Minutes of the Annual Parish meeting of the Parish Council of Farningham held at Farningham Village Hall on Wednesday 19th April 2023 at 8pm.

1. Chairman's welcome and Apologies for absence

Present:

Cllrs L. Bourne, P. McGarvey (Sevenoaks District Council), D. Burns, and C. Salmon.
Roger Gough (Kent County Council)
Marily Wells; WI
Vikki Saunders; FELHs
Terry Hutchins; St. Johns Ambulance
Malcom Dunn; DRIPs
Liz Meachin; Rainbows
Lee Mullins; Charity of Anthony Roper
Sarah Moon; DVLP
Helen Penney; FPC Clerk and RFO
Three members of the public

Apologies received and accepted from:

Cllrs L. Oztosun, S. Pointer and K. Shanmuganathan
St Peter's and St Paul Church
Community Policing Officer
Susan Pittman; The Countryside Charity
Viv Parker; Farningham United Charities and Farningham Village Hall committee
St. Peters and St. Pauls Church

2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 30th May 2022.

Members approved the minutes of the Annual Parish held on 30th May 2022.

3. To receive the unaudited financial statement of the Parish Council

Cllr Bourne reported that there had been a small increase to the years precept with the council's main costs being staffing, streetlights and the maintenance of assets.

2021/22 had seen some unexpected costs including maintenance to the flint wall and cattle screen, historical invoices from 2020/21 and the Kent Pension fund. However, there had been an underspend on other items.

Cllr Bourne noted that the Parish Council owns the village hall and that it is managed by a management committee. An account managed by the council contains funds bequeathed to the village hall and some funds had been spent on new windows over the previous year.

4. To receive a report for Farningham Parish Council, Cllr Liz Bourne

Cllr Bourne reported that she had been the Chair at Farningham Parish Council since 2020 and that there had not been any major changes in the last few years. The Parish Council has limited powers and tried to work with Sevenoaks District Council and Kent County Council wherever possible.

Cllr Bourne noted the following issues are a concern to the Parish Council:

1) Road safety - the council had a Highways Improvement Plan in place with Kent County Council. Automatic Traffic Counts were due to be in place to start collecting data on the A20. Ideas had been explored during the year, such as turning London Road into a cul-de-sac but this was shown to be unfeasible.

2) Planning – The Parish Council considers every planning application and the impact each application may have on residents adding that the council is committed to protect the Green Belt, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and the conservation area in Farningham.

   Farningham has had two specific planning problems this year; Farningham Hill Stables which the enforcement team at SDC have not acted upon and Maplebank poultry farm which has been ongoing for 20 years.

Cllr Bourne reported that the Parish Council had planned a Christmas event again with the tree in Market Meadow, mulled wine and carols and held a Proclamation of the Accession of King Charles in Market Meadow adding that work was ongoing for a Coronation fete on the 6th May.

Cllr Bourne thanked Friends of Farningham and Cllr Salmon for their work throughout the village and the remaining councillors for their support over the year.

Cllr Bourne added that the parish council wants feedback from residents to help plan the future of the parish and projects that are wanted and needed throughout the village and its residents.

Cllr Bourne finished her report by confirming that she would be stepping down at the next elections so the parish council will be looking to fill three seats.

5. To receive a report from the County Councillor, Roger Gough
Roger Gough read out a report. A copy of which is attached to these minutes.

6. To receive a report from the District Councillor, Philip McGarvey
Cllr McGarvey read out a report. A copy of which is attached to this report.

7. To receive a report from Farningham Women's Institute, Marilyn Wells
Marilyn Wells read out a report. A copy of which is attached to these minutes.

8. To receive a report from the Farningham and Eynsford Local History Society, Vikki Saunders
Vikki Saunders read out a report. A copy of which is attached to this report.

9. To receive a report from the Darent Valley Landscape Partnership, Sarah Moon.
Sarah Moon reported that work had been ongoing at Lullingstone Castle to the ice house and that the partnership had been working on community days, walking trails, conservation work such as Preston Hill and a programme of events is available for anyone interested in attending. The partnership is due to come to a close at the end of 2024.

10. To receive a report from St. Johns Ambulance, Terry Hutchings
Terry Hutchings reported that St. Johns Ambulance first set up in Farningham in 1927 and would patrol the M20 on bicycles and that recently, a local volunteer had been awarded in the last Queen's list. St Johns Ambulance have been concentrating on training and upskilling volunteers over the last six months and have pledged 109 voluntary hours.

