

**EAST FARNDON PARISH COUNCIL
ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH
HELD ON TUESDAY 9TH MARCH 2021 VIA ZOOM.US COMMENCING AT 7.45 PM**

PRESENT: Mr R Burton (Acting Chair), Mr P Hodgetts, Mr M Curtis, Ms J Cooper, Dr C Crifo and Mrs. C Burton (Clerk to the Parish Council)

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: 4

1. Apologies

Apologies received and accepted from Councillor Prew, Gill Kirby (Secretary to the PCC), Lynn Deacon (Chair of the Village Hall Trustees), Nigel Haynes (Chair of East Farndon United Charities), Richard Green (Burial Ground Committee), Bob Osborn (Formerly the Parish's Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator), Jean Westwood (WI), and David Thake (Amenity Land Committee).

2. County Councillor and District Councillor Report - None

3. Chairman's report

Acting Chair, Councillor Burton, thanked everyone for attending, and reported that, as for everyone else, it has been an unusual year, but the Parish Council has continued to carry out its business, thanks to email and Zoom. Apart from the pandemic, significant events during the year have been preparing for the transition of the maintenance of the Church Graveyard from the PCC to the Parish Council, the setting up of a new village website, and cleaning out of the spring trough for the first time in over forty years. Our then Chair Richard West was responsible for the herculean effort in the trough and we record our thanks to him not just for this task, but all of his work for the Parish Council both as Councillor and Chair. This year, with the election coming up, we hope to welcome one or maybe more new people to the Council. Final thanks go to our professional and reliable Clerk, Caroline Burton.

4. Reports from village organisations: -

a) Parochial Church Council (PCC)

The Clerk presented the following report submitted by Gill Kirby (Secretary to the PCC):

- Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic and restrictions which came into force in March 2020 when the whole country went into lockdown, no meetings of the PCC were able to take place until September 2020, when the Annual Meeting postponed from March took place.
- Due to continuing restrictions all subsequent meetings throughout the year took place via zoom.
- The Fete, normally held in June, had to be cancelled, but following lifting of some restrictions for a brief period in the Summer we were able to hold a Harvest Festival Service in Church, without the usual harvest supper. It was also possible to hold a Remembrance Service in Church in November and a Carol Service at Christmas in compliance with strict guidelines. Otherwise, Church Services have continued on zoom every Sunday. Coffee mornings have also taken place on zoom and currently a Lent Course is being run on zoom. Some Services in Church have just recommenced but also continue on zoom as well. We are very grateful to Rev James Watson, for keeping his ministry through these difficult times, and also for the assistance from Rev Janet Donaldson.
- We hope that we may be able to publish the Parish Magazine again once things begin to pick up.

- We are very grateful to a small working party who have been busy tidying the churchyard and surrounding area, painting the gates and planting bulbs over the past few months.
- The Application for closure of the churchyard progressed slowly during this time and eventually on 10 February 2020 this Application was approved and closure granted. A copy of the relevant Order should have now been passed to all relevant parties.
- Because of the various restrictions and lockdowns over the past year and the lack of services and fundraising events, finances have suffered greatly. There will definitely be difficult and challenging times ahead but we remain hopeful and grateful for the support we receive within our community.
- The PCC thank you all and look forward to better times ahead.

b) Village Hall Trustees

The Clerk presented the following report submitted by Lynn Deacon (Chair of the Village Hall Trustees):

- The Trustees have continued to regularly check the Hall.
- We have followed the government guidelines by providing hand sanitizers, floor two metre markings and disinfectant. The kitchen and toilets have been closed although the disabled toilet has been left open.
- We have joined Northants ACRE who provides us with advice and the procedures for running the Hall.
- The radiators have been left on throughout the winter as required by the insurers.
- During the short time that lockdown was relaxed the Art Group and one Yoga Class returned. A book was provided for names and phone numbers for 'track and trace' purposes.
- A cleaner has been hired once a month to keep the hall up to standard.
- Last November, a government grant was obtained to cover loss of earnings and more recently we have been awarded another grant. Financially the accounts are in good order.
- Due to the misuse of the car park, the Trustees have agreed to put a lockable barrier across the entrance.
- The Trustees are very grateful to a group of volunteers who are looking after the land in front of the Hall.
- The Trustees for the last year were: Lynn and David Deacon, Sheila Fox, Jan Cooper, Stephanie Hook, Jim and Sue Grant, Bob Osborn and Judy Hodgetts.
- Hopefully, sometime this year, the Hall will be up and running again.

c) East Farndon United Charities

The Clerk presented the following report submitted by Nigel Haynes on behalf of the East Farndon United Charities:

- The Trustees have conducted their business remotely this year, following the government and Charity commission guidelines with regard to the pandemic.
- Grants are available for new babies, for funeral expenses, when starting primary, secondary school and higher education, for the purchase of books, equipment and educational trips. Other discretionary grants can be awarded as the need arises.
- There is normally a two year residency requirement before grants are given.
- At all times, the Trustees must adhere to the original terms of the Charities Governing Document before grants are made.
- During the year, five educational grants were awarded, one burial grant and 21 Christmas grants.

