

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held in Fairfield Community Hall on Thursday 26th March 2015 at 7:30 pm

Councillors present: B E Dack (Chairman), V C Batten, C Bidwell, P Daffarn, P Mitchinson and G Smith.

Officer present: Katrina Henshaw (Parish Clerk)

Also present for all or part of the meeting: Ward Member Councillor B Saunders and G Clarke, PCSO Lisa Antoine and forty nine members of the public.

360 Apologies for Absence

360.1 Apologies received from Councillor Hanks (paternity leave) and PS Gary Kidd.

361 Disclosures of Interest

361.1 No disclosures of interest were received.

362 Reports

362.1 Police

PCSO Lisa Antoine read the following report:-

Crime Compared to this time last year.

Financial Year	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Total	Avg
Current Financial Year: 2014/2015	1	4	3	2	2	1	1	2	3	1	1		21	1.91
Financial Year: 2013/2014	1	4	7	6	7	3	7	3	1	5	2	3	49	4.08

The Chart below provides the number of Reported Crimes in Fairfield between 01/04/2014 and 01/03/2015 compared to other towns and villages in the immediate vicinity and elsewhere throughout Central Bedfordshire where there are similarities in population numbers.

Parish	Population	Crimes	Crimes per 1000 Population
Ampthill	7028	145	20.63
Arlesey	5584	175	31.34
Cranfield	5369	100	18.63
Fairfield	2714	21	7.74
Henlow	3815	81	21.23
Langford	3091	66	21.35
Marston Moretaine	4556	136	29.85
Shefford	5881	263	44.72
Stotfold	6918	158	22.84

All Reported Crimes 01/04/2014 – 25/03/2015 (compared to same period the previous year)

Crime Type	Recorded Crime		
	01/04/13 to 24/03/14	01/04/14 to 24/03/15	% Change
Violence against the Person	7	4	-42.9%
Sexual Offences	0	1	n/a
Robbery	0	1	n/a
Domestic Burglary	3	1	-66.7%
Burglary Other	1	1	+0.0%
Vehicle Crime	5	2	-60.0%
Other Theft	21	10	-52.4%
Criminal Damage	10	3	-70.0%
Other Notifiable Offences	0	0	n/a
Total	47	23	-51.1%

Below are a number of charts highlighting specific crime types in Fairfield between 01/04/2014 and 25/03/2015. These offences are either Bedfordshire Police priorities or a concern to residents in Fairfield

Burglary Dwelling Offences

Crime Type	Recorded Crime			Solved Crime			Solved Crime Rate		
	01/04/13 to 24/03/14	01/04/14 to 24/03/15	% Change	01/04/13 to 24/03/14	01/04/14 to 24/03/15	% Change	01/04/13 to 24/03/14	01/04/14 to 24/03/15	Change
88A - Burglary In A Dwelling	3	1	-66.7%	0	1	n/a	%	100.0%	n/a
Total	3	1	-66.7%	0	1	n/a	%	100.0%	n/a

Vehicle Crimes

Crime Type	Recorded Crime		
	01/04/13 to 24/03/14	01/04/14 to 24/03/15	% Change
45 - Theft From A Motor Vehicle	4	1	-75.0%
48 - Theft Or Unauthorised Taking Of Motor Vehicle	1	1	+0.0%
Total	5	2	-60.0%

Violence against the Person

Crime Type	Recorded Crime		
	01/04/13 to 24/03/14	01/04/14 to 24/03/15	% Change
5D - Assault With Intent To Cause Serious Harm	1	0	-100.0%
8L - Harassment	2	1	-50.0%
8N - Assault With Injury	2	2	+0.0%
8P - Racially Or Religiously Aggravated Assault With Injury	0	1	n/a
105A - Assault Without Injury	2	0	-100.0%
Total	7	4	-42.9%

