

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council of Farningham, held at Shand Hall, High Street, Farningham on Wednesday 13th September 2023 at 7pm.

Present: Cllrs Daryl Burns (Chairman), Mike Cook (Vice Chair), Philip McGarvey, Carol Salmon, Krishna Shanmuganathan, Laurence Ball (Sevenoaks District Council), Alan White (in part, Sevenoaks District Council), Roger Gough, in part, (Kent County Council) and Gareth Mahoney, in part, (Beat Officer, Community Safety Unit).

In attendance: One member of the public and Helen Penney (Clerk)

1. Apologies and reasons for absence.

None

2. To fill any vacancies left unfilled at the election by reason of insufficient nominations via co-option

Cllrs accepted a nomination from Andie Fitzsimons who was in attendance as a member of the public and voted in by co-option to fill one of the vacant Councillor positions. The Clerk gave Cllr Fitzsimons the necessary forms to complete and return to the Clerk and will inform Sevenoaks District Council. **Action: Cllr Fitzsimons and the Clerk**

Cllr White arrived at the meeting

3. Declarations of personal, prejudicial and disclosable pecuniary interests on items on the agenda and updates to members' register of interests.

None

5. Report from the District Councillors

Cllr Ball advised that Sevenoaks Local Plan is being discussed on Wednesday 20th September 2023 and will feedback with updates relevant to Farningham.

Cllr White advised that he had been investigating Catahoula Fields over the summer after concerns being raised by a Farningham resident. The site is being looked at jointly by Planning Enforcement, Environment Enforcement, Environmental Health and supported by Police however there is dispute as to who owns the land which is preventing enforcement notices from being served.

Cllr Gough arrived at the meeting.

4. Report from the County Councillor

Cllr Gough reported the data from the recent automatic traffic count show that vehicles at Eglantine Lane and Donkey Lane are travelling within the speed limit or within 10% tolerance of the speed limit. However, the results obtained at Lime Tree House indicate that the majority of vehicles are over the speed limit and needs further investigation. Cllr Gough added that Kent Highways and the Police will continue working together on a suitable engineering solution for the A20.

Gareth Mahoney advised that crash data can be obtained from Kent Highways under a Freedom of Information Request and that this information is not provided by the Police, adding that he can request the traffic units to attend Farningham and monitor traffic using the A20.

Cllr Burns advised Cllr Gough that the Clerk will send a reminder of items discussed, questions and actions a week before future meetings to allow Cllr Gough time to bring information to the Parish Council meetings. **Action: Clerk.**

Gareth reported that crime rates in Farningham are low and the Police prioritise areas where threat and harm have been identified, advising that all incidents should be reported to the Police by either calling 101 or using the online contact form including dangerous dogs in the area.

Cllr Gough left the meeting.

Gareth reported that whilst nitrous oxide and littering is not illegal, using nitrous oxide whilst driving is, so if anyone is seen using whilst driving, the vehicles make, model and registration should be reported to the Police. Gareth added that as well as reporting illegal fires to the enforcement team at Sevenoaks District Council, they can also be reported to the fire department.

Gareth reported that My Community Voice is the most effective way to receive updates from the Police and encouraged people to sign up for alerts. Cllrs agreed to re-circulate this information to residents.

Gareth left the meeting.

6. **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
7. **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.**
None
8. **If necessary, a report on breaches of General Data Protection Regulations**
None
9. **Approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Parish Council meetings on the 19th July 2023**
The Minutes from the Parish Council meetings on the 19th July 2023 were approved and signed.
10. **Trident**
To be completed by Cllr Salmon. **Action: Cllr Salmon.**
11. **Matters arising where these are not covered under the following headings and Clerks update.**
The Clerk advised that:

- A flint wall at 38 London Road had been demolished over the summer and the information passed onto the Enforcement and Conservation teams at Sevenoaks District Council.
- The resident who had requested a sixth village defibrillator at Oliver Crescent will be proceeding without consultation to have another installed.
- The Pied Bull have agreed for a defibrillator cabinet to be installed to the Coach House which has been approved by the Conservation team at Sevenoaks District Council and as soon as St John's Ambulance can be contacted to install the cabinet, the defibrillator can be moved from the cricket club pavilion to a more central location in the village.
- Sevenoaks District Council have approved a grant for £4,000 as part of the UK Shared Prosperity form for repairs required at the Cattle Screen.
- A response upholding the original request from Farningham Parish Council was sent to the Public Rights of Way team who are investigating the claimed public footpath running from the High Street (at The Lion hotel) to public footpath SD154.
- Attending the Family Fun Day in Eynsford was useful and the event would work at Market Meadow. If Farningham Parish Council wish to contribute extras, this can be covered in the budget for 2024/25.
- An internal audit with Julia Chamberlain was completed in August.
- The A225 will be closed outside Fairbanks on Sunday 24th September 8am to 4pm to allow the Openreach work to be carried out that has been paid for by Farningham Parish Council
- Catahoula Fields, covered under agenda point 4.

