

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council of Farningham, held at Shand Hall, High Street, Farningham on Wednesday 19th July 2023 at 7pm.

Present: Cllrs Daryl Burns (Chairman), Mike Cook (Vice Chair), Philip McGarvey, Carol Salmon, Krishna Shanmuganathan, Laurence Ball (Sevenoaks District Council), Alan White (Sevenoaks District Council) and (in part) Roger Gough (Kent County Council).

In attendance: One member of the public (in part) and Helen Penney (Clerk)

1. Apologies and reasons for absence.

None

2. To fill any vacancies left unfilled at the election by reason of insufficient nominations via co-option

No vacancies filled via co-option.

3. Declarations of personal, prejudicial and disclosable pecuniary interests on items on the agenda and updates to members' register of interests.

Cllr McGarvey advised that he is now President of the Farningham and Eynsford Local History Society.

Members agreed to discuss the agenda in the following order.

5. Report from the District Councillors

Cllr White advised that the Conservation area appraisal was approved at the recent Development & Conservation Advisory Committee and that he would circulate the new appraisal to Councillors. **Action: Cllr White**

Cllr Ball reported that Sevenoaks District Council have funded and organised Family Fun Days over the summer, some of which he will be attending, that are run by Play Place and supported by town and parish councils who are providing the venues.

6. To consider, and approve if appropriate, which agenda items are sufficiently confidential as to warrant exclusion of members of the press and public under the provisions of The Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960

None

7. A Public Open Session. Members of the public will be welcome to address the Parish Council with any local concerns they have. Please note this item will be limited in time at the discretion of the Chairman.

The Clerk advised that a resident had raised some queries verbally regarding roads within the Parish. Cllrs acknowledged the concern of drivers turning right at the A255/A20 junction and dangerous use of the entrance and exit at the Farningham Hill Stables site and have on-going discussions regarding both areas with Kent Highways, adding that the resident should report the registration number of vehicles making illegal manoeuvres to the Police.

Regarding parking along London Road, Cllrs agreed that although the road is narrower when vehicles park either side, the flow of traffic is not affected and a permit scheme would see residents incur costs. Double yellow lines could be considered if the resident received support from those living along London Road. The Clerk will respond to the resident. **Action: Clerk**

17. Correspondence

17.1 Defibrillator request from resident

Cllrs noted the correspondence with Cllr White from a resident requesting a defibrillator at Oliver Crescent. Cllrs agreed that Farningham has a sufficient number of defibrillators for its population and suggested moving the one kept inside the Cricket Club pavilion to an outside location as soon as possible. The Clerk is to speak to the Manager of the Pied Bull to ascertain if there is a suitable location on their premises with their permission for the cabinet to be sited. Cllr White will respond to the resident. **Action: Cllr White and the Clerk**

Cllr Gough arrived at the meeting

4. Report from the County Councillor

Cllr Gough confirmed that the cost of the 20mph scheme will be covered in full, with him contributing £6,000 and Kent County Council the remaining £1,822.31.

Cllr Gough reported that the automatic traffic counts were in place and ready for the 12th July where they remained for seven days. The data will be shared as soon as it is available.

Cllr Gough reported that Kent County Council does not have any objection to the stone tablets on the bridge on the High Street being restored. However they do need to see the methodology for approval before any work is carried out on the tablets.

Cllr Gough reported that a consultation for the reduction in community wardens is open and is primarily led by budget constraints as Kent County Council is under extreme financial pressure.

Cllr McGarvey asked about recent reports on the potential closure of Kent Council Council's Household Waste Recycling Centre at Teardrop. Cllr Gough reported that several recycling centres are being debated from which four are to close across the county and that there is currently a public consultation open.

