FARNINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL - Clerk to the Council: Helen Penney.
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Farningham Parish Council met in the Shand Hall at St Peter and St Paul's Church on Wednesday, 11th September 2024 and present were six Parish Councillors, Sevenoaks District Councillors Alan White and Laurence Ball, four members of the public, the Clerk Helen Penney and, in part, SDC leader Roddy Hogarth.

Parish Vacancy:

Krish Shanmuganathan has resigned from the Parish Council and the Casual Vacancy is currently being advertised. If, by the 1st October, an election is not called the Parish Council can co-opt from our next meeting on Wednesday 9th October. Please contact the Clerk if you would like any further details.
Chair Daryl Burns thanked Krishna for his long and very valuable service to Farningham Parish Council.

SDC Local Plan:

Cllr Roddy Hogarth took questions on the Local Plan and advised of severe implications of the new Government National Planning Policy Framework. There are radical proposals in this planning policy document with the bottom line being a 58% increase in the annual number of houses to be built in the Sevenoaks district. This Government edict is likely to put the SDC Local Plan back and could have immediate consequences on housebuilding in the entire district. The public consultation on this document ends on 24th September and Cllr Hogarth urged residents to respond to the questionnaire. Coincidentally the next meeting of SDC's Development and Conservation Advisory Committee, which will also discuss the Local Plan, is on that same day.

2023/24 Audited Accounts:

Our external audit has been completed for the year ending 31st March 2024 and the statement of accounts has been published.

A20 road safety:

In response to the many accidents and long-running public pressure, Kent County Council has finally decided to install average speed cameras throughout the Farningham section of the A20. The cameras and associated signage, including countdown markers, should be in place by the end of November. KCC Cllr Gough also advised that eliminating illegal right-hand turns onto the A20 is still under consideration.

New household recycling scheme:

Cllr Hogarth confirmed the plans for a reusable recycling bag to be delivered to all households. Full details will be given in Sevenoaks District Council's next Inshape magazine and the rollout is expected to begin before the end of September. SDC will continue to review the waste collection service alongside Government requirements that should eventually include a kerbside glass collection.

Public bench outside Irving's Corner:

Funding has been approved for a replacement bench to be placed on the concrete base outside Irving's Corner.

BT Digital Switchover:

My Community Voice and Neighbourhood Watch are looking for volunteers to run familiarisation meetings ahead of British Telecom's decision to turn off all analogue home landlines and switch to digital as at January 2027. There is such a meeting at Swanley Library on Monday, 14th October and anyone interested (travel expenses will be met) should contact emma.drozd@ourwatch.org.uk

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, 9th October 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