12. Planning

12.1 Planning log circulated by Clerk on 8th September 2023

Councillors noted the log.

12.2 Enforcement requests with SDC

Members asked the Clerk to contact the Lion Hotel and Conservation team at Sevenoaks District Council to understand why the new rescue pole has been installed next to the river. **Action: Clerk**

Members requested an update on Farningham Hill Stables and what enforcement action has happened since the planning application was refused. **Action: Clerk**

12.3 Proposed Main Modification to the Dartford Local Plan Consultation

Members noted the plan.

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

12.4.1 Reference: 23/02199/MMA

Site: Englewood Farningham Hill Road Farningham Dartford Kent DA4 0JR
Proposal: Amendment to 22/00768/HOUSE
Comments by: 15th September 2023

No comment

12.4.2 Reference: 23/02406/MMA

Site: Farningham Hill House Farningham Hill Road Farningham Dartford Kent DA4 0JR
Proposal: Amendment to 22/00127/HOUSE
Comments by: 15th September 2023

No comment

12.5 Maplescombe Farm Appeal Hearing for 22/00093/FUL and 21/00080/ENF – 17th October 2023

Members noted the date for the appeal hearing and requested that the Clerk reiterate previous comments for the hearing. **Action: Clerk**

13. Finance Items for noting and decision

13.1 Items paid, receipts and items payable

The items payable were approved and signed.

13.2 Flexed budget August 2023

Members requested that the UK Shared Prosperity grant be renamed in the finance system to include the Cattle Screen and queried the need for a PO Box address. Cllrs Burns will discuss the potential for a post box to be installed at the Village Hall at their next Committee meeting.

Action: Cllr Burns and the Clerk.

13.3 Initial plans and discussion for 2024/25 budget and precept

The Clerk will start to formulate the budget for 2024/25. **Action: Clerk.**

13.4 Direct Debit Card received. Risk Assessment updated for approval or agreement for further amendments.

Members noted that a debit card has been issued and that additions to the risk assessment are appropriate.

13.5 Notice of Conclusion of Annual Accounting and Governance Return 2022/2023

Members noted the Notice of Conclusion of Annual Accounting and Governance Return for 2022/2023.

13.6 Agreement for extent of maintenance required at Three Hills

Members requested that the Clerk obtain quotes to clear the overhanging vegetation and, with agreement from the resident who is most affected, a two-meter boarder cut back and maintained on an ongoing basis to prevent it growing over again. **Action: Clerk**

13.7 Wooden cattle grids – revised quote

Cllrs noted and approved the revised quote.

13.8 Consideration of contract for electricity supply

Members agreed to remain on the current variable rates.

13.9 Agreement for additional signatory for UTB account

Members agreed for Cllr Cook to be added as a signatory. **Action: Cllr Burns.**

14. Items for decision and allocation of resources if necessary:

14.1 DM Payroll

Approved for payment.

14.2 Lothlorien

Approved for payment.

15. Highways including

15.1 Review of the Highways Improvement Plan and proposed dates for Annual Review in November

Members requested that the bridge feasibility study be removed as a non-starter and the contact information updated to the new Chair of the Council. **Action: Clerk**

Members will consider highways improvements that can be added at the next meeting and in time for the review with Highways in November requesting that the review be booked for Wednesday 22nd November. **Action: Clerk.**

15.2 Accidents on the A20 and results from the Automatic Traffic Count

Covered under agenda point 5.

15.3 National Highways and Transport Survey 2023-24

Members noted the survey.