11. To receive a report from Girl Guides, Brownies and Rainbows, Lis Meachin
Lis Meachin reported that Rainbows now accepted children from age 4 which has been fun and challenging. The numbers at the Eynsford and Farningham group is very stable with 20 to 25 girls aged 4 to 7 attending regularly with three adult leaders who have recently had their first aid qualifications refreshed. Recently, three teenagers have been helping as part of their Duke of Edinburg Award that

was repeated after three other teenagers had helped earlier in the year for the same reason. The group has a large catchment area and is diverse including a Ukrainian child who has a host family nearby. The group supports the community when possible.

Lis Meachin reported that the Brownies group in Eynsford is well supported with 14 girls regularly attending. Two new leaders are working towards their qualifications and would like to see numbers in the group increase.

Lis Meachin reported that there isn't currently a Guides or Rangers group locally and that if volunteers cannot be found it might be possible to collaborate with the Scouts but this hasn't been explored yet.

Lis Meachin finished by thanking those that supported the groups including the Charity of Anthony Roper.

12. To receive a report from the Charity of Anthony Roper, Lee Mullins
Lee Mullins read out a report. A copy of which is attached to these minutes.

13. To receive a report from DRIPs, Malcom Dunn.
Malcom Dunn read out a report. A copy of which is attached to these minutes.

The Chair asked if anyone in the audience had questions/a topic to discuss.
Two members of the public asked how the 20mph speed limit reduction and parking throughout the village can be enforced.
Cllr Bourne advised that the 20mph scheme will help change the behaviours of drivers through the village and reduce speeds. A speeding vehicle can only be enforced if witnessed by the Police or evidence is submitted to the Police to enforce. The Highway Code does not apply to cyclists.
If there is inconsiderate parking in the village then this should be submitted with evidence to Sevenoaks District Council who have the powers to enforce. The Parish Council has very few powers.

The following organisations provided reports to be used in their absence and are attached to these minutes.
Farningham Village Hall Management Committee had sent in a report.
Farningham United Charities had sent in a report.
The Countryside Charity had sent in a report.

5. To receive a report from the County Councillor, Roger Gough

Farningham Annual Parish Meeting

County Councillor's Report - Roger Gough

19 April 2023

It has once more been a great pleasure over the last year to work with Liz, Helen and the Parish Council - and of course with Philip, whose long and excellent service has been to both District and Parish.

I'll start, as ever, with Highways. Kent Highways changed its structures during the year, which I think caused a bit of a hiatus for many parishes (and County Councillors!) but we have Nigel Rowe as our new liaison officer, and he now provides a more consistent point of contact.

Last year I talked about the proposed 20mph zone in the village, and I have to say that we have made slower progress than any of us would have liked on this. Kent Highways have revised up their cost estimate sharply, and so my commitment of support from my Combined Member Grant doesn't cover - as it was originally intended to - pretty much the whole cost. I am working through with Kent Highways and the Parish Council how we get this over the line.

Safety on the A20 remains a major concern, the more so in the light of another tragedy recently. Kent Highways did carry out a major review of the crash record; although there were some patterns of accidents around Scratchers Lane and Button Street, it is hard to identify further patterns and the most horrific incidents of recent years seem to link to driver behaviour. Works have been carried out at the locations I mentioned, including signage changes and junction realignments at Scratchers Lane, and there are further traffic counts being carried out this month.

My challenge to my colleagues in Kent Highways is that, as a County, we set some eighteen months ago our Vision Zero strategy, which seeks to minimise and if possible end fatalities on the roads by reducing the consequences of driver error: how do we apply this approach to an area such as the A20? I will keep the Parish updated on further developments in this area.

Like the rest of the county, and the country, the village has been affected as winter weather has taken its heavy toll on our roads. In the December/ January period, highway reports were five times the level of the same period a year ago. While constrained by tight funding and inflationary pressures, we have since January been stepping up the pace of repairs; hopefully that's been seen in the increased number of local road closures that reflect

highway works. 14,000 potholes have now been repaired and 68,414 square meetings of road has been patched.

The budget announcement of £200 million for roads funding, meaning some £6 million for Kent, is a welcome addition and we are looking to deploy it as quickly as possible.