Cllr Burns advised that she has obtained copies of the "Stage 2 Road Safety Audit – Revision A" and the "Stage 3 Road Safety Audit – Final" for the A20 London Road/B2016 Seven Mile Lane Junction Improvement scheme that were produced following the installation of a roundabout in 2013. Cllr Gough asked that these be forwarded to him to. The Parish Council will continue to campaign for Kent Highways to build a roundabout at the A20/A225 junction for the safety of all road users **Action: Clerk**

Cllr Gough left the meeting

17.2 Lime Tree - Oliver Crescent, Farningham

Cllrs noted the correspondence between Cllr White and a resident where the resident has requested support as a lime tree is dropping sap onto their car which is parked in a designated disabled bay. Cllr White added that since the emails were exchanged, Sevenoaks District Council has confirmed that they will arrange for a specialist to review the tree in the winter to advise if any work can be carried out to improve the parking situation for the resident. Cllrs suggested a car cover may help.

8. If necessary, a report on breaches of General Data Protection Regulations

None

9. Approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Parish Council meetings on the 14th June 2023

The minutes from the Parish Council meeting on the 14th June 2023 were approved and signed.

10. Trident

To be completed by Cllr Salmon. **Action Cllr Salmon.**

11. Matters arising where these are not covered under the following headings and Clerks update.

The Clerk advised that she has annual leave booked 28th July to 1st August and 28th August to 1st September.

The Clerk advised that a tree at The White House had been cut down on Sunday 16th July without permission from Sevenoaks District Council which is required due to the conservation area status of the property. The Clerk has reported the incident to the Enforcement team at Sevenoaks District Council.

12. Planning

12.1 Planning log circulated by Clerk on 14th July 2023

Cllrs noted the planning log.

12.2 Farningham Oak

Cllrs noted that the enforcement team will not investigate the building being used for storage due to the imminent expected submission of a planning application.

12.3 Postponement of appeal hearing for Maplescombe Farm

Cllrs noted the postponement of the appeal hearing for Maplescombe Farm.

12.3 Any Enforcement action required with SDC

Cllrs requested that the Clerk asks the Enforcement team how the Farningham Hill Stables site will progress now the planning application has been refused. **Action: Clerk**

12.4 Chimmens Solar Farm

Cllr McGarvey advised that following the public and zoom meetings arranged by RES, construction access to the proposed solar farm is of interest to Farningham Parish Council as vehicles would travel through Farningham using the A20 and Scratcher's Lane (and onto Speedgate Hill). RES still have a lot of work to complete before they are able to submit an application however, they hope for this to happen before the end of 2023. Cllr Ball added that several residents on Mussenden Lane and Saxon Place have voiced concerns and that the size of the proposal is significant considering the development could generate power for approximately 40,000 homes.

12.5 Planning Applications. To consider any planning applications to include any received by the Clerk after the agenda has been served to Councillors.

Reference: 23/01763/HOUSE

Site: The Highlands Beesfield Lane Farningham Dartford Kent DA4 0BZ

Proposal: Conversion of loft into habitable space. Rooflights. Internal alterations.

Comments by: 1st August 2023

No comment

12.6 Planning applications responded to under delegated powers

Reference: 23/01597/HOUSE

Site: Beaushill House Old Dartford Road Farningham Dartford Kent DA4 0EB

Proposal: Loft conversion of existing garage to create habitable space.

Comments by: 11th July 2023

No comment

Finance Items for noting and decision

13.1 Items paid, payable and receipts

The Items payable were approved and signed.

13.2 Flexed budget and forecasting reports, June 2023

Cllrs noted the reports.

13.3 Consideration for an application to the CIL Spending Board - November 2023

Cllrs noted that applications are being accepted to the CIL Spending Board.

13.4 United Trust Bank – to consider and agree additional person/s authority to request transactions

Deferred to next month.

Items for decision and allocation of resources if necessary:

14.1 Spectulise

Approved for payment

14.2 Streetlights

Approved for payment.

14.3 Coronation final costings and unspent grant to be returned

The Clerk advised that the Awards for All department have since confirmed that the remaining funds can be retained so long as it is spent on a community event. Cllrs agreed to use the remaining grant on the Christmas event on the 2nd December.

14.4 Family Fun Day activity

Approved for payment.

14.5 Clerks training – FILCA (SLCC) and Understanding Precepts (KALC)

Approved for payment.

14.6 Contribution to the publication of the mapping of the churchyard

Deferred until a later date.