Criminal Damage

Crime Type	Recorded Crime		
	01/04/13 to 24/03/14	01/04/14 to 24/03/15	% Change
56B - Arson Not Endangering Life	2	0	-100.0%
58A - Criminal Damage- To Dwellings	2	0	-100.0%
58B - Criminal Damage - To Other Buildings	1	0	-100.0%
58C - Criminal Damage - To Vehicles	1	2	+100.0%
58D - Criminal Damage - Other	4	1	-75.0%
Total	10	3	-70.0%

Other Thefts (not including burglary or motor vehicle offences)

Crime Type	Recorded Crime		
	01/04/13 to 24/03/14	01/04/14 to 24/03/15	% Change
39 - Theft From The Person Of Another	1	0	-100.0%
40 - Theft In A Dwelling Other Than From Automatic Machine Or Meter	1	0	-100.0%
41 - Theft By An Employee	0	1	n/a
42 - Theft Of Mail	1	0	-100.0%
44 - Theft Of Pedal Cycle	2	1	-50.0%
46 - Shoplifting	8	2	-75.0%
49 - Other Theft Or Unauthorised Taking	8	5	-37.5%
49A - Theft Making Off Without Payment	0	1	n/a
Total	21	10	-52.4%

Report

It is encouraging to see that overall crime is less compared to this time last year. Other areas have seen an increase in Burglary dwellings, where Fairfield has seen an overall decrease in this type of crime.

Operation Vision – Fairfield 01/05/2015 1400-1600

The Mobile Police Station will be parked up in Tesco between the hours of 1400-1500, for any crime prevention advice.

Patrols will be carried out by PCSOs, who will be on foot around Fairfield, door knocking and speaking to local residents to see if they have any concerns and providing crime advice.

I will be hoping to hold many more of these days in the coming months, to increase visibility in the Parish.

362.1.1 Members of the Members of the public were then given the opportunity to ask questions.

Q. Have any of the crimes been solved?

A. Not aware of figures as arrests and convictions take a while to be processed. Is aware of one burglary crime being solved.

PCSO Lisa Antoine was thanked for attending the meeting.

PCSO Lisa Antoine left the meeting.

362.2 **Chairman's Report**

Councillor Dack read the following report:-

This is our second annual meeting and the parish council is now fully established with signs that, at long last, we are beginning to achieve things that will benefit the long-term future of Fairfield.

Our passage to get to this point has been arduous and at times it felt like we were hitting our heads against a brick wall. In the business world where I spent my working life, you make a decision and in days, often minutes, you have put that into practice and are, hopefully, reaping the benefits.

If only local government could move that fast! Our agenda has been littered with repetitive items throughout the time but we have been recently able to tick quite a few off and to add new ones.

Our most important task to-date is to produce both a Neighbourhood and Parish Plan that will be the blueprints for the future. My colleague, Councillor Phil Mitchinson, will outline how this is to be progressed. But the questionnaire many of you completed not only will provide the basis for those reports it has given us the teeth to move forward on several issues.

We thank Phil and his team for the work they have done so far.

Much concern has been expressed about the speed of vehicles on Fairfield roads, many of which are far too narrow. How some drivers go at the speed we see I don't know? Surely they realise the danger they are providing – particularly in the main road of Dickens Boulevard where there is only one way traffic most of the time.

Your answers to specific questions have allowed us to approach Central Bedfordshire Council with a view to making Fairfield a 20mph zone. When we first asked for this we were told we needed to prove public backing. This we have now got.

But don't hold your breath; the whole procedure means that it will be about 12 months before this can be introduced. There has to be further consultations and legal processes to go through before CBC can issue an order under the Road Traffic Act. And it is likely that the forthcoming general election could cause a delay. Plus the cost of the whole process, likely to be up to £5,000 will fall on Fairfield taxpayers.

There has been an overwhelming request for allotments while the growing need for recreation space is obvious. A fine day sees scores of youngsters playing football on the grass areas adjacent to Tesco. Children make a habit of growing up and will soon require more formal facilities while it would be good to see the newly formed Fairfield FC have its own home plus a place for families to enjoy sport.

