything.

A resident suggested putting a traffic camera on Starkey lane and/or speed bumps. It was confirmed that there is no chance of getting speed bumps as this has been requested many times in the past – it removes parking places and causes even more issues. The Parish also asked for a volunteer group to undergo some training so they can monitor speed on that road and report any vehicles going over the limit. This would then result in the person speeding getting a letter sent notifying them that if they get caught speeding again then they will loose

their right to do a speed awareness course and will automatically receive points on their license. Unfortunately, as soon as it came to doing anything they all refused.

A resident requested more Sandbins for the winter or gritters at the top of Main Street. It was confirmed that we have ordered a bin to be placed by the playarea in the carpark but if we tell NYC next fortnight it will be done for next winter. The resident was informed to send details to the Clerk as to where he is wanting the sandbin to be placed.

A resident raised concerns over Cyclists on the moor. Unfortunately, this is private land and not within the Parish's remit however even the owners are struggling with this issue, they put signs up but the cyclists take them down or just ignore them, the only thing they can do is report them to the police but even then the owners will have to prove that they are causing criminal damage to their property before they can bring criminal charges against them.

A resident wanted to raise the issue of Farnhill Pinnacle and the mess it is in. The Parish Council is not able to carry out refurbishments on this project as it is not owned by the Parish and it is on private land and the Parish simply do not have the funds available. The Parish did invite residents to become involved in raising funds for this project but no one came forward. On the other hand a lady who is not a resident of the UK but has a strong family history with Farnhill has recently come forward and is looking into the possibilities of funding the refurbishment and the possibly having funds set aside for future refurbishments . This lady is corresponding with the owners of the land and her local family members into the logistics.

A resident wanted to add an idea towards the speeding campaign and asked if we could we do it on the angle of an otter was killed and a deer. Chair confirmed that he would mention this at the speed meeting with NYC.

A resident flagged up that there is an Access issue on the footpath at Redmans Lane, residents are unable to get down to the busstop because of overgrowth. Chair will look into this issue and thanked the resident for this information.

Members of the public thanked for the input. If any members are interested in joining the council to contact the clerk.