Far Cotton Residents Association.

Minutes of Meeting 4th February 2020

Location: The Far Cotton Rec Centre

Chairman: Colin Wood
Vice Chairman: John Bright
Secretary: Jill Harris
Treasurer: Frances McCoach
Minutes Secretary: Vacant

Attendees:
- H. Barnes
- Q. Dinh
- T. Hodgkiss
- B. Issac
- Dorothy Kings
- Barbara Issac

- J. Boterill
- Alan Earle
- S. Gordon
- T. Hodkgiss
- Barbara Isac

- Chris Brinklow
- Georgina Gill
- Ted Hale
- Emma Roberts Cllr
- Dorothy Kings

- M. Brown
- A. Lay
- Angela McNeill Warden
- P. Mumford
- Emma Roberts Cllr

- Margaret Bryan
- S. Gordon
- R. Morrison
- J. Nicks
- P. Mumford

- Liz Coleman
- A. Lay
- Angela McNeill Warden
- D. Wilson
- J. Nicks

- Sandra Coles
- T. Hodgkiss
- R. Morrison
- D. Wilson

- Josephine Cooper
- T. Hodgkiss
- Angela McNeill Warden
- D. Wilson

- Margaret Wright

Apologies:
- Jacqueline Abbott
- Graham Walker Cllr
- Terry Cooper
- Mary Boak
- Mark Ploughman
- Julie Davenport

The Chairman opened the Meeting and reminded the residents that the meeting is being recorded.

Last Month’s Meeting Minutes 7th January 2020.

The Chairman sought approval of the Meeting Minutes from 7th January. The Chairman went through the previous minutes.

Minutes Approved.

Tuesday, 4th February 2020

Email Address: admin@farcottonresidentsassociation.co.uk
Website: www.farcottonresidentsassociation.co.uk
Parking Permit Updates.

The Chairman outlined the position as follows at the last meeting the residents requested for the FCRA to arrange someone from Highways to attend this meeting. The FCRA arranged for them to attend which Vicki Neville Principal Parking & TRO Officer agreed. However, the FCRA received an email stating that due to circumstances outside their control they would be unable to attend. Although if they still wanted a meeting it would need to be within working hours. They did send over some briefing notes and the Chairman relayed this to the Residents.

As you may all be aware, Northamptonshire Highways have conducted two parking surveys, one in July 2018 and one in November 2019 across three residential areas within Far Cotton. The results of the second survey demonstrated that whilst there were a few roads that increased since the last data collection, levels of parking over the majority of sites have decreased, with only a handful meeting the 85% intervention level.

As advised previously, the intervention level for the County Council to further consider and investigate a residents parking scheme is that 85% of the road space is parked up during the working day. Based on the results of the second survey we have separated the roads into individual ‘priority zones’. The FCRA will provide the briefing notes in full at the next meeting.

In a lengthy debate that followed suggestions put forward were:

- Would it help if we wrote to someone with our concerns?
- How would we get Funding for a scheme?
- If we do pursue the scheme can we get over 50% of the Residents to support it?
- The last parking survey does not provide support for a scheme.

Whilst there were suggestions on how a scheme may work? The Chairman stated that we would need support for the scheme in order to get to the detail of a scheme. Further it is acknowledged that not all residents are in favour of a scheme.

Police Report by the Chairman

18 Vehicle Crimes.

5 Burglaries Dwellings.

2 Non-Dwellings.

9 Criminal Damage.

Please find attached the figures for January. Burglary and vehicle crime have both risen slightly. We are seeing an increase in Catalytic Converter thefts across the county, the target vehicles are primarily Toyota Auris and Prius models, together with Honda Jazz. I have
attached a leaflet from our Crime Prevention unit if you could make that available at the meeting or place it on your Facebook page. We carried out a speeding op in the area and only had one offender over the limit on London Rd, who has been issued with a ticket. We did visit Southampton Rd/ Penrhyn Rd after complaints from your group and had no one goer 20 mph.