The problem here is that no land was left free for these facilities in the Master Plan. We are now negotiating both with CBC and tenant farmers to obtain some land for these purposes. We have identified one area as a preference and are now awaiting the result of CBC negotiations with the tenant farmer concerned.

The mystery surrounding area of land behind the Community Hall, the tennis court and the orchards has now been solved. Alas a solution to find a way forward so that these facilities can be used by the community, has so far not been successful.

At our first annual meeting MP Alistair Burt offered his assistance and he kept his word. Sadly we have not been able to bring the freeholder, Hotbed Investments, to the table.

We do now have CBC on our side but we have to also state that it is their failure to enforce planning conditions back in 2008 that has largely caused the problems we face today.

Hotbed's recent statement that they intend to sell all their freehold on Fairfield gives us hope that we can thrash out a solution in the coming weeks.

Our MP has been more successful in bring developer P J Livesey to book over failures within Fairfield Hall that are stopping completion certificates being granted. Work is now in progress to finish these matters.

Here I have to thank by colleague Councillor Chris Bidwell, for the help and guidance he has given to the hall directors that has helped them steer in the right direction to get a solution. The time he has given is beyond that expected.

The Localism Act passed two years ago has given us some hope. We have issued what are known as "Right to bid" options on all the community land – including both the Cricket and Bowls grounds. This means that if the freeholder does decide to sell he must give the Parish Council an option and we have six months to raise any money required. However, it is a "Right to Bid" not a "Right to Buy".

The same act gives parish and town councils the right to declare land as local greenspace if that is the wish of the people. Again the answers you gave to the questionnaire have given us overwhelming support on this. These areas will therefore form the basis of the Neighbourhood Plan.

It also gives us the ability to reinforce the Design Statement that formed the Master Plan. This is over 10 years old and thus ceases to have any value to planners. A recent case has shown that the government expects authorities to respect the wishes of the people right from the questionnaire stage.

In years to come I think the Localism Act will prove to a powerful tool for authorities such as ours. It gives us rights to run our own affairs without interference to a far high degree than before.

There is a small amount of public art money left in the developer's budget. After consultation with groups on Fairfield it has been decided to use this money to enhance the rather bland Urban Park. A small group has been formed to discuss ways this can be achieved. However, as this 106 money is under the old system, CBC is very much in the driving seat as to how the money will be spent.

We have been asked by Linden Homes to take over the ownership of the Community Hall as had previously been agreed with the FPRA. However, the handover is moving quite slowly and we are still at the talk's stage.

We have successfully applied for a defibrillator to be provided on Fairfield and our thanks go to Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue for providing this out of their budget. It is intended to go on an outside wall at Tesco as a condition is that it must be accessible 24/7. This is proving a problem and we may have to seek a new location.

With different bodies running different aspects to the good management of Fairfield, means that the need for volunteers is greater than elsewhere. I frequently hear the complaint that it is the same people who seem to have a finger in all the pies.

If this is so, it is because people are not stepping forward to offer their services. A point in question is that the trustees of the Community Hall have been looking for three years for someone with accounts knowledge to act as the responsible financial officer. Currently this important job is being done by several people who all have more than enough duties elsewhere.

If we have twigged your conscience tonight then please come and have a talk after the meeting. We do not operate a closed shop.

In seven weeks we have an election that means that all seven seats of the parish council will be up for election. Five councillors have stated their intention of standing for election again but this leaves two vacancies. If this interests you then please come and talk to one of us or our learned clerk.

To finish may I thank my colleagues for their help and support for the past year and to our clerk for keeping us on a straight and narrow path. May I particularly thank Councillors Geoff Smith and Viv Batten neither of whom are seeking re-election.