15. Highways including

15.1 20mph scheme and consideration of gateway

After discussing with Cllr Gough under agenda point 4, Cllrs agreed to the installation of the gateway so long as the supply and installation are paid for by Kent Highways. **Action: Clerk**

15.2 Highways Improvement Plan – Automated Traffic Counts

Covered under agenda point 4.

15.3 Stone tablets on the High Street bridge

Cllrs agreed for the Clerk to progress requesting more quotes and discussing with Historic England.

Action: Clerk

15.4 Temporary signs during Brands Hatch events

Cllrs agreed for the request of temporary signs to be taken to the Brands Hatch Liaison Group to encourage visitors arriving at and leaving the venue to keep noise and speeds to a minimum where Farningham residents are most affected by event traffic, near to Eglantine Lane and London Road. **Action:**

Cllr McGarvey

16. Events

16.1 Himalayan Balsam event Wednesday 16th August 2023

Cllrs noted that the timings and meeting place have been confirmed.

16.2 Christmas lights, Saturday 2nd December 2023 5pm

Cllrs noted that Barrie Payne has confirmed he can provide Carols for the event and requested that the tree remain in a temporary position closer to the gate on the High Street each year, rather than a post holder being concreted into the ground.

16.3 D-Day 80th Anniversary 6th June 2024

Cllrs agreed that the Parish Council will not be marking the occasion.

16.4 Annual Parish Meeting 2024

Cllrs agreed for the Clerk to book the Village Hall, midweek and avoiding the Easter period for a 2024 Annual Parish Meeting to be held. **Action: Clerk**

17. Correspondence

17.3 River Darent

The Clerk advised that she and Cllr McGarvey had walked the section of the River Darent from the Lion Hotel to the boundary with Horton Kirby that morning, noting several areas where branches and trees have fallen into the river that will be reported to the Environment Agency for clearance. The Clerk will also keep Mark Gallant informed. **Action: Clerk**

Cllr McGarvey advised that he would discuss the area of the river between the front of the cattle grid and High Street bridge with Mark Gallant on the day of the Himalayan Balsam event as the nettles are becoming very tall and confirming if a plant spotted further downstream is Giant Hogweed or Cows Parsley. **Action: Cllr McGarvey**

18. Farningham Village Hall Charges 2024

Cllr Burns advised that the Village Hall Committee is facing a £3,000 shortfall due to rising utility costs and fewer wedding bookings. Cllr Burns will be contacting Eynsford Village Hall to offer the use of Farningham Village Hall whilst their building work is underway.

Cllrs agreed that Farningham Village Hall can cordon off the car park for private events allowing the hirer exclusive use of the car park. **Action: Cllr Burns**

19. Update on PROW/DA/C417 Claimed footpath at Farningham and SD192

Cllr McGarvey advised that he and the Clerk had met with Maria McLauchlan, Definitive Map Officer, Public Rights of Way and Access Service, Kent County Council to walk the River Darent from the High Street side of the Lion Hotel, following the River Darent to the start of the Public Right of Way path just after the M20 bridge. Cllr McGarvey added that Maria will continue her investigations with a view to adopting the path as a public right of way.

Cllr McGarvey also noted that he had discussed the SD192 byway with Maria as Farningham Parish Council objected to it being upgraded to a byway for all traffic. Maria advised that she would investigate the history of the byway to better understand if it should be downgraded.

20. Streetlights contract

Cllrs noted that the contract is one year plus three.

21. Suggestions for an application to UK Shared Prosperity Fund - Parish Councils

Cllrs agreed for the Clerk to investigate options around the street light work that is required in the Parish and submit a bid within the deadline. **Action: Clerk.**

22. Kent Community Warden Service Review Public Consultation

Cllrs noted the consultation.

23. KALC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2023 – MOTIONS

Cllrs asked the Clerk to request the consultation to remove four recycling centres across the county be added a motion for discussion as they are particularly worried about losing the Teardrop Centre that is located so close to Farningham. **Action: Clerk**

23. Newsletter

Cllrs agreed to bring ideas for content to the next meeting before deciding if a newsletter should be circulated in time for the Christmas event. **Action: All**

24. Friends of Farningham

Cllr Salmon advised that Friends of Farningham have been working hard, particularly at the along the High Street, the Village Hall car park, the walls at Beesfield Lane and the Church.

