Farthingstone Parish Council

Please note that these minutes are draft until approved at the next meeting of Farthingstone Parish Council

Minutes of FPC Meeting Monday 16 November 2026

Min No		Action
43/26	**Attendance:** Peter Stanton (PS), Stewart Summers (SS), John Acres (JA), Richard Russell (RR) Debbie Mason (DM) (Parish Clerk) Members of the public: Susan Castle, Allan & Judy Bell, Wayne & Clare Locker Apologies: Sarah Skinner (SJS)	
44/26	**Minutes of meeting 21 September 2026:** Agreed and signed by PS as a correct record.	
45/26	**Matters arising not listed elsewhere** • **Golf Club Development**: PS reported on a recent meeting with Sam Edwards. The works are still on target with construction due to be completed at the end of 2027 ready for opening Spring 2028. Sam agreed to issue an updated Newsletter to all villagers. Good communication continues to be key – particularly concerning lorries and the use of the access road. • **Road repairs:** - An exchange of letters has taken place with the new West Northants CEO flagging up concerns. - It was noted that local road repairs have generally improved recently although the quality and longevity is questionable. Further repair needs should initially be reported via 'Fix my Street'. - PS reported that an on-site meeting had taken place with a representative from WNC regarding the need for new road signs warning about pedestrians on the hill from the Golf Club entrance up into the village. This was agreed but will need to wait for money to be available in WNC's budget next year. - DM reported that the missing kerbstones opposite the Church had been reported a second time via 'Fix my Street'. • **Parish Conference:** - No-one is able to attend this year so DM will cancel the place. • **Church working party:** - It was noted that the recent working party had achieved a lot of useful jobs and a nice letter of appreciation had been received from the PCC.	**PS** **DM** **DM**
46/26	**Public Forum:** No additional comments	
47/26	**Finance:** • **Payments/receipts**: DM circulated the latest report for the year to date. She noted that monthly electricity costs are lower than last year despite the increased costs of the new 3 year contract which started in August. This is due to a combination of more LED lamps having been installed this year plus the new photocells which switch all the lamps off for a period in the middle of the night. • **Clerk's 'Donation':** DM will pass payments of £315 each (£945 in total) to the Church, Village Hall and Joy Mead in lieu of her nominal wages as Parish Clerk. The Parish Council thanked DM for her generosity. • **Draft Budget & Parish Precept 2027/8:** The draft budget was circulated and discussed. It was noted that various costs are rising and we need to increase the Parish Precept (the total amount of Council tax charged to villagers) in order to maintain adequate reserves. The original proposal was to increase the Precept from £5000 this year to £5500 in 2027/8. However a recent inspection of the trees in the Churchyard (see below) has revealed some urgent and potentially expensive work required. It was therefore agreed to raise the Precept to £6000. DM to notify West Northants Council accordingly.	**DM** **DM**
48/26	**Police Liaison**: SS provided an update as follows: - Bird Flu is recurrent and from Friday 13th, places with 50 plus birds are required to keep them housed. - Free 'Mature Drivers Event' for those aged 60+, Thursday 10 December (10.00 and 13.00) at Brackley Fire Station. Further details: www.eventbrite.com/cc/northants-mature-driver-roadshows-4099083	**SS**

49/26	**Cemetery Matters**: - DM reported that the Cemetery noticeboard has now been re-erected and looks splendid. Thanks again to all concerned. - A professional inspection of the trees in the Churchyard has revealed major works required on the old oak and the weeping ash. Quotes are currently being sought.	**SS/DM**
50/26	**Planning matters**: - **WNC Local Plan:** JA reported that the consultation on the final draft ends this evening. It was noted that our 'village confines' (i.e. the map showing the outline of what is defined as the village) are as originally proposed. However, WNC have adopted the original South Northants Council more flexible approach to accepting 'self-build' proposals outside these confines. - **Land behind 3 New Cottages:** Nothing new to report. - **Site on Weedon Road behind 'The Nutshell' (Application no. 2026/0273/FULL):** JA reported that there are still technical issues to be resolved on the application, particularly about the highway access. JA believes the application is now unlikely to be referred to Committee (in line with recent changes in Planning legislation) and the decision will be down to the Planning Officer to make once the technical issues have been resolved.	**JA**
51/26	**Updating policies & procedures:** No updates completed this time.	**DM**
52/26	**Correspondence:** - WNC draft road safety strategy: JA to respond - WNC survey of views about lorries/freight routes: JA to respond - Invitation to Agricultural Forum – PS/SS to decide whether to attend. - WNC proposals to modernise inhouse adult care services – circulate to anyone who might be interested.	**JA** **JA** **PS/SS** **DM**
53/26	**AOB:** ● **Village Newsletter:** JA reported that he was exploring further options with 'ACRE'. ● **Speeding:** A member of the public raised the issue of vehicles speeding through the village and particularly around the rather blind corner beside the Village Hall. PS said we had previously been advised against installing a mirror on the corner because of liabilities. Active speed recording signs could be considered depending on costs. Further information needed.	**JA** **DM**
	Date of next meeting: Monday 18 January 2027	

Signed as a true record:

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Date: ……