Councillor Smith was an instrumental part of the action group that campaigned for the parish council while Viv has done sterling work on preparing Disaster Plan for Fairfield if we are unfortunate enough to experience one

362.3 **Update on The Parish Plan and Neighbourhood Plan**

Councillor Phil Mitchinson, Chairman of the Parish Plan Steering Group, read the following report.

In October 2014 all households in Fairfield Parish were invited to complete a Parish and Neighbourhood Plan survey. The survey could be completed either on-line or on a hard copy that had been delivered to every home. The deadline for the submission of the parish plan questionnaire was 25 November 2014. At that time 226 questionnaires had been submitted online and 324 hard copies had been received. Following that date the information on the hard copies was transferred to the online version.

The 550 responses gave us an approximate return of 52% of households in the parish and hence the results represent the views of a majority of households in Fairfield.

In the main the questions were answered as intended but there are some results that may need revisiting. The two main issues were:-

- That Intended comments boxes identified on the hard copy were not able to be completed on the software. A comments box that needed to be inserted on the software had been mistakenly omitted. This applied to 14 questions.
- In addition a number of questions requested that a priority was identified to a list of options. In a lot of cases these questions were merely ticked or multiple top priorities identified. This could not be completed as such on the software and a decision of sorts as to what to input was made by the inputter. This applied to six questions.

At the last meeting of the steering group on 10 March it was agreed that any work to revisit the surveys to further investigate the hard copies would be delayed until the 'Action Groups' will be formed.

The main issues being identified from the results are:-

- 98% regarded the environment/landscaping and open space as important.
- 90-96% noted that the main green areas should be protected from development.
- 95% noted that any new development and extensions should retain the look and the character of Fairfield in style and materials.
- 90% said that The Orchards should be restored.
- 84% supported a 20mph speed limit.
- 90% wanted no parking restrictions on dangerous junctions.

The list goes on.

The results have given us a clear steer as to what the issues are at Fairfield together with suggestions of what would/could if possible be acceptable improvements.

As a Steering Group we now need to take those issues and solutions and assess the suggestions to determine the reality of making them happen and to finally put in place the Parish Plan to deliver those improvements.

The next stage is to form 'action groups' to assist the steering group in doing this. There are likely to be five action groups each concentrating on one of the five main headings of the questionnaire namely;

- Traffic and Transport
- Community Services and Facilities
- Community Safety.
- Environment
- Future development

Each action group will be facilitated by a member of the steering group and we would ideally want a minimum of 3 or 4 people in each group. We now need to find volunteers to help us. I have a list of 10 people who identified their willingness to join a working group some six months ago when the initial flyer was released and I will be contacting them to see if that is still the case.

The commitment will be what each action group thinks is needed, a couple of brainstorming sessions may suffice for example. The outcome is to plan the actions not necessarily having to do them at the moment. Should anyone be interested in joining one of the action planning groups then please contact Katrina and get your name added to the list.

As far as the Neighbourhood Plan goes we are going to include only two main themes for the plan.

- Retention of the main green areas within the parish as open space.
- Local design statement for future developments, conversions and extensions on Fairfield.

We have liaised with CBC and agreed the process that needs to be followed to have this approved.

An initial draft will be written by the Parish Council and checked for compliance by CBC.

The draft and supporting evidence will then be open to all Fairfield residents for a six week consultation period.

The draft and all comments received will be reviewed by an independent inspector who will make recommendations for a final draft.

A referendum will then be organised by CBC for residents to vote on whether to accept the final draft.

If greater than a 50% yes vote is achieved at the referendum then the final draft will be submitted to CBC for final approval.

The Neighbourhood Plan will then be a legal planning document used alongside CBC planning policies when they determine planning applications.

This is a lengthy process with CBC expecting it to take about eight months from when the initial draft is available

We intend to start this after the results of the elections are known.