25. Items to circulate to parishioners

The Clerk advised that she will circulate appropriate items. **Action: Clerk**

26. Urgent Business that occurs and requires attention before the next meeting may be reported at the Chairman's discretion.

None

The meeting ended at 20:58

Date of next meeting Wednesday 13th September 2023

Items Paid

Farningham Parish Council PAYMENTS LIST

Voucher	Code	Date	Description	Supplier	VAT	Net	VAT	Total
46	Village Hall Hire	22/06/2023	Shand Hall Hire	FPC	X	264.00		264.00
47	Audit fees	22/06/2023	Audit fee	Mrs Julia Chamberlain	X	160.00		160.00
48	Scribe	22/06/2023	Scribe Accounts	Scribe Accounts	S	345.60	69.12	414.72
49	Training	22/06/2023	Training Course	Miss H Penney	S	120.00	24.00	144.00
51	Computer	22/06/2023	Acrobat	Miss H Penney	S	16.64	3.33	19.97
52	Bank charges	14/06/2023	Bank charges	Handelsbanken	X	10.95		10.95
53	Clerk's salary (net)	22/06/2023	Clerk's salary	Miss H Penney	X	1,030.60		1,030.60
54	Salary On Costs (Tax, NI etc)	22/06/2023	Tax/NI	HMRC	X	39.54		39.54
55	Pension (PC & Clerk's contributions)	15/06/2023	Pension contribution	Nest Pensions	X	91.68		91.68
56	Electricity Charges	19/06/2023	Electricity supply	npower	L	210.67	10.53	221.20
57	Telephone /Broadband	22/06/2023	Telephone and Broadband charges	Miss H Penney	X	4.95		4.95
58	Postage/Stationery/Print	22/06/2023	Printing	Miss H Penney	X	5.00		5.00
59	Street Lighting Repairs	22/06/2023	Street Light Repair	Streetlights	S	97.75	19.55	117.30
60	Street Lighting Repairs	22/06/2023	Street Light Repair	UK Power Networks	S	1,389.00	277.80	1,666.80
						3,786.38	404.33	4,190.71

Receipts

11 July 2023 (2023-2024)

Farningham Parish Council RECEIPTS LIST

Voucher	Code	Date	Bank	Supplier	VAT Type	Net	Total
4	Anonymous Donation	16/06/2023	FPC Current Account (HB)	Farningham Parish Council	X	200.00	200.00
5	Bank Interest	30/06/2023	FPC Deposit (HB)	Farningham Parish Council	X	11.46	11.46
				Total		211.46	211.46

Items payable

**Farningham Parish Council
PAYMENTS LIST**

Voucher	Date	Description	Supplier	VAT Type	Net	VAT	Total
61	19/07/2023	Computer Support	Spectulise Limited	X	£200.00		£200.00
63	14/07/2023	Bank charges	Handelsbanken	X	£11.35		£11.35
64	19/07/2023	Tax/NI	HM Revenue and Customs	X	£208.35		£208.35
65	19/07/2023	Pension contribution	Nest Pensions	X	£125.53		£125.53
66	19/07/2023	Electricity supply	npower	L	£190.16	£9.51	£199.67
69	19/07/2023	Street Light Repair	UK Power Networks	S	£1,106.00	£221.20	£1,327.20
70	19/07/2023	Coronation Fete	Awards for All Lottery Grant	X	£114.42		£114.42
71	19/07/2023	Family Fun Day Donation	Eynsford Parish Council	X	£200.00		£200.00
72	19/07/2023	Training Course	Miss H Penney	S	£120.00	£24.00	£144.00
73	19/07/2023	Training Course	Miss H Penney	S	£16.00	£3.20	£19.20
62	19/07/2023	Acrobat	Miss H Penney	S	£16.64	£3.33	£19.97
67	19/07/2023	Telephone and Broadband charges	Miss H Penney	X	£4.95		£4.95
68	19/07/2023	Printing	Miss H Penney	X	£5.00		£5.00
							£193.12
			Total		£2,318.40	£261.24	£2,579.64

£114.42 not paid due to Farningham Parish Council being able to retain the whole grant to spend on a community event