- Finance - The annual figures were sent to the Charity Commission on 29th January 2021. Annual Accounts are available for inspection by written request to the Clerk of the charity.
- Summary - Annual Charity Accounts 2020

INCOME		EXPENDITURE	
Dividends	£7733.84	Charitable Giving	£5200.00
Rent	£92.00	Administration Fees	0.00
TOTAL	£7825.84	TOTAL	£5200.00

- Surplus income to expenditure £2625.84
- Unfortunately, due to work commitments Chloe Wright has decided not to take up the position of trustee. The trustees are waiting until the pandemic restrictions have eased before seeking a new trustee.
- The present trustees are: Nigel Haynes (chairperson), Adrian Hill, Richard West. Clerk: Pamela Haynes, Harebell House, East Farndon, Market Harborough, Leics, LE16 9SG

d) Burial Ground Committee

The Clerk presented the following report submitted by Richard Green on behalf of the Burial Ground Committee:

- All is well in the burial ground - I do an inspection every month while there are no services; when there are services, I check 2 or 3 times a month.
- At present, there is £379.15 in the Burial Committee account.

Neighbourhood Watch

The Clerk presented the following report submitted by Bob Osborn as the former Parish's Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator:

- There has been very little of note to report from the last year. I have forwarded alerts from county NHW for distribution through the website, but other than that I have not been informed of any local problems either from residents or the police.

e) Footpath Warden

The Footpath Warden, Alan Langley, in attendance, reported:

- There has recently been a stunning response to a StreetDoctor report he sent in. On 1 March 2021, he reported a broken stile, just down from the Marston Road. After receiving the usual acknowledgement immediately, two days later he received an update, saying that a site visit had been made and a repair carried out, so that the stile could now be used. He felt he had to check this to see if it was true – and it is.
- Of course, this was not typical. Some problems have been awaiting the necessary work for nearly a year. So in most cases, we are still waiting.
- In brief, the problems he has reported include two fingerposts, one is currently missing and the other needs moving to a better position. There are two footbridges needing repairs, one below the Gosse in a serious state with holes you could put your foot through.
- After walking virtually all the paths over the last couple of weeks despite the mud, he has reported another six stiles in various parts of the parish, mostly because of broken or wobbly steps.
- Attached to this report is a map showing the approximate location of the issues needing attention.
- The new path along the old railway line, partly in Northamptonshire and partly in Leicestershire still has no signs in the Northants section and still has a pair of secured gates across it about half-way along. A makeshift stile has been made at this point, but we await official work from Northants.

- The state of the paths this winter has been exceptionally bad because of the heavy rainfall. As they improve during the spring, work will proceed on devising and trying out some suggested walks for the Parish Walks leaflet, which should be available later this year.

f) Women's Institute

The Clerk presented the following report submitted by Jean Westwood on behalf of the Women's Institute, as follows:

- Due to Covid Restrictions, the Women's Institute has been unable to meet this year, but hopes to re-start meetings as soon as possible.

g) Amenity Land Committee

The Clerk presented the following report submitted by David Thake:

- All is well with the Amenity Land Trust.
- Unfortunately there has been no fund raising for the Trust last year due to the lockdown restrictions - we hope that this year everything will be better.
- We do have certain outgoings that have to be met, i.e. third party liability insurance (£225), mowing costs, and a few incidental costs. If we can resume some fundraising this summer, we will hopefully be able to meet our commitments.
- Last year the Parish Council gave us £100, which helped a lot. Thank you.
- We have some new volunteers who are helping with weeding and looking after the land, and we are very grateful for their help. We intend to have a meeting with them as soon as we can, and ask them onto the Committee.

i) Tree Wardens

The Tree Wardens, Jessica Oakden and Judy Hodgetts, in attendance, reported:

