FARNINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL
Clerk to the Council: Helen Penney.
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Farningham Parish Council held an extraordinary meeting on Wednesday, 5th December 2024 and present were four parish councillors, Sevenoaks District councillor Alan White, three members of the public and the Clerk, Helen Penney. We held our monthly meeting on Wednesday, 11th December 2024 and present were five parish councillors, SDC councillor Alan White, Kent County councillor Roger Gough, four members of the public and the Clerk.

Co-option:
We have one vacancy for a Parish Councillor. If you would like more details, or would like to be considered for co-option, please contact our Clerk.
If you are interested, but unsure of exactly what being a Parish Councillor means and entails, please contact one of your Parish Councillors who would be happy to discuss the role with you.

Solar farm:
The proposed solar panel farm in Gabrielspring Road (access through Eglantine Lane) was a major reason for the extra meeting on the 4th December. After a lengthy discussion, the council voted to oppose this development because it was to be built on Green Belt land. There are also biodiversity aspects that are not addressed in the application.

Neighbourhood Plan:
Farningham and Eynsford Parish Councils are in the very early stages of working towards a joint Neighbourhood Plan. A Neighbourhood Plan will give parishioners an opportunity to help shape planning policies over the next 15-20 years to include housing, the built and natural environment, facilities and the local economy. We are now looking for support from residents to form a Steering Group to take our plans forward; anyone interested should contact our Clerk.

Catahoula Fields, Eglantine Lane and Maplebank Poultry Farm, Maplescombe:
Both sites have recently had planning appeals with the Inspectorate dismissed. The enforcement team at SDC should ensure the Inspectorates decision is actioned which we anticipate to be over the next six months. We will continue to monitor both sites.

A20 works:
Residents are pleased with the improved driving standards brought about by the installation of average speed cameras. We passed on our gratitude to Kent County Council at a recent Highways Improvements Plan meeting and asked that further consideration be given to curbing the excessive speed on Farningham Hill as well as tackling the illegal right-hand turns. We would also like to see improved road markings on the A20 and investigate highway improvements in Maplescombe.

Newsletter and In Shape magazine:
If you have not received a copy of our Winter Newsletter, please let us know.
SDC have also delivered their winter publication of In Shape magazine. Please try and read through for information about SDCs work and services. Details for a waste and recycling survey can be found on page 5 - we would encourage everyone to participate to have your say on how you would like to see the service develop and adapt to changing legislation.

Donations:
Each year we budget just over £2,000 to donate to local organisations and charities with a direct involvement with our parishioners. Among the recipients this year are Kent Air Ambulance, Ellenor Hospice and the Swanley and West Kingsdown foodbanks. See the minutes for a full list of the bodies involved.

KALC Community Awards Scheme:
If you would like to nominate a resident to be acknowledge and recognised as someone that has made a significant contribution to the local community, please contact the Clerk by 2nd January 2025.

Friends of Farningham:
We are looking for a new organiser for our twice monthly village improvement team because Carol Salmon has expressed a wish to stand down from the role. Meetings presently run twice a month between April and early October and there are 13 members who come along when they are available.
If you are interested in becoming the new organiser and/or wish to give our numbers a welcome boost please contact us.

Carols and mulled wine:
Thank you to everyone that was able to join us on Saturday 7th December. The bad weather didn't dampen any spirits and the singers were outstanding. We hope to repeat the event next year and will announce details from September.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year.

The next Farningham Parish Council meeting is on Wednesday, 8th January 2025 at 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.

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

Cllr Carol Salmon