**Warden Report – Angela McNeill**

Angela said that she had a very busy month. In January she has issued 291 section 46 Notices which has taken up a lot of her time. Also dealing with Fly Tips, especially Houses of multiple Occupancy also she has been dealing with intelligence the residents are sending her. She apologised for delays whilst she is playing catch up after the Christmas break and training courses she has had to attend. Angela explained that a section 46 notice (Statutory Notice) is like a guide to how you deal with your waste, what you can & cannot do with that waste, what you MUST do with it. Once someone has had one of those and it is on the system then there is no excuses for anyone i.e. throwing bags out etc. Angela will know they have received it. Angela said she had done the whole of Briar Hill issuing to every single property apart from flats. Some of the fly tips there were over 300 bags! The Chairman just reaffirmed that the residents can still report incidents via the app or call it in to the Council. Whilst it is acknowledged that some residents do not have phones or are technically minded it was suggested that the FCRA will put contacts for reporting fly tips on the rear of the Agenda Sheet. Lastly concerns over the rubbish in the alleyways making it impossible for disabled residents to exit from the rear of their properties in the case of a fire or emergency. Angela stated that if the alleyways are gated then the responsibility lies with those residents affected.

**HMO Action Group & Far Cotton Litter Pickers Update – John Bright.**

1. **Additional licensing**

Additional HMO licensing comes into effect at the beginning of February for the next 5 years. For the first time this will now include all HMOs (properties with 3 or more occupiers who are not related and share bathroom and/or kitchen facilities) in Far Cotton, Delapre and Briar Hill. Previously only properties with 5 occupiers or more were covered by mandatory licensing in Far Cotton, so our group welcomes this new legislation. The license sets out rules regarding how either the Landlord or Letting Agent should manage a HMO. It’s designed to reduce impacts upon neighbouring properties such as noise/anti-social behaviour/accumulations of waste, but also the condition of property internally for the health and safety of occupiers. This legislation is different to Planning Permission. If someone wishes to convert a property into a HMO, they would still have to apply for Planning Permission. If this was granted, they would then apply for
a HMO license. For those properties, which were historic HMOs before April 2017 when Planning Permission was introduced; they would still need to apply for a license.

There is plans to reduce the concentration level from 15% to 10% and is awaiting a cabinet meeting that is planned for March, but Cllr Emma Roberts stated it is not on the Agenda.

2. HMO Applications

There are no other applications that have been submitted or awaiting a decision. There is a Residents forum Meeting taking place at the UNO where topics regarding HMO’s is discussed. This Meeting is planned for Thursday 20th February at 18:00 p.m. It was suggested that it would be good if the UNO could attend a Residents Meeting John Bright will action this.

Litter Pick Update

February’s litter pick will take place on Saturday the 15th February starting at 1pm outside the Golden Horse. The Litter pickers provide all the equipment. Our group has been busy reporting fly-tipping using the council app and directly to Angela McNeill at NBC with any evidence which we have found.

Any Other Business

Community Council Updates – Chairman.

The Chairman told the residents that since the meeting of Full Council on the 20th January there has despite promises to engage with the FCRA no communications at all. With us being told there is 6-8 weeks to sort things out he feels that the timeline is slipping, and we will be forced to rush in 12 x Councillors.

Barbara Issacs emphasised the importance of writing letters and how taking just a few minutes can be influential.

Delapre Park Management Updates – Dee Whitehouse

After a meeting a few weeks ago all of the reports they are waiting for they are still waiting for. Litter reported to Dee is in hand by the Park Rangers, there are some areas that due to the ground conditions are inaccessible but will be dealt with once the weather improves. The Fishing bailiff is putting forward exciting proposals and a detailed plan to Delapre Park Management Committee by the Marriott Hotel allowing access for disabled people.

Raffle

Meeting closed 21:00 p.m.