Buses, particularly those serving schools, have been a major concern, even if Farningham was less affected by this than some other areas locally. Last summer the bus industry was facing a crisis brought on by higher fuel costs, staff (especially driver) shortages and falls in usage. This was a national issue, but had particular salience in Kent because of the high usage of commercial bus services for school travel and the usage of the Kent Travel Saver. Our Transport team did a remarkable job in working with operators to reduce the impact of route cancellations, especially on school journeys. It did, however, mean a very long and difficult summer for families;

I am pleased to say that we have finally secured our Bus Service Improvement Plan funding award. After very long delays (we were first given our indicative allocation of £34 million over 2022-25 a year ago), we now have agreement to deploy just under £19 million (representing the first two years' funding) over the next year, with a roughly two thirds/ one third split between capital and revenue. While this has taken an inordinate amount of time and is not on the scale or in the form that we might have hoped for, it can deliver some real improvements and help protect and sustain the network, in particular school transport, as well as offsetting the proposed increase in the cost of the Kent Travel Saver.

Nationally, the problem has not gone away; extra government funding over the next three months buys time to establish a somewhat longer-term package, but the sector remains under severe pressure. We at least are pleased to have some funding and I have established a cross-party Member group to review and advise on the way ahead.

This year saw an intensely difficult financial position for the County Council, reflecting high inflation and severe pressures in areas such as adult social care and Special Educational Needs. In this financial year just ending, we will - for the first time in more than twenty years - overspend our budget.

So severe did the situation get that, shortly before the Autumn Statement, the Leader of Hampshire and I wrote a well-publicised letter to senior ministers setting out our concerns about the unsustainable financial position confronting councils such as ours.

The Autumn Statement did then give something of a lifeline to councils, albeit a short-term one leaving the long-term issues unresolved. And it still meant that in February we had to put through a very tough budget for this year, raising council tax and taking some very difficult service decisions.

One - a small one in the big scheme of council budgets, but important to us here tonight, was to cut the Combined Member Grant from £10,000 a year to £3,600. Now when I tell this to Parish Councils across my Division, their reaction is - that's all right, we can manage on £3,600 ...

Nonetheless, I was pleased this year to be able to make a small contribution from my Grant to the Traffic Regulation Order as part of the 20mph scheme and have held a chunk of funding back for the scheme as a whole.

One big challenge to which the county and its communities really rose was Ukraine. Kent has welcomed the biggest number of refugees from Ukraine of any area in England, and no part of Kent has taken on more guests than Sevenoaks District . In the year since guests started arriving under the Homes for Ukraine scheme, 3,332 guests have come into the County (and all told 4,330 have been matched with hosts in Kent – not all have yet arrived). 1,649' programme leavers 'have moved on – 46% into rented accommodation, many of the rest returning to Ukraine or neighbouring countries – but at present there are 1,691 guests staying with 832 sponsors. There are 397 Ukrainian children in our primary schools and 232 in our secondary schools.

We have responded to the challenge of potential sponsorship breakdown, especially as many Ukrainian guests reached the six month minimum sponsorship stage. Moving ahead of government and many other councils, we announced in October that, for the rest of the financial year, we would pay a higher rate to hosts and further increase payments linked to the number of guests. The ending of sponsorship arrangements, which was anticipated to be at around 60% of the total, came in at 9%. We have extended these higher payments for another year while working with our District council colleagues on longer-term housing options.

We have just seen primary school offer day, and we had secondary school offer day on 1 March. For the latter, we had record numbers; 19,007 families from Kent (up 695 on the previous year), and 22,620 in total (up 731) applied for a place for their child. Although the proportion of those securing their first preference fell slightly (from 79.6% to 78.2%), the absolute number rose, as did the proportion securing a second, third or fourth preference, so the proportion allocated (4.6%) was the lowest since 2018.

Nonetheless, every situation of that kind - and we're talking here about almost 900 children across the county - is one too many, and Farningham often has the problem of being in the middle between Dartford, with its high population growth, and Sevenoaks. It is important that any affected families are aware that this is not the end of the process. The next stage will be the second round of offers (reallocation) on 25 April.

I look forward to continuing to work with the Parish Council and the village community over the coming year.

