

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council of Farningham held at Shand Hall, High Street, Farningham on Wednesday 12th March 2025 at 7pm.

Present: Andie Fitzsimons, Kevin McGeough and Carol Salmon. Sevenoaks District Council (SDC) Alan White (in part) and Kent County Council (KCC) Roger Gough (in part).

In attendance: two members of the public (in part) and Helen Penney (Clerk).

1. Apologies for absence.

Apologies were received and accepted for Cllrs Daryl Burns, Philip McGarvey and Laurence Ball (SDC).

In the absence of Cllr Burns, Cllr McGeough was proposed by Cllr Salmon to Chair the meeting and seconded by Cllr Fitzsimons.

2.Co-option.

Members accepted an application from Elizabeth Bourne who was co-opted to Farningham Parish Council and participated as a Councillor for the remainder of the meeting.

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.

Members resolved to complete the agenda in the following order:

7.Written report from District Councillors.

Cllr McGeough read the following in the absence of Cllr White:

Cllr Ball has been unwell and readmitted to hospital and is unlikely to be able to attend either of these meetings. Please accept this notice as his apologies for the foreseeable scheduled meeting

Franks Lane Bridge Repair. The repair of the bridge is anticipated in the coming weeks as the weather gets warmer.

Residents Complaints, River Darent Medical Group (RDMG)

Two residents have written to me to explain how unhappy they are with the service from RDMG, and that they are not receiving the service they expect. Whilst both surgeries are in

this ward, I had to redirect a resident to their own district councillor to assist them. I would encourage anyone to log a complaint via haveyoursay.g82218@nhs.net. I'm also alert to the recent social media posts regarding the withdrawal of E – consult in recent weeks which prompted comments.

Ball Barings. I have engaged with Matthew Scott, Kent Police and crime commissioner regarding the recent ball bearing incident the other occurred across the ward. My request to the PCC was to have a greater police presence in the community due to the numerous antisocial behaviour incidents being reported. I hope this matter will be brought to the district commander's attention.

The Clerk added a further comment from Cllr White that Local Beat Officer PC Caleb Guest has suggested 'Coffee with a Cop' sessions. The Friday morning café in Shand Hall, Farningham, and The Bull, Horton Kirby, have both confirmed that they are happy for PC Guest their venues to engage with locals.

8.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.

The member of public attended to observe and discuss the Annual Parish meeting, covered under agenda point 13 and antisocial behaviour in the village, covered under agenda point 18.

Cllr Salmon read a request from a resident who was not able to attend. The resident voiced concerns around people and animals accessing the River Darent between the High Street bridge and cattle screen outside of Irving's Corner. Members agreed to monitor the situation and to add to an agenda if it happens and becomes an issue.

9. Approve as a correct record, the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting on the 12th February 2025.

The minutes of the 12th February 2025 were accepted as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

10. Clerks report.

The Clerk reported:

- Annual leave dates for 2025.
- Following meeting with Farningham Cricket Club, the club has several ideas to improve and update their facilities and had requested to meet with FPC to ask for advice on how best to proceed with the project.
- She had joined an online call with KCCs Community Engagement Officer (West) where telematic data for the A20, Maplescombe Lane and High Street had been viewed and was discussed further under agenda point 6 with Cllr Gough.
- The internal auditor is satisfied with the accounts to the end of January 2025.

- The Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) has paused the review of the Sevenoaks District ward boundaries until further notice which is due to the prospect of local government reorganisation.

- In her absence, Cllr Burns has reported that she cannot find any legislation to suggest that GP surgeries must ensure access by public transport.

Cllr Gough arrived at the meeting.

6. Report from the County Councillor.

Cllr Gough reported that following the installation of the A20 average speed cameras, the Highways Planning and Advise Team will review the schemes impact adding that telematic speed data does not indicate excessive speeds on the A20 from Kings roundabout to Pedham Place and the criteria for the Kent and Medway Safety Camera Partnership is not met, but the speed data should be compared to data collected before the cameras were installed.

Regarding other priorities on the HIP, the Clerk added that right hand turns are a problem at White Post Hill and London Road, not just from the A225 and requested costs to monitor all three turnings. Cllr Bourne added that it is likely that some residents in Maplescombe would allow for Automatic Traffic Counts to be installed onto their boundaries to allow accurate traffic data to be collected as the telematic data shared with the Clerk indicates an average maximum speed of 30mph.

Cllr Gough reported that the Clerk will receive a 20mph toolkit for the village centre as telematic data is showing that average speeds are above 20mph by a considerable amount.

Cllr Gough reported that inconsiderate parking along Till Avenue is still ongoing and requested that FPC add this to their HIP to allow it to progress more easily. Members agreed for the Clerk to add Till Avenue as Priority 4 to the HIP. **Action: Clerk.**

Cllr Gough reported that KCC are still discussing the 414-bus route with Arriva.

Cllr Gough reported that the school's admission offer day had taken place and that the number of allocated positions to pupils who did not receive one of their choices had fallen to its lowest level since 2016. However if any families are unsatisfied and would like to appeal, they can contact him for support.

