Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council of Farningham, held at Shand Hall, High Street, Farningham on Wednesday 14th February 2024 at 7pm.

Present: Cllrs Daryl Burns, in part, (Chairman), Andie Fitzsimons, Philip McGarvey, Kevin McGeough and Carol Salmon. Cllrs Laurence Ball and Alan White (SDC) and in part Roger Gough (KCC).

In attendance: In part, 1 member of the public, and Helen Penney (Clerk).

1. Apologies and reasons for absence.
Apologies were received and accepted for Cllr Shanmuganathan.

2. Election of Vice Chair
None.

3. To fill the current vacancy via Co-option
None.

4. Declarations of personal, prejudicial and disclosable pecuniary interests on items on the agenda and updates to members' register of interests.
None.

5. 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.

Members agreed to discuss the agenda in the following order:

7. Report from the District Councillors
Cllr Ball and White advised that they have sent their objections to the pre-planning application consultation for a mobile phone base station installation at KEN0010, land at Franks Farm, Calfstock Lane, Farningham, Sevenoaks, Kent, DA4 9JH. To be discussed by Farningham Parish Council under agenda point 13.9.

Cllr White advised that he had attended the warm spaces in Farningham and Horton Kirby the previous week where he was able to speak with residents. In Farningham, one resident had mentioned the lack of street lighting along the A20 from the Kings Garage roundabout to the A225 turning and several other residents discussed concerns around Sevenoaks District Council Local Plan and Pedham Place.

8. 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.
One member of the public, who is also a member of the Darent River Preservation Society, was in attendance. They shared the DRIPs newsletter and report as it is unlikely they will be able to attend the Annual Parish Meeting on Wednesday 20th March 2024.

19:18 Cllr Gough arrived.

6. Report from the County Councillor
Cllr Gough reported the Highways team are still researching data and accident history on the A20. However, speed limit countdown markers have been suggested when entering Farningham from the direction of Brands Hatch to advise drivers of the up-and-coming change to the speed limit. Cllr Gough added that he would request further updates from Nicola Floodgate when she returns from leave.

Cllr Gough reported that the implementation of the 20mph scheme has been scheduled over night between the 29th February to the 1st March 2024.

Cllr Gough reported that the Drainage team have been investigating solutions to help reduce flooding at the Lion Cottages, High Street. The resident has ben signposted to the National Flood Forum who can offer further support and Sevenoaks District Council will be contacted when necessary as the properties are within the conservation area.

Cllr Gough reported that the budget for KCC should be agreed on Monday 19th February 2024.

Cllr Gough left the meeting.

9. If necessary, a report on breaches of General Data Protection Regulations
None.

10. Approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Parish Council meetings on 10th January 2024.
The Minutes from the Parish Council meeting on the 10th January 2024 were approved and signed.

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

12. Clerks report
The Clerk reported that she had been contacted by a resident complaining about the accumulation of litter at the Thames Water pumping station. TW advised that they will investigate and that they are committed to delivering the scheme by 2028 and activity may start to increase on site.

The Clerk advised that Braeside Surgery have asked for volunteers to join their Patient Participation Group. Members asked for interest to be registered and more details. **Action: Clerk.**

The Clerk advised that temporary traffic lights will be installed outside of number 9, High Street, and the parking bay suspended while the front of the property is repaired.

Cllr McGarvey noted that streetlight column 1 is not working. **Action: Clerk.**

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

13.8.1 Members voted in favour to discuss the following planning application again and to reverse the decision made at the meeting held on January 10th 2024:

Reference: 23/03181/FUL
Site: Chimmens Solar Farm Land At Speedgate Farm Mussenden Lane Horton Kirby Kent
Proposal: Construction and operation of a solar farm with all associated works, equipment necessary infrastructure and biodiversity net gains. New Access Track.

Comments by: 23rd February 2024

Farningham Parish Council objects for the following reasons:

The proposed access post installation is not appropriate due to the roads being busy, narrow, winding lanes with numerous blind spots. The access should be reconsidered and a better alternative used.

Chimmens Solar Farm is sited less than 400m from Horton Wood Solar Farm. The acoustic impact assessment for Chimmens Solar Farm has not considered the noise to be generated from Horton Wood Solar Farm making the conclusions for Chimmens Farm inaccurate and meaningless.

Chimmens Solar Farm will be visible from the ancient woodlands Farningham Wood (also a Site of Special Scientific Interest) and Horton Woods, and the National Landscape. The visual impact of the solar farm from the panels, battery storage, inverter cabins, substation, fencing and CCTV cameras is not appropriate for the area in which it sits.