6. To receive a report from the District Councillor, Philip McGarvey

What can I say about retiring next month from this role as District Councillor after 20 years in post, apart from goodbye and thank you for the gold watch? (Kidding!)

As well being a member of SDC's Development Control (Planning) Committee, I have also been Chairing the Audit Committee at SDC.

And I have two Parish Councils to serve: Farningham and the somewhat larger Horton Kirby & South Darenth with their own raft of problems.

I do apologise that I appear to have been your only District Councillor in attendance or in evidence over the past three years when you should have two - my colleague's absence and lack of support put huge pressure on me working alone, and just when I thought I could not continue like this, he resigned in November of last year.

I am afraid that this absence of support, my creaking health and some family issues contributed to my making a mistake and mis-reading and therefore missing one Planning deadline by just 10 hours last month – unfortunately a critical one (Maplescombe Poultry Farm), but the Planning Officer and SDC Legal Team were pushing it through and my three colleagues in the neighbouring ward (West Kingsdown) chose not to contest it anyway. It has become increasingly frustrating trying to push water uphill on my own, and pushing that water with a fork. I feel spent.

I continued to challenge SDC on several hotly contested planning decisions and challenged their tardiness or failures to effect planning enforcements, but with fewer successes in the past 2 or 3 years especially.

I have also continued to challenge Kent Highways over their reluctance to invest their money – our money – to effect crash avoidance rather than just remedial repairs. But as our County Councillor says, KCC doesn't have any money…

But on the plus side, I thank our Parish Councillors and Parish Clerk(s) for their much-appreciated contributions – especially to Helen, our Clerk, and to the retiring Councillors – my sincere thanks to them all for their giving their time & support to our residents. And I thank our residents too.

7. To receive a report from Farningham Women's Institute, Marilyn Wells

FARNINGHAM WI April 2023

We've had a good year!

Our numbers remain buoyant, averaging around 60 members, mainly from Farningham and the surrounding villages . For those not aware, we were one of the first WIs in W Kent, being established in 1918 – we'll be celebrating our 105th birthday in June.

Despite their image, WIs are definitely not cosy little ladies' groups where everyone sits around making jam! The original aims of revitalising rural communities and encouraging women to become more involved in producing food during the First World War have widened and evolved. Today's WIs provide women with educational opportunities and chances to build new skills, to take part in a wide variety of activities and to campaign on issues that matter to them and their communities - all with a framework of friendship and mutual support.

So what have we actually done this year?

I did contemplate at this point giving everyone a little card where they could mark off each time I mention food or drink (like a bingo card!) but I didn't get round to it, so just keep count on your fingers. To stop you nodding off, I'll give you a little sign each time.

So here we go :

Our monthly meetings have included talks on diverse issues ranging from social life in Edwardian Britain and Choosing and arranging supermarket flowers to Bonfire Night Traditions in Lewes (the Sussex town) and hopping in Kent (the kind to make beer (1) not one-legged kind) .

It's easy to fall into the trap of every meeting having the same format and becoming very pedestrian so we try to include little extras each month like a Valentines mini-quiz in February and Flower and Vegetable (2) displays at harvest time or themed refreshments – we had hot cross buns(3) at Easter and ginger cake (4) in November!

We learnt new skills at craft events e.g. making Cmas cards in December , competed at the monthly scrabble group, and kept fit with regular short mat bowls and monthly walks, followed by breakfast (5) at Shand hall. Two members (chosen by ballot) were awarded bursaries for educational courses. A small group met for topical discussion and a

ploughman`s lunch(6) each month and the Book Group got together to talk about a set book.

This year`s national campaign centred on the identification of Autism and ADHD in Women and Girls and we spent one meeting exploring issues around this and made a donation to ~~Autism AllianceUK~~ ADHD foundation.

We also revisited a previous and on going campaign focusing on practical and easy ways to recycle.

What about a wide range of other activities in a supportive and friendly environment?

We had a New Year Quiz with a Fish and Chip (6) Lunch , a summer birthday lunch (7) at The Hilltop , and a glorious day at the seaside, with a visit to the Turner gallery followed by a sumptuous afternoon tea (8) at The Walpole Bay Hotel. At one meeting we held a Beetle Drive which might have been better if most of us understood the rules and if the few ladies who actually did, hadn`t unashamedly cheated.