362.4 **Explanation on how Fairfield works**

362.4.1 **Middlemarch Resident Company**

Councillor Geoff Smith, Middlemarch Resident Company read the following report:-

Very much the smallest of the three management companies, we are just over thirty properties, mostly houses and just half a dozen flats.

Our biggest expense and principle responsibility so far is the management of a very attractive communal garden, private to residents, although there are some service roads and communal buildings which will one day require attention and expense.

The principle changes since our management company took over control seven years ago, have been the move from virtually all owner occupied properties to thirty percent let and a change in the managing agents. Chamonix were appointed by Bryant Homes at handover, but the directors changed to Satchells after a couple of years. This has been a very positive and sensible change. Satchells have proved much more suitable to our requirements, providing accurate budgetary and financial control, along with much better communication and at an acceptable cost.

Although the properties form a naturally close group, the Middlemarch residents have not been insular in their attitude to The Park, taking many active roles and participating fully in community affairs, especially if viewed against their small numbers.

Problems in our corner of The Park? We begin to wonder if Eliot Way by which we all come and go will ever be adopted! The traffic created by the nearby Health Club and the behaviour of members has occasionally been cause for concern. The failure of Landlords both in our properties and near neighbours in The Hall to explain details of parking and rubbish disposal can be an occasional irritant, but these are small matters when viewed against the pleasure of living in our quiet corner of Fairfield Park.

362.4.2 **FHMC**

Sharon Jones, Director of FHMC, read the following report:-

Fairfield Hospital Management Company Ltd was incorporated in March 2004 by the developer P J Livesey who at that time also acted as Director of the Management Company.

Once the last apartment was sold P J Livesey appointed four leaseholders as Directors as stipulated in our lease – this took place in January 2012. Over a period of time some Directors have resigned and others have taken their place and the four current Directors are Terry Glockler, Linda Manktelow, Colin Chapman and myself, Sharon Jones.

In 2014 the decision was made to change the name from Fairfield Hospital Management Company Ltd to Fairfield Hall Management Company Ltd in order to end some of the confusion which had arisen.

As Directors of FHMC Ltd our responsibilities, acting within the powers as set out in our Memorandum and Articles of Association, are as follows:-

- Setting a Service Charge Budget for the year ahead including a Reserve Fund collection in accordance with the lease provision.
- Monitoring expenditure and compliance with the lease during the year.
- Circulating Certified or Audited Service Charge Accounts within 6 months of the year end and ensuring proper returns are sent to Companies House and HMRC.
- Appointing a Managing Agent - at present this is Hurford Salvi Carr Property Management in Hertford – and ensuring that they perform the services as set out in the Management Agreement.
-

Every leaseholder at Fairfield automatically becomes a member of the Company upon purchasing an apartment here and can stand for election as a Director at our Annual General Meeting. The role is purely voluntary and there is no financial remuneration for the work involved.

If anyone has any questions I will be happy to answer them.

362.4.3 **FHRA – Tony Little**

Tony Little, FHRA read the following report:-

The role of the FHRA, in the last few months, has changed and is still changing. I won't bore you with the details of what our role used to be, but suffice to say that it was more operational than social or pastoral, confronting directors, developers and agents just to try and get things improved. Now, that operation component is no longer required as we know we can rely on the Directors and HSC to look after the interests of all Hall leaseholders.

We do have little business cards that we give to new residents. We do a quick meet and greet when we know someone has just moved in, and we give them relevant information, or at least tell them where to find it. We look after the website for the Hall on behalf of FHMC and we're currently giving it a revamp.

So you can see that our main function is to provide information for residents and that's a huge improvement on a couple of years ago when you couldn't find any information about anything. However, we also listen to residents, answering their questions and giving them advice on how to proceed, such as 'tell the Directors' or 'tell the agents'.

We've got a few social events in the pipeline as well. We also tend to be the individuals who volunteer for things like leaflet/ newsletter distribution and orchard maintenance.