13.9 Pre-planning application consultation for a mobile phone base station installation at KEN0010, land at Franks Farm, Calfstock Lane, Farningham, Sevenoaks, Kent, DA4 9JH.

Comments by 20th February 2024

Object

The project is not appropriate for the area in which it sits – a Metropolitan Greenbelt bordering an ancient woodland and Site of Special Scientific Interest, as well as being visible from local conservation areas and the National Landscape. There are alternative locations that would be far more suitable, including Station Road and Ship Lane.

13.1 Planning log circulated by the Clerk on 9th February 2024.
Members noted the planning log.

13.2 Enforcement requests with SDC.
Members noted the new log.

13.3 Sevenoaks District Council Local Plan 2040.
Members noted the correspondence that had been circulated by Diana Pearsall on behalf of SDC Cllr Simon Reay.

Cllr McGeough asked Cllr Ball to confirm the next steps and timelines for the Local Plan as, although the planning department has advised a report on the consultation results will be taken to the next Development and Conservation Advisory Committee on 26th March, it is not clear what the meeting will involve and if there will be any impacts on the consultation for Regulation 19. **Action: Cllr Ball.**

Members noted that the public will be able to observe the Development and Conservation Advisory Committee at SDC on 26th March 2024.

13.4 To discuss assigning Member/s support community organisation Bees not Wasps. To include a budget and authority to release statements to the press.
Members agreed to assign Cllr McGeough to support the community organisation Bees not Wasps to include a budget of up to £500 and press releases. Cllr McGeough will provide updates about the group to Members at Farningham Parish Council meetings. **Action: Cllr McGeough.**

13.5 Sevenoaks District Council Boundary Review.
Members noted the review and that more information is not expected until later in the year.

13.6 The KCC (Footpath SD350 at Farningham) Definitive Map Modification Order 2024.
Members noted the order.

13.7 Publication of the Inspector's Report on the Examination of the Dartford Local Plan.
Members noted report.

14. Finance Items for noting and decision
14.1 To approve items payable and note items paid and receipts.
Cllr Burns asked the Clerk to check the total for the stationary and to amend if required. The remaining items payable were agreed for processing and items paid and receipts noted. **Action: Clerk.**

Cllr Salmon advised that she is unable to be added as a signatory to approve bank transactions.

14.2 Flexed budget January 2024.
Members noted the report.

14.3 Leaf blower for the Village Hall and Friends of Farningham.
Members agreed for the Clerk to purchase the recommended leaf blower to include two batteries for up to £439. **Action: Clerk.**

14.4 To discuss and agree making a donation to The Space.
Members agreed to donate £300 to the local organisation 'The Space', to advertise in the Trident and for an annual donation to be considered each November moving forwards. **Action: Clerk.**

14.5 To discuss and agree the adoption of a new Grants policy.
Members agreed to adopt the policy.

14.6 Farningham Woods funding request from SDC for works to car park and signage.
Members agreed to contribute funds in this financial year for improvements at the entrance to and the car park for Farningham Woods as identified by SDC and for Community Infrastructure Levy funds to be used, asking the Clerk to check if the CIL spend would be accepted. Members also agreed to contribute up to £2,000 to signage at Farningham Woods in the next financial year. **Action: Clerk.**

14.7 To note the closure of North West Kent Volunteer Bureau.
Members noted the closure and that future donations would not be necessary.

15. Highways including
15.1 To discuss and agree next steps from the results of informal consultation on parking restrictions, High Street.
Members asked the Clerk to ascertain the process and cost implications to progress the removal of the parking restrictions with SDC before deciding if the project can be justified. **Action: Clerk.**

Cllr Burns and the member of the public left the meeting at 20:46.

It was agreed that Cllr Salmon would chair the remainder of the meeting in Cllr Burns absence.

15.2 To discuss and agree next steps regarding correspondence from KCC for the unofficial footpath joining Till Avenue and Oliver Crescent, and wheelchair access around Oliver Crescent.
Members agreed to not progress the request as there is not enough information and costs are unknown.

15.3 To discuss and agree suitability of speed limit countdown markers as part of the solution to improve safety on the A20.
Members agreed for KCC Highways to investigate the proposal further as part of the project to improve safety along the A20. **Action: Clerk.**

15.4 To discuss and agree next steps regarding correspondence on the burger van, A20 layby.
Members agreed to monitor the site as it has not been abandoned. The Clerk will respond to the resident. **Action: Clerk.**

15.5 To discuss and agree next steps on A20 - Further KSI Collision Data Information from KCC.
Members noted the data and await further information and solutions from KCC.

