**Monkton Farleigh Parish Council**

**Minutes**

**Wednesday 19th June 2024**

**Those attending from Parish Council:** Ele Warrington (Chair), Suzanne Stansfield, Andrew Tucker, Elliot McBryde and Jane Ghali (Clerk)

**Other**: Johnny Kidney

1. **Apologies for Absence** – Pauline Adams, Tom Firbank, Dan Sharp, Zoe Tinkler (Tree Warden) and Laura Wallace (PCSO). **Declarations of Interest** - none
2. **Minutes of Meetings 8th May 2024** – agreed and signed
3. **Land at Farleigh Rise – George Backhurst**. Some members of the Parish Council met with Mr Backhurst on Tuesday 18th June for Mr Backhurst to discuss his ideas for the land that he owns at Farleigh Rise. Mr Backhurst decided not to attend this meeting as there were still lots of things still to consider about the development of the land including green belt, area AONB, possible tunnels below ground, lack of regular transport etc
4. **Items from the public** - none
5. **Matters Arising** – EW to chase person who might be able to do some defibrillator training for the village. **Action EW**
6. **Report from Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) –** sent apologies, but nothing to report.
7. **Report from Johnny Kidney**

*Play Parks*

Wiltshire Council is offering parish councils in rural areas throughout the county the opportunity to upgrade their play areas, and has allocated £603,000 to help with the programme.

The council currently has 24 rural equipped play areas around the county that local communities have yet to adopt and is looking for parish councils that would like to improve these play areas and take on the running of them.

Eligible rural parish councils can accept funding from Wiltshire Council, which will be allocated based on an assessment on what is required to upgrade the park before taking responsibility for the facility. Or, if they wish, the parish council can request that Wiltshire Council upgrades the equipment first, before then transferring the play area to the parish council.

This has the dual benefit of upgrading these play areas with brand new equipment, while also enabling local communities, through their parish council, to have more say on how these play areas are run in the future to ensure they reflect the needs of the people who live there.

*Green Bin renewals*

Households that pay online for their garden waste collection have received an email reminding them that their subscription expires on 30 June 2024 and if they wish to avoid a gap in their service, they need to renew by Friday 28 June. Customers who haven't previously paid online and the council does not have email addresses for, have been sent a letter advising them of their renewal arrangements.

New customers can sign up at any time to receive garden waste collections, either online at Garden waste collections or by calling 0300 456 0103.

To help improve the security of customer details, people wishing to sign up for, or renew, a garden waste collection service online will need to sign into their Wiltshire Council account or register for a new account if they do not already have one. For those registering for the first time, there is a video and guide on the registration webpage.

People don't need to contact the council if they do not wish to renew.

The cost of having garden waste collected has increased from £66 per bin to £70 per bin for the year which reflects current inflation levels and provides some recovery of operational costs. The Controlled Waste Regulations (England and Wales) 2012 allow councils to apply a charge for the collection of garden waste.

*Carer Friendly Wiltshire*

A new online support service called Carer Friendly Wiltshire has launched for anyone living in Wiltshire who is supporting a friend or family member on a regular basis, regardless of whether or not they are officially recognised as a carer.

With a real-time chat function available 24/7 and the option to book a call with a Carer Coach for support during their caring journey, this new online support service is accessible to carers of all ages, with age-appropriate resources available to carers as young as 10 years old through to adulthood. Carers can access their Carer ID Card, helpful video content, events calendar, free and confidential benefits calculator and join regular virtual support groups. Innovative online resources and tools enable carers to carry out their own online wellbeing check, self-help plan, and contingency plan to ensure all aspects of their caring responsibilities have been considered and support is in place to help carers continue to provide support for as long as they need to, avoiding the worry of burn out.

Wiltshire Council, in collaboration with BSW Integrated Care Board, announced their partnership with Forward Carers CIC to provide this new initiative that will complement existing support services offered by Carers Together Wiltshire and Community First. It provides additional resources for carers that are available throughout the day and night to best suit their needs, particularly those still in employment or education who might struggle to access services delivered within normal working hours.

carerfriendlywiltshire.org.uk

*Solar Together relaunched for another year.*

Following the success of the 2022 and 2023 schemes, Wiltshire Council and Swindon Borough Council are working in partnership with iChoosr, independent experts in group buying, to launch the third Solar Together scheme.

Solar Together gives residents the opportunity to invest in renewable energy from a trusted provider to save on energy costs and improve their carbon footprint. The scheme utilises group buying to leverage cheaper solar panel and installation costs from vetted providers. The core principle is that coming together as a group provides enhanced buying power and allows the approved providers to offer a better price than individual homeowners might get from entering the market alone.