In July we celebrated the Platinum Jubilee with a suitably themed Cheese and Wine(9) evening . Some of our ladies remembered the last coronation and shared their memories; one who was student in London at the time had spent the eve on the Mall and held us spellbound, reading her original hour-by-hour account sent at the time in a letter to her parents .

Last but not least, we`ve tried to play our part in the community. We laid a wreath on Remembrance Sunday, read at the Community Carol Service, donated to the Lights of Love Christmas tree in the church and served tea and cakes (10) at the Jubilee Fete. Our team at the recent Church Quiz did pretty well and we supported the tabletop sale organised by the Support for Ukraine Group with a What`s in the Mug Tombola. There`s a rumour that the crocheted poppies and Christmas decorations around the village in November and December were down to the WI but I couldn`t possibly comment!

8. To receive a report from the Farningham and Eynsford Local History Society, Vikki Saunders

2022-2023Chairman's Report, incorporating Archive & Research Report, prepared for AGM 19 May 2023

Since our last AGM we have delivered our programme live, except in February when the speaker, rather than cancel, offered to give the talk on Zoom. The programme tries to cover topics of local interest and we have been privileged to have talks based on original research - the LiDar survey of the Darent Valley; making the historical model of Eynsford Castle; the changes to the landscape resulting from the construction of railways through the Darent Valley; Roman remains in the Farningham area; graffiti in Lullingstone Castle and its meanings. We also had a lantern slide talk on scenes along the Thames from source to Dartford. We are most grateful to all our speakers for the varied and well-prepared talks they have given.

The e-mail system of communication has continued, and we have also been able to reach more people through Facebook and our website.

The Committee now comprises six members, all being put forward for re-election. John Mullen has decided to retire from the Committee, but is willing to continue in the vital role of Company Secretary, which is a legal requirement for a Charitable Company Limited by Guarantee. We work well together as a team, and I would like to thank all of them for their commitment but there is a pressing need for more Committee members so that each can concentrate on one task instead of trying to tackle multiple roles.

The Bulletin continues to be issued three times a year, and, as most receive it by e-mail, it can contain more photographs and colour. It covers Society updates as well as a random selection of snippets, which often relate to the various queries sent via the website and Facebook.

One of the main aims of this Society is to research and preserve documents, images and artefacts related to the villages of Farningham and Eynsford, with Crockenhill, Lullingstone and Maplescombe. The collections in the Centre have been built up since the mid-1980s and are an invaluable resource to our communities. The list of new acquisitions and their donors appear in the Bulletins, and we thank the donors for their generosity. On the research side, we congratulate Diana Beamish for the publication of her book on Anthony Roper Primary School and its predecessor schools in Eynsford and Farningham. We are proud to be associated with this publication, which drew on the archives of the school held at the Centre.

The collection is not only a resource for individuals, but has been drawn on by public bodies, and grants from both Eynsford and Farningham Parish Councils are partly in recognition of this. This year we had a stand at the Platinum Jubilee fete; were invited to walk round Eynsford and Farningham with the consultants and Sevenoaks District conservation officers as part of the Conservation Areas reappraisal exercise; provided historical background to the drinking fountain in Bower Lane for Eynsford Parish Council; provided photographs of the tablets on Farningham bridge for Farningham Parish Council; forwarded information on Preston Hill firing range to Kent County Council.

We resumed our Monday morning sessions at the Centre in March, but had a serious setback in January when two pipes burst after ten days of continuous frost. The burst in the toilet left no lasting problems, but the one in the roof space over the Centre itself soaked some of the cardboard storage boxes, although luckily the contents were well protected by their packaging. We are most grateful to Barry Smith who so promptly repaired the damage. However, there is a serious mould problem on walls and ceilings, and the cost of the dehumidifier is a strain on finances. It is hoped that the Parish Council's building insurance will cover the cost of re-decoration, but we await news about that.

We are hopeful that more people will come forward to help the Society continue to flourish - succession is vital, as the imminent coronation of Charles III illustrates!

12. To receive a report from the Charity of Anthony Roper, Lee Mullins

Farningham Parish Council APM
Ropers Charity Annual Report
19 April 2023 in FVH

Background

The origin of the Ropers Charity dates back to 1614, when executors of the estate of Anthony Roper, a wealthy Farningham resident, were instructed to transfer 'houses and lands in East Greenwich' into a Trust to generate an annual income for the poor of Farningham, Eynsford and Horton Kirby. It is the dividend income from that source from which we have always benefitted. Over the centuries the original property assets were sold off as London expanded and the funds raised were invested in securities via finance houses in the City of London.

