Minutes of the Annual Parish meeting of the Parish Council of Farningham held at Farningham Village Hall on Monday 30th May 2022 at 7.30pm.

1. Chairman's welcome and Apologies for absence
Present:
Cllrs L. Bourne, P. McGarvey (Sevenoaks District Council) and K. Shanmuganathan
Roger Gough (Kent County Council)
Lee Mullins; the Charity of Anthony Roper
Viv Parker; Farningham United Charities and Farningham Village Hall committee
Malcom Dunn; Darent River Preservation Society
Terry Hutchings; St. John's Ambulance
Paul Jackaman; Farningham Cricket Club
Peter Horobin; Acer House
Liz Meachin; Girl Guides, Brownies and Rainbows
Three members of the public

Apologies received and accepted from:
Cllrs D, Burns, B. Carroll (Sevenoaks District Council), L. Oztosun, S. Pointer and C. Salmon
The Clerk
Reverend D. McGarvey
Vikki Saunders; Farningham and Eynsford Local History Society
Community Policing Officer
Marilyn Wells Farningham; Women's Institute
Ken Baker; Eynsford and Farningham Scouts
Susan Pittman; The Countryside Charity
Darent Valley Landscape Partnership

2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 3rd April 2019
Members approved the minutes of the Annual Parish meeting of 3rd April 2019

3. Unaudited financial statement of the Parish Council:
Received

4. Chairman's Report:
Cllr Liz Bourne reported that;

- Road safety had been discussed at every monthly meeting and the Parish Council has pressed Kent Highways for support, especially along the A20 where vehicle collisions happen regularly. Cllr Bourne thanked Cllr Shanmuganathan for pushing the proposed 20mph scheme which we hope will be delivered within next 12 months and largely funded by KCC Cllr Roger Gough.
- Farningham Day in September 2021 was largely thanks to Cllr Salmon and thanked her for her hard work.
- The Christmas Tree light up in December 2021 was a first and plans are underway for a similar event in 2022.
- The Queen's Jubilee will be celebrated as a post-lockdown event with Eynsford, on 4th June 2022.
- The majority of FPC funding goes on the maintenance of green spaces (including grass-cutting in churchyard and Market Meadow) and the Clerk's salary.
- Farningham Parish Council manages the Ted Saxton bequest for Farningham Village Hall, as well as Farningham Parish Council Reserves.

- The Parish is indebted to Cllr Carol Salmon who organises the Friends of Farningham (and their voluntary work around the village).
- Farningham Parish Council also contribute to occasional project works in Farningham Woods (50:50 owned with Sevenoaks District Council who maintain it 100%)

5. Report from the County Councillor:
Cllr R. Gough thanked everyone for his re-election in 2021. He the reported that;

- Highways have made progress on 20mph zone: the public consultation closed at noon today (30th May) and, if there are fewer than 5 objectors, we can proceed without going to the Joint Transportation Board (next meeting in September 2022) with the hope to deliver this financial year.
- Farningham's Highway Improvement Plans (HIPs) includes footway widening around the bridge near Lion Hotel; safety on the A20; drainage and the Button Street junction.
- Vision Zero is Kent County County's initiative to eliminate deaths on the roads (by 2050). More emphasis on community perception, but there is no additional funding available.
- £7M has been allocated to this year's pothole blitz.
- The misuse of the byway through Farningham Woods needs attention from Kent County Council.
- With regards to buses, only 3% of bus miles are funded by Kent County Council, the rest is commercial. Passenger traffic down 30% on pre-pandemic levels however, the Government National Bus Strategy will provide £35M funding for KCC.
- Cllr Gough, Leader of KCC, is also busy with traffic in East Kent; immigration and support for Ukrainians.
- The booking system for Household Waste Recycling Centres is now more flexible but the booking system is to remain. In consultation, the public voted 52:48 to keep the booking system.

6. Report from the District Councillor present, Cllr Philip McGarvey (to be attached)

7. Reports from local Charities:
7.1 Charity of Anthony Roper, Lee Mullins:
The Clerk is now Clive Stanyon and Treasurer Vikki Saunders. Farningham receives circa £4,000 per annum (plus some to Eynsford & Horton Kirby).
7.2 Farningham United Charities, Viv Parker:
Circa £900 per annum is donated to some of the charities that support Farningham residents

8. Report & Financial Statement of Village Hall Management Committee Chairman, Viv Parker:
Over the past year the Village Hall has installed fire alarm and evacuation system. However, a lot of regular groups have stopped meeting due to the covid pandemic. [redacted] is the new Treasurer. Estimated income for 2022 is £9,870 and expenditure £8,500.

10. Report from the Darent River Preservation Society (DRiPS), Malcom Dunn:
The DRiPS President is William Alexander who is based in Shoreham. The River Darent is 21 miles long from Westerham to Dartford and we need a new reservoir.

11. Report from St. Johns Ambulance: Terry Hutchings:
Operational since 1925, St Johns Ambulance are now in partnership with Brands Hatch. A lot of work is going into Youth Project and support with Covid vaccinations.

12. Report from Farningham Cricket Club, Paul Jackaman:
The Festival of Softball Cricket will be taking place on the 21st August 2022 and 105 Junior Players (aged 5 to 15) have registered for the 2022 season.

13. Report from Acer House, Peter Horobin:
opened end-2019; word of mouth has helped growth; many Olympic athletes are clients.
Had to re-floor after a flood (Thames Water had turned on a redundant pipe).

15.6 Girl Guides, Brownies & Rainbows, Liz Meachin:
Good numbers have been attending Rainbows with varied activities and badge work from the girls. However, Friday groups did not return after the Covid pandemic and the Monday evening Leader will soon be leaving with no planned replacement which will mean we will be losing a group for the younger girls to move up to and they may have to join alternative groups further away. Work is being promoted with other groups. National fees are £30 to £2 per member, so the organisation is heavily dependent on grants which are always gratefully received.

15. The following have provided reports to be used in their absence;
15.1 Community Policing Officer
15.2 Farningham Women's Institute
15.3 Eynsford and Farningham Scouts
15.4 The Countryside Charity
15.5 Darent Valley Landscape Partnership

9. Report from St. Peter and St. Paul's Church, Rev. D. McGarvey (to be attached)

14. Report from Farningham & Eynsford Local History Society (FELHS), Vikki Saunders to be attached