Cllr Gough advised that he needed to check the date for the Crockenhill Parish Council meeting arranged on Monday 24th March 2025.

Cllr Gough left the meeting.

11. Planning.

11.1 Planning log circulated by the Clerk on 7th March 2025.

11.2 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: 25/00434/FUL

Site: Kuling Old Dartford Road Farningham Kent DA4 0EB

Proposal: Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of replacement dwelling.

Comments by: 18th March 2025.

Object.

11.3 Planning applications responded to under delegated authority:

11.3.1 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. Comments by: 10th March 2025. No comment.

11.3.2 Reference: 24/03314/FUL

Site: Sharp Business Systems UK The Teardrop London Road Farningham Kent BR8 8TS

Proposal: Installation of 2 windows on side elevation. Comments by: 3rd March 2025. No comment.

11.3 Planning appeals.

Reference: 23/03181/FUL, APP/G2245/W/25/3359260, 25/00004/RFPLN

Site: Chimmens Solar Farm Land At Speedgate Farm Mussenden Lane Horton Kirby Kent

Proposal: Construction and operation of a solar farm with all associated works, equipment necessary infrastructure and biodiversity net gains. New Access Track.

Comments by: 19th March 2025.

Object with comments to be sent to the Inspectorate.

11.4 Planning applications to note, but not for comment:

11.4.1 Reference: 25/00379/DETAIL Site: Meadowside Beesfield Lane Farningham DA40BZ

Proposal: Details pursuant to condition 3 (external materials) of 24/00639/HOUSE

11.4.2 Reference: 25/00327/LDCPR Site: Sunnybank Old Dartford Rd Farningham DA40EB

Proposal: New porch, side extension, rear extension and garden building.

11.4.3 Reference: 25/00478/LDCPR Site: Sturrey 42 Beesfield Lane Farningham DA4 0BZ

Proposal: Conversion of loft space to habitable rooms with dormer extension and rooflights. Conversion of garage to habitable room.

11.4.4 Reference: 25/00495/AGRNOT Site: Charton Vale Eglantine Lane Farningham

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

11.4.5 Reference: 25/00101/WTCA Site: South Hall High Street Farningham Kent DA4 0DE

Proposal: Sycamore tree - prune branches back by approx. 3m

11.5 Updates on enforcement cases and to highlight new activities or sites causing concern.

Members noted that the Clerk has forwarded aerial photos provided by a member of the public of Hilltop Farm and Farningham Hill Stables to the Enforcement team.

Cllr Bourne requested that the Clerk ask for clarity around an email from SDC that had been sent in relation to Maplebank Poultry Farm. **Action: Clerk.**

11.6 To discuss and note updates to on-going work with Tibbalds and SDCs Local Plan.

Members noted that Tibbalds are aiming to issue the detailed response by the end of March for a meeting to be set up a couple of weeks after.

11.7 To note updates and discuss next steps on the Neighbourhood Plan and Steering Group and make amendments to, or approve, the latest Terms of Reference.

Members resolved that the Clerk request a joint meeting with Eynsford Parish Council to discuss the formation of the Steering Group adding that the Terms of Reference cannot be approved without further discussion. **Action: Clerk.**

Members discussed advertising material for the Annual parish Meeting asked the Clerk to prepare. **Action: Clerk.**

12. Finance Items for noting and decision.

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

Members approved the items payable and approved £1,170 for the Clerk to use ASC Waste Management after receiving three quotes for recent fly tipping incidents at Farningham Woods car park. **Action: Clerk.**

12.2 Flexed budget February 2025.

Noted.

12.3 To approve the reconciliation for the Clerks salary 2024/25.

Members approved the reconciliation.

13. Annual parish meeting, Friday 28th March 2025, Farningham Village Hall, 6:30 to 8pm.

Members noted the updated register. Cllr Bourne confirmed that she could attend.

14. To discuss and agree next steps for correspondence from Sutton-at-Hone & Hawley Parish Council regarding the potential reclassification of the A225.

Members resolved for the Clerk to request progress reports if the project is pursued by neighbouring councils. **Action: Clerk.**

15. Meeting with Highways engineers, Friday 21st March, 1pm Shand Hall.

Members resolved for the following items to be sent ahead of the meeting and that the meeting include a visit to Lime Tree House to witness speeding traffic on the A20.; missing hatching on the A20, patching Tilman's Mead and flooding at Farningham Cricket Club from the A20 soakaway. **Action: Clerk.**

16. Invitation from Crockenhill Parish Council to discuss the Wasps stadium and next steps, Monday 24th March at 2pm.

Cllr Bourne and Salmon confirm that they could attend. Cllr McGeough would also try depending on availability. The Clerk was asked to confirm back to Crockenhill Parish Council.
Action: Clerk.

17. 2025 newsletters.

