

# **Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council of Farningham held at Shand Hall, High Street, Farningham on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2025 at 7pm.**

Present: Liz Bourne, Andie Fitzsimons, Philip McGarvey, Kevin McGeough and Carol Salmon. Sevenoaks District Council (SDC) Alan White, Kent County Council (KCC) Roger Gough (in part) and PC Caleb Guest (in part).

In attendance: Helen Penney (Clerk).

## **1. Apologies for absence.**

Apologies were received and accepted for Cllrs Daryl Burns.

In the absence of Cllr Burns, Cllr McGeough was nominated to Chair the meeting.

## **2. Co-option.**

None.

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

None.

## **4. To consider, and approve if appropriate, agenda items 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.

## **5. Trident.**

Cllr Fitzsimons.

## **6. Report from PC Caleb Guest.**

PC Guest reported that recent incidents involving catapults, people acting suspiciously and burglaries have been reported to the Police and patrols of the local area (which can often take place in unmarked Police cars) have been increased whilst investigations are ongoing.

Cllr Fitzsimons requested mobile speed cameras in the 40mph section of the A20 between Kings roundabout and Aunty Carols where vehicles regularly exceed the speed limit. PC Guest advised that mobile speed cameras are not possible, but he will request that trained colleagues attend with a speed gun and support car to issue on the spot fines. Members requested that the speed gun also be used along the High Street where speeds regularly exceed 20mph.

Cllr Gough arrived at the meeting.

PC Guest advised that his time spent across his patch is determined according to demand and crime trends. PC Guest patch covers Farningham, Horton Kirby and South Darent, Hartley and Hodsoll Street, Crockenhill and Well Hill, Ash and New Ash Green.

PC Guest reported that, when possible, he will attend the café at Shand Hall on Friday mornings to engage with residents.

Cllr Bourne asked if the Police have powers to act upon antisocial dog walkers. PC Guest advised that unless a dog is out of its owners/walker's control, or acting dangerously it is not a Police matter.

Cllr McGarvey noted that the Home Office combines crime statistics from Farningham, Horton Kirby and South Darenth because they can only report on a District Council ward basis. PC Caleb advised that the data is split down at a more local level for his use and that this data can be shared with the Clerk.

PC Guest left the meeting.

### **7. Report from the County Councillor.**

Cllr Gough reported that he will discuss moving the railings at Till Avenue with SDC to try and prevent inconsiderate parking. Cllr Salmon requested that the grassed area at the entrance to Till Avenue be tarmacked and adopted by Highways to improve access to Till Avenue. Cllr Gough advised that he would investigate.

Cllr Gough reported that a faulty light on the new signs at the A225/A20 junction is fixed so the illegal righthand turns can be tracked. This is the final engineering solution and once Highways can demonstrate that righthand turns are still happening, it is then possible to enforce the illegal manoeuvres. Righthand turns from White Post Hill and London Road are on the Highways Improvement Plan for further investigation. Cllr Gough added that he will be reviewing Compass speed data from the A20 with the Highways team soon.

Cllr Bourne asked how dog walking is managed at Lullingstone Park, Cllr Gough advised that he will investigate.

Cllr Gough advised that there are no updates on the 414-bus route and that he will provide an update on compulsory purchase orders at a later date after this being an action from the Wasp Stadium meeting with Crockenhill Parish Council.

Cllr McGarvey advised that following a meeting with the Countryside Team from SDC, the entrance to Farningham Woods car park will be restricted and Highways will be contacted to request a width restriction sign at the entrance to Calfstock Lane.

Cllr Gough left the meeting.

### **8. Report from District Councillor.**

Cllr White reported that he has been co-opted as a Parish Councillor at Horton Kirby and South Darenth Parish Council.

Cllr White reported that the scaffolding has been removed from Catahoula Fields and the tarmac has been dug up. SDC have given site until the end of August to remove the tarmac when a site visit will be conducted

and the case closed. Cllr White has asked if site will have to return/reseed the area and is awaiting a response.

**9. 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.**

Cllr Fitzsimons queried if the bin at the top of London Road can be removed as it is encouraging large amounts of rubbish to be left by passing vehicles. Members advised that it was installed at the request of residents and asked Cllr Fitzsimons to investigate further as its removal may cause some upset with residents.