The Parish of Farningham continues to receive close to £4,000 on an annual basis which is applied to:

(1) Pensions of £60 bi-monthly, with an increase during the winter months towards gas and electricity

(2) Education is interpreted generously as 'support for the youth groups in the community' and additionally for parish based students pursuing degree courses at University. We had one applicant in 2022

The Trustees always welcome approaches made in confidence from parishioners who may draw attention as to where future help might be needed.

Breakdown of distribution

6 Pensioners received Bi-monthly payments and in the winter months additional money was given as top ups for gas and electricity costs.

Other beneficiaries were the: E & F Brownies, E & F Rainbows, F&E Scouts, Cubs & Beavers, Riverside Players Youth group, FCC Youth Section and Tiny Tots. Each group received £150.
One request from a student to purchase books. They are dyslexic and find it difficult following their course on line. A grant of £150 was given.

An annual notice goes in to Trident and in the last 6 months contact cards highlighting the offer of donations to young people and those in need, have been placed in Farningham Surgery, Farningham Church and FVH. Information is also available on the website: www.roperscharity.com

Long-time Trustee, Caroline Gould, resigned due to ill health and Ray Craddock was co-opted in February to fill the vacancy.

Trustees: Lee Mullins, Vikki Saunders, Irene Staples, Ray Craddock

13. To receive a report from DRIPs, Malcom Dunn.

DARENT REPORT 25/1/23 UPDATED 12/4/23

After very low rainfall winter and spring 2021/2022 it was going to be a difficult year. This culminated in drought orders. A hosepipe ban was in place from August 12th until November 30th.

The river was very low in September and caused much concern.

The hosepipe ban covered all of Kent and the South East. As soon as the hosepipe ban was lifted much needed rain happened. November 2022 and the first half of January 2023 have been exceptionally wet. The Darent responded immediately. At the moment the river is in a healthy state with high volume moving through the Parish. This is important, as the long range weather forecast is for another hot, dry summer. Low flow is expected again. I now have two 45 gallon water butts in place to collect rain water this year.

Looking ahead, the more houses that are built, in our region, the more water will be needed.

Until water companies find an alternative supply, it is inevitable that most of our region's water will be drawn from the aquifers that lie beneath us. A major part of our role is to maintain awareness of this in DEFRA, the Environment Agency, our members of Parliament, Kent County Councillors and District Councillors. This we do. A new reservoir at Broad Oak near Canterbury is now back on the agenda. It will be some years into the future before it is operational. It's really needed now.

The summer of 2022 focussed our minds on climate change and population density. Chalk streams all over England were suffering badly due to over abstraction and drought. This was widely covered in the press and TV. Water companies all over England are now speaking to each other and this must surely bring forward plans to combat water shortages. London and South East England consumes a huge amount of water as you can imagine. And don't forget our farming community.

The public outcry over sewage being released into our rivers and onto our beaches is, thank goodness not a problem that affects the Darent. This is treated on the Dartford marshes at the Long Reach plant. The water quality of the Darent is classed as excellent.

WHATS NEEDED

1/ Urgent. Regional plan needed for South East England.

2/ Reduce leakage. At present one million pounds per day being spent on this.

3/ Water transfer between water companies must continue to maintain supplies.

4/ A new abstraction point at Teddington, upper Thames to be fast tracked to improve supplies.

5/ New reservoir near Oxford to be up and running by 2040.

6/ Cut back on demand. Water is precious.

All the above was discussed at a meeting on 25/1/23. The contributors were :-

South East Rivers Trust. South East Water. Thames Water. Southern Water. Sutton & East Surrey Water. North West Kent Countryside Partnership. Darent River Preservation Society. Our District Councillor.

Malcolm Dunn Darent River Preservation Society.

The following provided reports to be used in their absence;

Farningham Village Hall Management Committee.
Farningham Village Hall ; Chair's Report (84th AGM Feb.27 2023) for period 2022-2023 Also for OGM Feb 27th

The Management committee met in February, April, July, September, and November.
The committee continues to receive excellent support from Mick Turpin as our treasurer; [redacted] as our bookings secretary and Vic Clark as our Caretaker.