Members resolved for a spring/summer newsletter to be produced for delivery mid to late May and an autumn/winter newsletter to be discussed later in the year asking the Clerk to prepare a draft for May. **Action: Clerk.**

18. To discuss crime, antisocial behaviour and fly tipping in the Parish and potential solutions to investigate further.

Members noted recent crime and antisocial behaviour in the local area and neighbouring parishes and that local Beat Officer PC Guest should be attending the Annual Parish Meeting and next FPC meeting in April. Members asked the Clerk to advertise the latest Police doorbell camera scheme and to encourage all residents to report every incident to the Police. **Action: Clerk.**

Members asked the Clerk to discuss fly tipping at Farningham Woods car park with SDC and if previous ideas, such as fencing around the perimeter of the car park and reducing the width to access the area with a vehicle should be revisited. **Action: clerk.**

19. Family Fun Day, Wednesday 20th August 2025, Market Meadow, 10:30 to 13:30.

Members noted the event.

20. SDC Letter - THE 80th ANNIVERSARIES OF VICTORY IN EUROPE AND VICTORY OVER JAPAN.

Members noted the letter.

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

None.

The meeting closed at 9:20pm.

Date of next meeting Wednesday 9th April, 7pm.

Requests from Councillors for the next agenda due by 21st March 2025.

Items Paid

Farningham Parish Council PAYMENTS LIST

Voucher	Code	Date	Supplier	VAT Type	Net	VAT	Total
167	Projects	07/02/2025	Land Registry	X	14.00		14.00
163	Telephone /Broadband	10/02/2025	Talk Mobile	S	4.12	0.83	4.95
157	Computer	12/02/2025	Adobe Acrobat	S	16.64	3.33	19.97
158	Bank charges	14/02/2025	Handelsbanken	X	11.20		11.20
162	Electricity Charges	19/02/2025	npower	L	425.90	21.30	447.20
164	Postage/Stationery/Print	20/02/2025	Miss H Penney	X	5.00		5.00
154	Maintenance Assets/Open Spaces	20/02/2025	Lothlorien Landscapes	S	90.00	18.00	108.00
155	Maintenance Assets/Open Spaces	20/02/2025	Lothlorien Landscapes	S	765.80	153.16	918.96
166	Insurance	20/02/2025	Clear Councils	X	2,430.80		2,430.80
168	Projects	20/02/2025	Miss H Penney	X	7.00		7.00
151	Donations to Voluntary Organisations	20/02/2025	Friends of Farningham	X	68.55		68.55
152	Churchyard Grasscutting	20/02/2025	Lothlorien Landscapes	S	600.00	120.00	720.00
156	Christmas Decorations	20/02/2025	Lothlorien Landscapes	S	810.00	162.00	972.00
165	Street Lighting Repairs	20/02/2025	Streetlights	S	41.25	8.25	49.50
169	Donations to Voluntary Organisations	20/02/2025	CPRE	X	60.00		60.00
153	Grass cutting	20/02/2025	Lothlorien Landscapes	S	160.00	32.00	192.00
160	Salary On Costs (Tax, NI etc)	20/02/2025	HM Revenue and Customs	X	83.96		83.96
159	Clerk's salary (net)	24/02/2025	Miss H Penney	X	1,104.72		1,104.72
161	Pension (PC & Clerk's contributions)	28/02/2025	Nest Pensions	X	101.46		101.46
			Total		6,800.40	518.87	7,319.27

Receipts

Farningham Parish Council RECEIPTS LIST

Vouche	Code	Date	Bank	Description	VAT Type	Net	Total
24	Bank Interest	28/02/2025	FPC Deposit (HB)	Bank Interest	X	67.76	67.76
				Total		67.76	67.76

Items Payable

Farningham Parish Council PAYMENTS (AWAITING AUTHORISATION) LIST

Vouch	Method	Date	Description	Supplier	VAT Type	Net	VAT	Total
183	BACs	06/03/2025	Annual Parish Meeting	Miss H Penney	X	6.50		6.50
170	BACs	12/03/2025	Office stationery	Miss H Penney	X	21.80		21.80
180	BACs	12/03/2025	Printing	Miss H Penney	X	5.00		5.00
182	BACs	12/03/2025	Clerk's salary	Miss H Penney	X	0.83		0.83
								34.13
173	BACs	12/03/2025	Hall Hire	Farningham Village Hall	X	188.00		188.00
181	BACs	12/03/2025	Christmas	Farningham Village Hall	X	57.50		57.50
								245.50
172	BACs	12/03/2025	Shand Hall Hire	FPCC	X	20.00		20.00
171	BACs	12/03/2025	Payroll services	DM Payroll Services	X	90.00		90.00
176	BACs	12/03/2025	Tax/NI	HM Revenue and Customs	X	83.96		83.96
179	DD	12/03/2025	Phone & Broadband charges	Talk Mobile	S	4.12	0.83	4.95
174	DD	12/03/2025	Bank charges	Handelsbanken	X			
175	DD	12/03/2025	Clerk's salary	Miss H Penney	X	1,104.72		1,104.72
177	DD	12/03/2025	Pension contribution	Nest Pensions	X	101.46		101.46
184	Card	06/03/2025	Annual Parish Meeting	Sainsburys	X	6.00		6.00
185	Card	11/03/2025	Councillor Training	KALC	S	50.00	10	60.00
178	SO	12/03/2025	Electricity supply	npower	L	371.09	18.55	389.64
				Total		2,110.98	29.38	2,140.36

Plus fly tipping quote, £1,170