- Quarterly inspections have been carried out during the past 12 months, and the tree wardens also monitor the trees when walking around the village.
- There are approximately 30 trees with Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) on them (some are in groups under one TPO). All the trees were photographed in October 2019 and the state of them noted for use as comparison.
- All homeowners with trees on their land under a TPO were advised in writing by East Farndon PC in November 2019, and a guide to tree preservation procedures was included with this. This guide plus a TPO map and list are both available on the village website.
- Current Issues:
 - The yew tree at 1 Rectory Court was pruned with permission in May 2020 (T3). Since then, it is unclear whether there will be regrowth on the trimmed branches, which has had a detrimental impact on the appearance of the tree. The tree wardens suggest reviewing this tree after the Spring 2021 growing season to see if it regenerates. If not, they suggest that Michael Venton (Tree Officer for DDC) is contacted for advice.
 - The sycamore at 4 Rectory Court that fell in the storms of February 2020 was partially felled with permission in May 2020 (T8). The owners were asked to replant, however they are still waiting to hear back from Michael Venton as to whether the TPO can stay on this tree or if they need to fell it to its base and replant. Chasers to him have been sent.
 - Re the 2 oak trees that were felled without permission at 2 Rectory Court (T4 and T5), the owner is happy to replant and is still waiting to hear from Michael Venton with advice. Tree wardens have confirmed they will chase him.
 - Re the sycamore pushing against the church wall in Rectory Court (T10), Michael Venton advised on his site visit of 17th February 2020 that this tree acts as a

buffer against the wind and is protecting two limes and a horse chestnut. He felt that these trees would become vulnerable if the sycamore was felled. The tree wardens continue to monitor the situation.

5. Finance

Clerk reported that the accounts for the year ended 31st March 2020 have been successfully audited both internally and externally. Accounts are in good order and the accounts for the year ended 31st March 2021 will be finalised and will be brought before the Parish Council at the May meeting for approval.

6. Any Other Business/Public Participation

Tony Nixon (part of the Liberal Democrat Focus Team for Brixworth Ward for the new West Northants Authority), in attendance, advised that East Farndon will come under the Brixworth Ward from 1 April 2021 (it currently is part of the Welford Ward), with three Councillors. He advised that a 5.86% council tax increase has been agreed, as part of a balanced budget to secure the Council's financial position. He also advised that there will be three planning committees, plus one strategic planning committee.

Councillor Curtis thanked Alan Langley for his stewardship of the old website.

Date of next meeting – 8th March 2022 - Annual Meeting of the Parish Council
(provisional date)

Councillor Burton thanked everyone for sending their reports to the Parish Council.

Meeting closed at 8.15pm.

Signed that the Minutes are a true and accurate record

Chairman _____

Dated _____

The map shows the area around East Farndon, Northamptonshire. Key features include:

- Roads:** A427, A50, A501, A502, A503, A504, A505, A506, A507, A508, A509, A510, A511, A512, A513, A514, A515, A516, A517, A518, A519, A520, A521, A522, A523, A524, A525, A526, A527, A528, A529, A530, A531, A532, A533, A534, A535, A536, A537, A538, A539, A540, A541, A542, A543, A544, A545, A546, A547, A548, A549, A550, A551, A552, A553, A554, A555, A556, A557, A558, A559, A560, A561, A562, A563, A564, A565, A566, A567, A568, A569, A570, A571, A572, A573, A574, A575, A576, A577, A578, A579, A580, A581, A582, A583, A584, A585, A586, A587, A588, A589, A590, A591, A592, A593, A594, A595, A596, A597, A598, A599, A600, A601, A602, A603, A604, A605, A606, A607, A608, A609, A610, A611, A612, A613, A614, A615, A616, A617, A618, A619, A620, A621, A622, A623, A624, A625, A626, A627, A628, A629, A630, A631, A632, A633, A634, A635, A636, A637, A638, A639, A640, A641, A642, A643, A644, A645, A646, A647, A648, A649, A650, A651, A652, A653, A654, A655, A656, A657, A658, A659, A660, A661, A662, A663, A664, A665, A666, A667, A668, A669, A670, A671, A672, A673, A674, A675, A676, A677, A678, A679, A680, A681, A682, A683, A684, A685, A686, A687, A688, A689, A690, A691, A692, A693, A694, A695, A696, A697, A698, A699, A700, A701, A702, A703, A704, A705, A706, A707, A708, A709, A710, A711, A712, A713, A714, A715, A716, A717, A718, A719, A720, A721, A722, A723, A724, A725, A726, A727, A728, A729, A730, A731, A732, A733, A734, A735, A736, A737, A738, A739, A740, A741, A742, A743, A744, A745, A746, A747, A748, A749, A750, A751, A752, A753, A754, A755, A756, A757, A758, A759, A760, A761, A762, A763, A764, A765, A766, A767, A768, A769, A770, A771, A772, A773, A774, A775, A776, A777, A778, A779, A780, A781, A782, A783, A784, A785, A786, A787, A788, A789, A790, A791, A792, A793, A794, A795, A796, A797, A798, A799, A800, A801, A802, A803, A804, A805, A806, A807, A808, A809, A810, A811, A812, A813, A814, A815, A816, A817, A818, A819, A820, A821, A822, A823, A824, A825, A826, A827, A828, A829, A830, A831, A832, A833, A834, A835, A836, A837, A838, A839, A840, A841, A842, A843, A844, A845, A846, A847, A848, A849, A850, A851, A852, A853, A854, A855, A856, A857, A858, A859, A860, A861, A862, A863, A864, A865, A866, A867, A868, A869, A870, A871, A872, A873, A874, A875, A876, A877, A878, A879, A880, A881, A882, A883, A884, A885, A886, A887, A888, A889, A890, A891, A892, A893, A894, A895, A896, A897, A898, A899, A900, A901, A902, A903, A904, A905, A906, A907, A908, A909, A910, A911, A912, A913, A914, A915, A916, A917, A918, A919, A920, A921, A922, A923, A924, A925, A926, A927, A928, A929, A930, A931, A932, A933, A934, A935, A936, A937, A938, A939, A940, A941, A942, A943, A944, A945, A946, A947, A948, A949, A950, A951, A952, A953, A954, A955, A956, A957, A958, A959, A960, A961, A962, A963, A964, A965, A966, A967, A968, A969, A970, A971, A972, A973, A974, A975, A976, A977, A978, A979, A980, A981, A982, A983, A984, A985, A986, A987, A988, A989, A990, A991, A992, A993, A994, A995, A996, A997, A998, A999, A1000, A1001, A1002, A1003, A1004, A1005, A1006, A1007, A1008, A1009, A1010, A1011, A1012, A1013, A1014, A1015, A1016, A1017, A1018, A1019, A1020, A1021, A1022, A1023, A1024, A1025, A1026, A1027, A1028, A1029, A1030, A1031, A1032, A1033, A1034, A1035, A1036, A1037, A1038, A1039, A1040, A1041, A1042, A1043, A1044, A1045, A1046, A1047, A1048, A1049, A1050, A1051, A1052, A1053, A1054, A1055, A1056, A1057, A1058, A1059, A1060, A1061, A1062, A1063, A1064, A1065, A1066, A1067, A1068, A1069, A1070, A1071, A1072, A1073, A1074, A1075, A1076, A1077, A1078, A1079, A1080, A1081, A1082, A1083, A1084, A1085, A1086, A1087, A1088, A1089, A1090, A1091, A1092, A1093, A1094, A1095, A1096, A1097, A1098, A1099, A1100, A1101, A1102, A1103, A1104, A1105, A1106, A1107, A1108, A1109, A1110, A1111, A1112, A1113, A1114, A1115, A1116, A1117, A1118, A1119, A1120, A1121, A1122, A1123, A1124, A1125, A1126, A1127, A1128, A1129, A1130, A1131, A1132, A1133, A1134, A1135, A1136, A1137, A1138, A1139, A1140, A1141, A1142, A1143, A1144, A1145, A1146, A1147, A1148, A1149, A1150, A1151, A1152, A1153, A1154, A1155, A1156, A1157, A1158, A1159, A1160, A1161, A1162, A1163, A1164, A1165, A1166, A1167, A1168, A1169, A1170, A1171, A1172, A1173, A1174, A1175, A1176, A1177, A1178, A1179, A1180, A1181, A1182, A1183, A1184, A1185, A1186, A1187, A1188, A1189, A1190, A1191, A1192, A1193, A1194, A1195, A1196, A1197, A1198, A1199, A1200, A1201, A1202, A1203, A1204, A1205, A1206, A1207, A1208, A1209, A1210, A1211, A1212, A1213, A1214, A1215, A1216, A1217, A1218, A1219, A1220, A1221, A1222, A1223, A1224, A1225, A1226, A1227, A1228, A1229, A1230, A1231, A1232, A1233, A1234, A1235, A1236, A1237, A1238, A1239, A1240, A1241, A124