FARNINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL - Clerk to the Council: Helen Penney.
Phone: 07799 256668
Email: clerk@farninghamparishcouncil.org
Web: www.farninghamparishcouncil.org
Postal address: Farningham Parish Council, Farningham Village Hall, High Street, Farningham, Dartford, Kent DA4 0DH

Farningham Parish Council met in the Shand Hall at St Peter and St Paul's Church on Wednesday, 10th January 2024 and present were five parish councillors, the Clerk Helen Penney, in part, our new neighbourhood Beat Officer Matthew O'Callaghan and one member of the public.

Beat officer:

PC Matthew O'Callaghan has taken over from PC Gareth Mahoney and is familiarising himself with the many villages on his beat. The website mycommunityvoicekent.co.uk remains the main tool for reporting non-urgent incidents and receiving advice.

Local plan:

Thank-you to all those so actively involved in responding to Sevenoaks District Council's Local Plan 2040. Large numbers attended the 'pop-up' session in the Village Hall, despite the heavy rain. We now await the analysis of the thousands of comments Sevenoaks District Council are preparing for their next Development and Conservation Advisory Committee, where a full report on the consultation results should be presented, on 26 March 2024.

A20 Road Safety:

Before Christmas, two Councillors and our Clerk joined Kent County Council officials in an on-line discussion on the high accident rate on the A20. Prior to this meeting, speed strips had been placed on the highway and KCC officers spent time monitoring illegal right-hand turns from White Post Hill. KCC have acknowledged that something needs to be done to make this stretch of road safer for drivers and pedestrians and have been tasked to propose suitable solutions. Before decisions are made, FPC suggested that as the trickiness of the road layout cannot be fully appreciated from a desktop exercise, and KCC officers should actually drive the road between Scratchers Lane and Eglantine Lane on a wet, dark night.

Budget 2024-25:

We have asked for a 1.95% increase in our portion of the Council Tax. This enables us to continue to maintain the street lights, Cattle Screen, flint wall and open spaces, among other things.

The river:

The recent heavy rain has led to more questions being asked about reeds growing in the river. The Environment Agency is the sole arbiter on the state of our waterways and anyone with concerns should address those directly to the agency. Officers were working around the Cattle Screen in October and regularly inspect the river.

The Cottage Community:

This charity offers mini-bus travel for those over the State retirement age. Shopping trips, day trips and visits to clubs and attractions are available Monday-Friday by phoning 01322 668106.

Regular updates:

If you would like more regular updates from Farningham Parish Council they are available on Facebook or by email. To receive email updates, please complete the sign up box at the foot of the home page www.farninghamparishcouncil.org The Facebook link is www.facebook.com\farninghampc

Our next Parish Council meeting is on Wednesday, 14th February 2024, 7pm in the Shand Hall, which is adjacent to the Church. There is an allocation of time for public participation and if you would like to attend please contact the Clerk via the links at the head of this page.

Cllr. Carol Salmon