362.4.4 **FPRA – Chris Titmus**

Chris Titmus, Chairman of FPRA read the following report:-

Roll of the FPRA

Originally set up by the developers to represent the residents of the Park in dealings with the developers and the local authorities.

The majority of issues that we have traditionally dealt with have been handed over the parish council as a more appropriate body to deal with them.

We are now focussing mainly on overseeing the routine care and maintenance of the Park, working with our agents and contractor and the full backing of the developers. We do still request formal approval for certain items where it is felt to be needed. We also badger the developers into delivering what they have promised and to press them to hand over all the assets to the residents' management company in a suitable condition and to get the residents' company up and running with residents as directors.

As there is often confusion about who is responsible for what so a quick guide.

The Community Hall I believe will be owned by FPC and operated on a day to day basis by a charitable trust. Nothing to do with the Rent Charge!

All roads either are, or soon will be, public highways, along with their grass verges and their street lighting and hence are covered by CBC highways. The parish council has undertaken to take over the grass cutting for the roads as they are adopted. The two exceptions to this are Franklin and Copperfield. These will remain private property, owned by the people who own properties there. They have a shared responsibility for all the care and maintenance of these public areas. In the case of Copperfield this will also include some houses in Dickens who access their garages/car ports/parking spaces through Copperfield. Nothing to do with the Rent Charge!

Garage compounds at the rear of many houses are also private and are the shared responsibility of the owner of the garages/car ports/parking spaces within those areas. They cover all maintenance and repairs including the electric gates where fitted. Nothing to do with the Rent Charge!

West Drive is owned by CBC, hence they take care of it. Nothing to do with the Rent Charge!

What is covered by the Rent Charge?

Play areas – all care and upkeep.

Open Green Spaces including:-

- Urban Park.
- Green space in Bronte and along towards the play area.
- Charlotte Green
- Fenced Gardens in Paxton, Heathcliff and Nicholby.
- Small gardens within the roundabouts are Highways and hence CBC, although they may be adopted by FPC

The main pedestrian walkways across the Park. These include Connelly, Brunel, Russell, Cavell and Anderson along with accompanying verges and street lighting.

We also share the gritting during the winter with FPC covering adopted areas and we cover the rest.

There are still some areas that are rather unclear as I have seen different plans that show things differently. There will not be total clarity until we actually reach handover. The path beside the Community Hall as an example. There are still areas that have not yet been handed over and so are still covered by the developers themselves, hence the ineffective repairs of faulty street lights.

Obviously I must not forget just short of 2 miles of woodland shelter belt with something like 350 protected trees and a bridleway.

- 362.4.5 Councillor Dack thanked everyone for their informative reports and gave a brief explanation that as Fairfield Parish Council currently doesn't own any land it has no legal responsibility for maintenance. He did explain that FPC is perusing lands of no known origin and is working with the developments and management companies to agree land transfers. FPC also do comment and make recommendations to CBC on all planning applications in Fairfield.

363 Public Participation Session

- 363.1 Q. What are the current plans for the Orchard?
- A. Friends of Orchard Group was formed in November. FPC still hasn't got permission from landowners to do any work and is waiting for BRCC to provide a five year maintenance plan. The work that is initially required on the trees is estimated to cost £15,000 as this must be done by a specialist for the first two years. In the future, volunteers can be trained to take this over. Due to the cost, FPC is not prepared to authorise this work without permission from the landowners and without a maintenance plan being agreed. Work on the fruit trees must be done between January and March so this now can't be done until 2016 at the earliest. Volunteers will be able to put up chicken wire to prevent rabbits, monkjack and squirrels doing further damage. A further meeting will be arranged shortly.
- 363.2 Q. At what point will tickets be issues on illegally parked cars in Fairfield?
- A. There are no parking restrictions in Fairfield yet. The purpose of the Parish Plan is to establish what restrictors residents want and where.
- Q. What about cars that are breaking the law and/or causing obstruction?
- A. This would be a police matter and incidents should be reported to them.
- 363.3 Q. Why don't CBC paint double yellow lines at the junctions to remind people that it is illegal to park close to the junction, as stated in the Highway Code?
- A. CBC can only act on adopted roads and there is a legal process that needs to be followed for double yellow lines to be painted. CBC will look at all requests. FPC will be drafting a proposal to CBC based upon the parish plan survey results.
- 363.4 Q. Everyone parks on one side off Dickens Boulevard. However, what is stopping people parking on the opposite side of the road?
- A. FPC would advise anyone doing this as it would cause an obstruction and would stop access in and out of Fairfield.