We have been fortunate that Carol Salmon and Daryl Burns have regularly volunteered to produce minutes for the committee and continue to represent FVH interests on the Parish Council.

The committee also benefits from the regular attendance and contributions from community representatives ; Alastair Reid for the Guitar club; Terry Payne for Axstanes and Micaela and Lesley Burr for the W.I.

Tasks completed over the year included;

Replacing the stage track and curtains,
Fireproofing the electrical cupboard
Reviewing/ replacing lighting with LED
Replacing the 3 large windows in the main hall.
Arranging an Honours Board - fitted in the Main Hall, funded and dedicated to David Gomm
Purchasing and installing Bluetooth adaptor for music

Generous donations were received from the following Society's due to their closure ;
Farningham & Darent Valley Probus £800 and Farningham Horticultural Society £900
Farningham Parish Council kindly funded regular grass cutting of Market Meadow
Gas/Electricity prices were held under contract for this year until November 2023

The committee still lacks a social secretary/fund raiser and would benefit from a regular committee secretary to service correspondence and meetings.

Thanks are due to all our committee members and all our regular hirers for their commitment to, and efforts spent on, running and contributing to a wide range of well attended village activities.

(Viv Parker Chair FVH 12.02.2023)

Farningham United Charities.

Farningham United Charities 01.02.2023

Notes of decisions for dispersal of funds agreed by email 16.1.2022

1. Members were emailed 29.1.2023

Gary Mullins, Carol Salmon, Ian Macknelly, Viv Parker (sec)

2. Contents of email

Members were advised of the current balance of funds which at January 29th 2023 was £796.26
They were asked how they wished to use the funds for 2023.
Notes of the discussion on 27.1.2022 were distributed as an attachment at the same time.

3. Discussion of donations

It was agreed that our donations should go to the same recipients as last year.

After discussion it was agreed to share all funding as follows;

	Receipt acknowledged
• Ellenor Hospice £200 ;	Charlotte Wood 7.2.2023
• Demelza Hospice £200 ;	Debby Hackett 9.2.2023
• Cottage Day Centre, Brands Hatch £200;	Sarah Reeves 10.2.2023
• The Swanley & District Food Bank £90;	Colin Annetts 6.2.2023
• Community Cupboard West Kingsdown	Tracy,David, Vee & Helen community cupboard team 20.02.2023

Payments will be by cheque and post, receipts will be requested.
The sum of £ 16.26 will be left in the account

4. Report for Parish Council meeting

A copy of these notes will be sent to Clerk to the Council as our report to the Parish Council annual meeting. (emailed 18.02. 2023)

Viv Parker (secretary) Email vivienneparker913@gmail.com ;

The Countryside Charity.

February 2023 From: ***Sevenoaks District CPRE Kent Committee***

Dear Clerk and Members of Farningham Parish Council

CPRE Kent is part of CPRE The Countryside Charity, the national charity which campaigns to protect rural England, but our focus is Kent, in which each District has its own committee. I attach the Sevenoaks Committee's Chairman's Report for 2021 and a list of its particular involvement at parish and district level. A group of parishes has been allocated to individual Committee members so that the workload is shared. These can be contacted through the Chairman or myself.

The Committee has built up a network of parish/town representatives who can be contacted for local knowledge and who can alert the Committee on any matter causing concern. Nominations from the parish council are welcome - the chief criteria are an interest in the parish and in its planning issues. At present your parish representatives is:

Elizabeth Bourne -	3 The Barn/ Maplescombe Lane/ Farningham/ DA4 0JY lizbourne.fpc.gmail.com 07770 632162

The Sevenoaks District Committee plays an active part in commenting on various contentious issues or on matters of concern to local members. In the coming months, critical decisions will be made about the countryside within Sevenoaks District, especially with the second phase of Plan 2040: A new Local Plan for Sevenoaks District, which will include development sites, due to be published in the autumn.

Sevenoaks CPRE Committee celebrated its 30th anniversary in November, and there is a need for more Committee members so that the whole District is represented. Guests are welcome at our Committee meetings so do ask to come along without commitment. Just contact Nigel or me.

Sevenoaks CPRE Committee hopes your parish will take an active part when the Local Plan and other countryside issues come to the fore.

Yours sincerely

Susan Pittman