

HARRINGWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

NOTES OF THE OPEN ANNUAL VILLAGE MEETING

HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 7.00 pm ON THURSDAY 9th MAY 2019

Present : Cllr S. McLean (chairman)
Cllr S. Milton (deputy chairman)
Cllr L. Boon
Cllr S. Chambers
Cllr G. Dolman
Cllr K. Dove
Cllr A. White
Brian Chambers (Clerk)
Cllr Annabel de Capell-Brooke

Apologies: Cllr Helen Harrison

Also in attendance: Artur Pereira PCSO and 10 members of the public

1. Introduction

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7:00 pm by outlining the purpose of the meeting and thanking those present for their attendance. He then introduced the newly elected County Councillor, Annabel de Capell-Brooke and invited her to present her report.

2. County Council Report from Cllr Annabel de Capell-Brooke

Cllr Capell-Brooke had been elected as County Councillor for the Fineshade Ward some two months ago.

The change to Unitary Authority and anticipated impact on current services was outlined along with an expected extension of timescales for implementation.

Fact finding meetings have been held with local businesses.

Augean funding is available for local projects and this year a figure of £53k has been set aside to assist funding bids for any work that qualified for the fund.

Wakerley and Duddington quarries had also been visited to understand their operations and impact on the local communities.

A meeting has been held at RAF Wittering to consider the potential move of the Red Arrows to the base.

In response to questions Cllr Capell-Brooke explained the current structure of District and County Councils and their respective responsibilities.

An update on the status of the Tresham Garden Village would be forwarded to the Clerk.

3. District Council Report from Cllr Helen Harrison

Cllr Harrison was unable to attend the meeting but submitted the following report which was read to the meeting;

Cllr Helen Harrison – Fineshade Ward – East Northants Council

I am sorry that I am unable to attend the meeting this evening, please accept my apologies.

As you are all aware, East Northants Council, along with all the County Council and Northamptonshire Borough and District Councils, will soon no longer exist. An announcement on the expected two new Unitary Authorities is due to be made very soon by the Secretary of State. We are not yet clear whether the existing Councils will

cease to be in one year or two, but we do think that the elections to the new Shadow Authority will take place next year.

This is a difficult time for everyone, but your Councillors, Officers and the Government are all working very hard to get everything into place and ensure that the new Unitary Authority does not make the same mistakes as the County Council. The Unitary Authority for our area will bring together the areas of Corby, Kettering, Wellingborough and East Northants, and I think it is a great opportunity to bring decision making and local spending closer to the people being served and I fervently hope it works out well for the residents of Fineshade Ward.

We would normally be standing in elections right now, with a manifesto stating our plans and priorities for the next 4 years or so. Clearly the situation is very different, and we are only able to plan for the next year. As such, we are very much focusing on what we can deliver in the next year for the people of East Northamptonshire whilst we are still a sovereign body.

As you know, we currently have two local plans for East Northamptonshire, one for the rural North and Oundle and one for the South of the District. We are working hard to deliver a single part 2 local plan that covers the whole of East Northamptonshire, so that we have a fully up to date plan delivered before we become part of the new Unitary Authority.

Another priority is to fully deliver the East Northamptonshire Enterprise Centre. This is an ambitious project and is on schedule to be delivered for our area and to provide a great resource to encourage and develop businesses in our area.

Finally, I wanted to let you know that we are continuing with the hugely successful Community Facilities Fund this year. The money for the Fund comes from the New Homes Bonus and allows us to support the provision of new facilities within our district. Please apply for your local projects. I also have my Empowerment Fund which can be used for smaller projects, so please do let me know if you have any smaller projects that I can help you with.

Locally, we continue to fight against unsuitable development at Top Lodge at Fineshade Woods. The current application for wooden lodges is completely unacceptable. Along with Cllr de Capell Brooke and Tom Pursglove MP, I am fighting against this unwanted and inappropriate planning application.

Cllr Helen Harrison

4. Police Report.

PCSO Artur Pereira addressed the meeting by outlining the structure of the PCSO organisation within the East Northamptonshire Police Force. .

He went on to give request assistance from members of the public to help reduce crime by not leaving items visible in unlocked cars and not using rogue traders to carry out work on their properties.

He went on to address the increase in the number of fraudulent telephone calls being received by residents. He gave advice that the credentials of such callers should not be taken at face value and should be thoroughly checked. Residents should follow the advice being given by high street banks that they should never divulge their account information over the telephone as this was the most common method of benefitting from telephone fraud.

The Clerk went on to report the two crime reports currently on the web based reporting system and Councillors discussed the recent thefts from properties in the local area (as yet unreported on the system).

5. Questions from the public regarding County, District or Parish matters

The Parish Council was asked to consider taking action to address the encroachment of hedges and bushes onto footpaths throughout the village. Two instances were cited where the footpath has become severely restricted by such growth.

The Chairman confirmed that this subject was on the agenda for the regular Council meeting to be held later in the evening.

There being no further questions, the meeting closed at 7:45 pm