The initiative offers solar panels (also known as solar PV) with optional battery storage and electric vehicle (EV) charge points. It also offers battery storage installation for residents who have already invested in solar panels and are looking to maximise how much of their self-generated energy they can use at home and become less dependent on electricity from the grid.

The lower cost of the product and installation is made possible by iChoosr holding a reverse auction with vetted installers who compete to offer the group of residents who have signed up the best price. Across the country, iChoosr have helped facilitate over 33,000 installations with 10-25% savings against the market average.

There is no obligation to go ahead with purchasing solar panels if people register their interest. They will receive a detailed and easy to understand personal recommendation which they can choose whether to accept or not.

The scheme is now open for registrations in Wiltshire and Swindon and the deadline is 9 August 2024. People who are interested can register for free.

To register for the scheme, residents must either own their own house or have permission from the landlord to install solar panels. Small and medium-sized enterprises (non-domestic) and Commonhold Associations meeting this requirement can also participate.

To register their interest or for more information including likely costs and the amount of energy people can expect to generate, people can visit the Solar Together site at www.solartogether.co.uk

Residents who wish to contact iChoosr can email wiltshire@solartogether.co.uk or call 0800 048 8113.

*Planning Service improvements*

Wiltshire Council has announced an extra £1m investment into its planning teams to deliver a first-class planning service with faster decision making and excellent customer service.

The planning service consists of many different areas, including teams that work on planning policies such as the Local Plan, officers that process planning applications, building control and planning enforcement teams, plus many more. The extra funding will be spent on more officers to build a stronger workforce that helps to shape communities and supports businesses throughout Wiltshire.

The next LHFIG meeting is Monday 22nd July, 4pm.

1. **Speed limit update** – Johnny Kidney to get an update on how the changes in speeding regulations are progressing
2. **Farleigh Rise play area transfer of land – working group update.** The PC are still keen to work out what costs would be involved. AT to ask John Lloyd if he would mow areas for the PC, unclear whether Wiltshire Council will still do this. Johnny Kidney will ask the clerk at Winsley what costs are involved and about mowing/bins etc. **Action AT and JK**
3. **Pub as a Community Asset** – all agreed that the King’s Arms should be registered as a Community Asset. JK will check info with Simon Day at the Council. Clerk to register. **Action JG**
4. **Planning Application PL/2024/05336. 67, MONKTON FARLEIGH, BRADFORD ON AVON, BA15 2QJ. Listed building consent (Alt/Ext). Alterations to kitchen and dining area to the rear of Cluny Cottage** –no objections and fully supported.
5. **Finances** – at end May £13,162.02 in account. Received £193.59 in VAT refund. JG to update budget. **Action JG**
6. **Stiles and access to local footpaths update** – still waiting for survey to be done on footpath between Church Farm House and the church.

A parishioner wrote to Natural England about the SSSI at Inwoods and the state of the woods and the paths there. Their response states that Tilhill should not have cut trees down in wet conditions to avoid rutting and damage to ground fauna. They will undertake a joint investigation with Forestry Commission. PA is writing to Natural England to support this investigation that the PC and local parishioners have raised about the state of the woods with Wiltshire Council. **Action PA**

1. **Work for the Parish Steward** – the Steward came to the village yesterday. All agreed he does an excellent job. PC meetings and Steward visits are slightly out of sync. Clerk to request any work by WhatsApp again if meeting doesn’t align next month
2. **Parish update**

*Report from Tree Warden* (absent)

*Football goals Broadstones* - **Action AT**

*Phone box & bus stop maintenance* – received new quote form Neil Evans. Agreed for him to paint bus stop by Broadstones and lintel on the one by the pub for £372. Also agreed to replace glass in phone box for £702. JG to contact Neil. **Action JG**

*Playdale* – Agreed to pay discounted price of £840.78 (incl VAT) to mend zip wire and re concrete in wooden climbing frame at Farleigh Rise. JG to contact. **Action JG**

*Gutter upgrade in Farleigh Rise* – EW has written to Selwood about the discrepancy of colour to replaced gutters and fascia boards. Selwood have replied saying they will have a meeting about this and get back to EW. Works has stopped for the moment due to finding bats. EW to chase. **Action EW**

1. **Correspondence received**

The official notices regarding Rachael McDonald’s resignation are now up on the noticeboards and website to see if more than 10 people request an election within 2 weeks, otherwise another parish councillor can be co-opted.

Agreed to pay Netwise £420 (incl VAT) for hosting website

There’s a planning review meeting at the County Hall on 25th June email sent to PC.

1. **Parish Matters**

* SS has a swarm of bees in the garden, there’s another too in the village.
* It has come to the notice of the PC that someone may be living at the ‘applestore’ building opposite Restore. PC asked Clerk to report to the Enforcement Officer at Wiltshire Council. **Action JG**

1. **Date of Next Meeting** – Wednesday 31 July at 7pm in the Village Hall