15.4 Signs during Brands Hatch events

Members agreed that appropriate locations for signs would be at 40mph sign when driving down the A20 and entering Farningham from Brands Hatch and at Lime Tree House. The Clerk will add these locations to a map and send to Cllr McGarvey to take back to the Brands Hatch Liaison meeting. **Action: Cllr McGarvey and the Clerk.**

15.5 Stone tablets on the High Street bridge

The Clerk advised that she is speaking with potential contractors and will provide updates when necessary. **Action: Clerk.**

15.6 Extension of yellow lines near Market Meadow - update and approval of draft copy of a required informal consultation and deadline for comments

Members requested that the Clerk add that vehicles get stuck at the pinch point and is the reason why the request has been made, agreeing that the informal consultation can begin once Highways have provided the map, it is to remain open for four weeks and be circulated to residents via mailchimp and added to the noticeboards. **Action: Clerk.**

16. Events

16.1 Christmas lights, Saturday 2nd December 2023 5pm

Members agreed for the Clerk to use the debit card to buy up to 50 bottles of mulled wine for the event and hot chocolate as a non-alcoholic option. Members also requested that the Clerk check that Market Meadow will be open for the event and that the Trident, noticeboards and Parish Council Facebook page can be used to advertise the event. **Action: Clerk.**

16.2 Annual Parish Meeting 2024, Wednesday 20th March, 7:45pm for 8pm start

Members noted the date.

17. Removal of chain on the gate at Irving's Corner as encouraging use by dangerous dog owners
Members agreed for the chain to be removed to discourage dog owners to close off the area to other residents and that witnesses need to be encouraged to inform the Police and dog warden if dangerous dogs are spotted in the area. **Action: Cllr Salmon.**

18. Newsletter

Members asked the Clerk to request a quote for printing from Eynsford Parish Council and Cllr Salmon advised that she would write something to see if it is suitable for a winter newsletter.

Action: Cllr Salmon and the Clerk.

19. Friends of Farningham

Cllr Slamon advised that there are two work parties left before the winter break.

20. Items to circulate to parishioners

Trident report, My Community Voice and other urgent updates received before the next meeting. **Action: Clerk.**

21. Urgent Business that occurs and requires attention before the next meeting may be reported at the Chairman's discretion.

None

Date of next meeting Wednesday 4th October 2023

Items Paid

Farningham Parish Council PAYMENTS LIST

Voucher	Code	Date	Description	Supplier	VAT Type	Net	VAT	Total
77	Clerk's salary (net)	23/08/2023	Clerk's salary	Miss H Penney	X	1,030.60		1,030.60
79	Pension (Parish Council and Clerk's contributions)	15/08/2023	Pension contribution	Nest Pensions	X	91.68		91.68
80	Electricity Charges	17/08/2023	Electricity supply	npower	L	194.66	9.73	204.39
81	Bank charges	14/08/2023	Bank charges	Handelsbanken	X	11.00		11.00
					Total	1,327.94	9.73	1,337.67

Receipts

Farningham Parish Council RECEIPTS LIST

Voucher	Code	Date	Bank	Description	VAT Type	Net	Total
8	Anonymous Donation	15/08/2023	FPC Current Account (HB)	Anonymous Donation	X	141.00	141.00
9	Grant	25/08/2023	FPC Current Account (HB)	SDC Grant - UK Shared Prosperity Fund	X	4,000.00	4,000.00
10	Bank Interest	31/08/2023	FPC Deposit (HB)	Bank Interest	X	13.64	13.64
				Total		4,154.64	4,154.64

Items Payable

Farningham Parish Council PAYMENTS (AWAITING AUTHORISATION) LIST

Voucher	Date	Description	Supplier	VAT Type	Net	VAT	Total
74	13/09/2023	Churchyard maintenance	Lothlorien Landscapes	S	590.00	118.00	708.00
75	13/09/2023	Amenity Area Maintenance	Lothlorien Landscapes	S	160.00	32.00	192.00
							900.00

76	13/09/2023	Payroll services	DM Payroll Services	X	90.00		90.00
78	13/09/2023	Tax/NI	HM Revenue and Customs	X	77.48		77.48
83	13/09/2023	Bank charges	Handelsbanken	X			
84	13/09/2023	Clerk's salary	Miss H Penney	X	1,030.60		1,030.60
86	13/09/2023	Pension contribution	Nest Pensions	X	91.68		91.68
87	13/09/2023	Electricity supply	npower	L	192.96	9.65	202.61

82	13/09/2023	Acrobat	Miss H Penney	S	33.28	6.66	39.94
70	13/09/2023	Telephone and Broadband charges	Miss H Penney	S	8.25	1.65	9.90
89	13/09/2023	Printing	Miss H Penney	X	10.00		10.00
							59.84

Total	2,284.25	167.96	2,452.21
--------------	-----------------	---------------	-----------------