**10. Approve as a correct record, the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup> March 2025.**

The minutes of the 12<sup>th</sup> March 2025 were accepted as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

**11. Clerks report.**

None.

**12. Planning.**

**12.1 Planning log circulated by the Clerk on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2025.**

Noted.

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

**11.2.1 Reference: 25/00678/MMA**

Site: Tamarisk 28 Beesfield Lane Farningham Kent DA4 0BZ

Proposal: Amendment to 24/00239/HOUSE to alter the approved roof design of the rear extension, to allow for development in two phases

Comments by: 17<sup>th</sup> April 2024.

No comment.

**22.2.2 Reference: 25/00390/LBCALT and 25/00389/HOUSE**

Site: 56 High Street Farningham Kent DA4 0DB

Proposal: Proposed timber casement window into the rear external wall of the bathroom on the first floor. Amended window details and section drawing have been submitted following comments from SDCs Conservation Officer.

Comments by: 24<sup>th</sup> April 2025.

No further comments.

**11.3 Planning appeals.**

**Reference: 25/00010/ENF**

Site: The Old Stables Maplescombe Lane Farningham KENT DA4 0LA

Appeal: Appeal against issue of Enforcement Notice: Without Planning Permission for: a) Material Change of use of land and associated buildings from agricultural land to a use for the storage of vehicles, vehicle

parts, caravans, tyres, scaffolding equipment and tools, drainage equipment and plant hire equipment. b) The laying of grey chippings to form a hardstanding, as an engineering operation.

Noted.

#### **11.4 Planning applications to note, but not for comment:**

##### **11.4.1 Reference: 25/00777/WTCA**

Site: The White House, High Street Farningham Kent DA4 0DH

Proposal: Removal of 3x Conifers and 1x Conifer to be reduced 50% in size.

Noted.

##### **11.4.2 25/00982/AGRNOT**

Site: Charton Vale Eglantine Lane Farningham

Proposal: Agricultural shed, designed to Agricultural Class II BS 5502 Specification

Noted.

##### **11.4.3 25/00785/PAC**

Site: Charton Manor Farm Gorse Hill Farningham Kent DA4 0JT

Proposal: Prior notification for a change of use from agricultural use to 1 residential dwelling (Class C3) and associated operational development. This application is made under Class Q of The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015.

Noted.

#### **11.5 Updates on enforcement cases and to highlight new activities or sites causing concern to include an update from SDC for Maplebank Poultry Farm.**

Members noted the correspondence from SDC regarding Maplebank Poultry Farm.

#### **11.6 To note and discuss updates to on-going work with Tibbalds and SDCs Local Plan to include reviewing SDCs Settlement Hierarchy.**

Members noted that Tibbalds are due to issue the draft note imminently which will be finalised following feedback from each Parish Council.

Members requested that 'Farningham' be added to the address for Farningham Day Nursery and for the Clerk to check if the small private fitness and wellbeing hub, Forge Longevity, should be included after which the Clerk can return to SDC. **Action: Clerk.**

#### **11.7 To note and discuss any Neighbourhood Plan updates.**

Members noted that SDCs Portfolio Holder is required to sign-off the consultation after which the planning department can issue their decision on a joint plan.

Members noted the joint meeting arranged with Eynsford Parish Council on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> April, 10am, in EPCs office and requested that the Clerk circulate the latest TORs and a draft agenda in advance of the meeting. **Action: Clerk.**

#### **11.8 To receive a written update from Crockenhill PC and a report from Cllrs Bourne and Salmon following a meeting to discuss the Wasps Stadium.**

Members noted the update from Crockenhill Parish Council (CPC). Cllrs Bourne and Salmon advised that

Swanley Town Council owns a very small parcel of land at Petham Place so there is concern with CPC and local land owners that compulsory land purchases may be attempted. Cllr Gough is investigating the likely legal position in relation to Compulsory Purchase in such a situation. Members resolved that they support the principle of leafleting local communities with information on the stadium but once more information is known and a planning application available to comment on.

## **12. Finance Items for noting and decision.**

### **12.1 To approve items payable and note items paid and receipts.**

The items payable was approved and items paid and receipts noted.

### **12.2 Flexed budget March 2025.**

Noted.