- 363.5 Q. Could someone look into the possibility of a bridleway to go through the copse of trees between Dickens Boulevard and Kingsley Avenue?
- A. The area is currently managed by Scanlans on behalf of FRL but will eventually become an asset of FPRA. FPRA is unable to do anything at the moment but is happy to discuss it with FRL. However, the trees will cause a complication and a strange route may be required.
- 363.6 Q. Who's responsibility is it to clear the recent fly-tipping in the layby opposite Middlemarch?
- A. This isn't fly-tipping. MBS have put some chippings there to reduce and will be distributing them around Fairfield shortly.
- 363.7 Q. How will FPRC be formed and how will the Directors be appointed?
- A. Agents have been appointed to oversee the transaction. Every home owner will be written to explaining what is happening. An EGM will be arranged where Directors will be elected. The new Directors will receive guidance from solicitors, accountants etc.
- The role will be to approve contracts and decides what works efficiently and what is most cost effective.
- 363.8 Q. Who is responsible for repairing the pot holes either side of the road near the Bannatyne's overflow car park?
- A. This is the responsibility of FHMC. The Directors requested residents to email them the exact location so they can arrange repair.
- 363.9 Q. What are the plans for a football pitch outside the Community Hall?
- A. This area is one of the areas that FPC is trying to get resolved with Hotbed. At the moment Hotbed have the responsibility to only cut the grass twice a year. The planning condition did state that within three months the developer (PJ Livesey) was to provide a management plan. Unfortunately, this never happened and Mid Bed District Council never asked for it. FPC is continuing to put pressure of Hotbeds to resolve this.
- 363.10 Q. Is there a legal ultimatum that can be placed on the developers?
- A. No. Only way forward is to keep applying pressure.
- Q. Is there any reason why they won't resolve it?
- A. It has been suggested that they believe they can still be building plots and developers are known to keep land for 30 years + if they believe there is a chance to develop at some stage. Both orchards are County Wildlife Sites and FPC have the 'Right to Bid' on them if they are ever put up for sale. In the Neighbourhood Plan areas will be declared as local green space areas. However, whilst the trees are left rotting, the case gets harder to argue which is why it is important to protect the trees. FPC employed a solicitor last year who is providing excellent advice.
- 363.11 Q. What is the latest situation on the Chapel?
- A. Planning permission for apartments was refused by CBC. The owner has declined to meet with both FPC and a local organisation who has expressed an interest in purchasing the site. FPC has asked if notice can be served on the owner to make needed repairs as the building is Grade 2 listed but was told no.

363.12 There being no further questions, Councillor Dack thanked everyone for attending the meeting and reminded everyone that elections for parish councillors were taking place this year. He encouraged anyone interested in standing as a parish councillor or volunteering for any of the jobs mentioned this evening to either speak to himself or the clerk after the meeting. Finally, he advised everyone they were always welcome to attend monthly parish council meetings where there was always an opportunity for members of the public to speak and there was also a surgery with two councillors between 6.45 pm and 7.15 pm on the same evening. Full details can be viewed on the website or noticeboards.

364 Date of next meeting

364.1 The next parish council meeting will be held on Thursday 9th April 2015 at 7.30 pm.

Meeting closed at 9.20 pm

Signed by Chairman _____ Date _____

Print name of Chairman _____