16. To note dates for 2024/25 meetings.
Members noted the meeting dates.

17. KALC 7oaks meetings Kent Resilience Forum Community Resilience Team presentation.
Members noted the meeting dates.

18. Annual Parish Meeting – 20th March 2024 8pm, Village Hall
Cllrs Fitzsimons, McGarvey and Salmon confirmed that they would be attending. Cllr McGeough gave his apologies. The Clerk advised that she would advertise the event. **Action: Clerk.**

19. To note change of the local Beat Officer.
Members noted that the Beat Officer has changed again.

20. Friends of Farningham
Cllr Salmon advised that Friends of Farningham would start to meet again in April through to September on the 1st Saturday and 3rd Wednesday of each month and that she and the Clerk would confirm dates for posters in the village. **Action: Cllr Salmon and the Clerk.**

21. Items to circulate to parishioners
Items identified during the meeting and anything urgent. **Action: Clerk.**

22. Urgent Business that occurs and requires attention before the next meeting may be reported at the Chairman's discretion.
Cllr McGarvey advised that Les Jones, Tree Officer at SDC, is retiring and that the next Brands Hatch liaison meeting is on the 21st May 2024.

The meeting closed at 21:10.

Date of next meeting Wednesday 13th March 2024.

Items Paid

Voucher	Date	Description	Supplier	VAT Type	Net	VAT	Total
107	18/01/2024	Printing	ColourFactory Kent Ltd	X	145.00		145.00
143	18/01/2024	DONATION	CPRE	X	60.00		60.00
145	18/01/2024	DONATION	Bees not Wasps / Wested Logistics Ltd	X	455.00		455.00
146	18/01/2024	Acrobat	Miss H Penney	S	16.64	3.33	19.97
147	15/01/2024	Bank charges	Handelsbanken	X	11.20		11.20
148	23/01/2024	Clerk's salary	Miss H Penney	X	1,073.85		1,073.85
149	18/01/2024	Tax/NI	HM Revenue and Customs	X	66.86		66.86
150	08/01/2024	Pension contribution	Nest Pensions	X	97.53		97.53
151	18/01/2024	Electricity supply	npower	L	382.58	19.13	401.71
152	18/01/2024	Telephone & Broadband	Miss H Penney	S	4.12	0.83	4.95
153	18/01/2024	Printing	Miss H Penney	X	5.00		5.00
154	18/01/2024	Insurance Renewal	BHIB Councils Insurance	X	2,062.19		2,062.19
			Total		**4,379.97**	**23.29**	**4,403.26**

Receipts

Farningham Parish Council
RECEIPTS LIST

Voucher	Date	Bank	Description	VAT Type	Net	VAT	Total
22	17/01/2024	FPC Current Account (HB)	Anonymous Donation	X	145.00		145.00
23	16/01/2024	FPC Deposit (HB)	Electricity Sub-Station Village Hall	X	50.00		50.00
24	31/01/2024	FPC Deposit (HB)	Bank Interest	X	14.97		14.97
			Total		**209.97**		**209.97**

Items Payable

Farningham Parish Council
PAYMENTS (AWAITING AUTHORISATION) LIST

Voucher	Date	Description	Supplier	VAT Type	Net	VAT	Total
142	14/02/2024	Payroll services	DM Payroll Services	X	90.00		90.00
155	14/02/2024	Christmas	Lothlorien Landscapes	S	770.00	154.00	924.00
157	14/02/2024	Amenity Area Maintenance	Lothlorien Landscapes	S	125.00	25.00	150.00
158	14/02/2024	Notice Board	Lothlorien Landscapes	S	90.00	18.00	108.00
					985.00	197.00	1,182.00
160	14/02/2024	Bank charges	Handelsbanken	X			
161	14/02/2024	Clerk's salary	Miss H Penney	X	1,073.85		1,073.85
162	14/02/2024	Tax/NI	HM Revenue and Customs	X	67.06		67.06
163	14/02/2024	Pension contribution	Nest Pensions	X	97.53		97.53
164	14/02/2024	Electricity supply	npower	L	412.75	20.64	433.39
159	14/02/2024	Acrobat	Miss H Penney	S	16.64	3.33	19.97
156	14/02/2024	Office stationery	Miss H Penney	S	15.24	3.05	18.29
165	14/02/2024	Phone & Broadband charges	Miss H Penney	S	4.12	0.83	4.95
166	14/02/2024	Printing	Miss H Penney	X	5.00		5.00
					41.00	7.21	48.21

Total	**2,767.19**	**224.85**	**2,992.04**

Plus £300 to the Space and Clerks Office Stationary expenses to be checked, corrected to £18.81, total expenses £48.73.