### **12.3 To note damage to the noticeboard, steps taken for the repair and indicative costs.**

Members noted the damage to the central section of the noticeboard that had been caused by vandalism and approved a payment of £50 for time and materials required for the repair which was added to the list of items payable.

### **12.4 To approve the purchase of defibrillator pads.**

Members approved the purchase of four replacement pads.

## **13. Farningham Woods update and agree next steps following site visit with SDC.**

Cllr Bourne, McGarvey and Salmon reported that they met with SDCs Countryside Ranger Team on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2025 with SDC Cllr White and the Parish Clerk. SDC advised that decommissioned crash barriers can be used to finish fencing the perimeter of the carpark, which will also be used to reduce the width of the entrance for vehicles entering the car park to 6 foot 6 inches, and may help deter fly tipping from larger vehicles. SDC already has the decommissioned crash barriers in stock however, additional posts, machinery hire and labour will need to be charged. Over the winter, whips will be planted on the outside of the fence to prevent rubbish from being thrown into the verges.

Members requested that the Clerk advise Highways and to request a width restriction sign at the entrance to Calfstock Lane. **Action: Clerk.**

### **An extension was requested and approved as the time was 9pm.**

Members approved the suggestions from SDC and noted that £2,000 is in the budget for work at Farningham Woods. If costs go above £2,000 they must be approved at a full council meeting. The Clerk advised the latest fly tipping can be cleared for £375.00 + VAT which was also approved.

Members requested that the Clerk ask SDC to clarify their lack of powers in relation to paid dog walkers in public spaces. **Action: Clerk.**

## **14. To note the Adoption of the Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2024-39.**

Noted.

## **15. Urgent business that occurs and requires, attention before the next meeting that may be reported at the Chairman's discretion.**

Date of next meeting Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> May, 7pm.

Requests from Councillors for the next agenda due by 1<sup>st</sup> May 2025

## Items Paid

### Farningham Parish Council PAYMENTS LIST

Vouch	Date	Description	Supplier	VAT Type	Net	VAT	Total
188	03/03/2025	Acrobat	Adobe Acrobat	S	16.64	3.33	19.97
184	06/03/2025	Annual Parish Meeting	Farningham Parish Council	X	6.00		6.00
179	12/03/2025	Telephone and Broadband charges	Talk Mobile	S	4.12	0.83	4.95
174	14/03/2025	Bank charges	Handelsbanken	X	11.55		11.55
186	17/03/2025	Fly Tipping	ASC Waste Management	X	1,170.00		1,170.00
178	19/03/2025	Electricity supply	npower	L	371.09	18.55	389.64
170	20/03/2025	Office stationery	Miss H Penney	X	21.80		21.80
180	20/03/2025	Printing	Miss H Penney	X	5.00		5.00
172	20/03/2025	Shand Hall Hire	FPC	X	20.00		20.00
173	20/03/2025	Hall Hire	Farningham Village Hall	X	188.00		188.00
181	20/03/2025	Christmas	Farningham Village Hall	X	57.50		57.50
171	20/03/2025	Payroll services	DM Payroll Services	X	90.00		90.00
176	20/03/2025	Tax/NI	HM Revenue and Customs	X	83.96		83.96
182	20/03/2025	Clerk's salary	Miss H Penney	X	0.83		0.83
183	20/03/2025	Annual Parish Meeting	Miss H Penney	X	6.50		6.50
185	20/03/2025	Training Course	Kent Association of Local Councils	S	50.00	10.00	60.00
187	21/03/2025	Annual Parish Meeting	Aldi	S	28.94	5.79	34.73
187	21/03/2025	Annual Parish Meeting	Aldi	X	14.68		14.68
175	24/03/2025	Clerk's salary	Miss H Penney	X	1,104.72		1,104.72
177	28/03/2025	Pension contribution	Nest Pensions	X	101.46		101.46
			<b>Total</b>		<b>3,352.79</b>	<b>38.50</b>	<b>3,391.29</b>

## Receipts

### Farningham Parish Council RECEIPTS LIST

Vouche	Code	Date	Bank	Description	VAT Type	Net	VAT	Total
25	Bank Interest	31/03/2025	FPC Deposit (HB)	Bank Interest	X	93.20		
				<b>Total</b>		<b>93.20</b>		<b>93.20</b>

