

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council of Farningham held at Shand Hall, High Street, Farningham on Wednesday, 2nd March 2022 at 7pm.

Present: Cllrs L Bourne (Chair), D Burns (Vice Chair), P McGarvey (District Councillor), K Shanmuganathan, L Oztosun, S Pointer, C Salmon, Roger Gough (County Councillor)

In attendance: Helen Penney (Clerk)

1. Chair's Welcome and Apologies for Absence:

The Chair welcomed seven Parish Councillors which included the Sevenoaks District Councillor Philip McGarvey. Cllr Roger Gough arrived at 20:14 as pre-warned before the meeting.

2. Declarations of Interest:

None. Councillors were asked to inform the Clerk should there be any changes.

3. To receive report (verbal) from the County Councillor:

Cllr Gough arrived at 20:14. On arrival Cllr Gough advised that he has seen the correspondence with Whitney Gwillim, Schemes Project Manager, KCC, regarding ongoing the 20mph project and that we have his support. See 12.2 when discussed further.

Cllr Gough advised that he is trying to collate accident information on the A20 from Kings roundabout to Button Street. Speed checks are being looked into and an engineer is seeing if any junction improvements can be made.

Cllr Gough also said that he intends to attend Farningham Parish Council meetings on a bi-monthly basis in future however, he is happy to dial in if requested to those meetings he does not attend in person.

4. To receive report (verbal) from the District Councillor:

Cllr McGarvey advised that he had received the AQMA (air quality) report and that it does not trigger further investigations. He also said that White Oak Leisure Centre has re-opened.

5. Confidential agenda items:

None

6. Public participation:

There was no public participation.

7. Confirmation of the Minutes of the Last Meeting:

Members approved the minutes of the meeting on 2nd February 2022.

8. Matters Arising:

8.1 Cllr Pointer agreed to write the Trident report and the Clerk to produce this month's Minutes and Minutes moving forwards. **Action: Cllr Pointer & Clerk**

8.2 Cllr Bourne asked for an update on the outstanding UK Power Networks cheque for £50. The Clerk advised that she was expecting this imminently in the post. UK Power Networks had confirmed that they would re-issue the cheque. Clerk to chase if cheque does not arrive. **Action: Clerk**

8.3 Cllr McGarvey confirmed that he is awaiting a formal response from SDC regarding the village hall windows.

8.4 Cllr Oztosun reported that there were no updates on the fire damaged Farningham Oak building in the High Street. Cllr Oztosun will chase copying in Cllr McGarvey. **Action: Cllr Oztosun**

8.5 Cllr Bourne said that FPC need to send their next newsletter early April. It was agreed that £150 could be used for printing and distribution. **Action: Cllr Bourne**

8.6 Rights of Way were discussed following contact from a member of public. The Clerk can direct queries to the online maps and escalate to KCC if any issues are found.

8.7 Members agreed that Zoom can be cancelled as it is not currently required. It can be re-instated if needed again. **Action: Clerk**

9. Consider the following planning applications requiring comments and note the updated planning log:

No comment was required on the following as it is an LDCPR

Reference SE/22/00359/LDCPR

Location: Apple Croft, 56A Oliver Crescent, Farningham DA4 0BE

Proposal: Construction of a single storey rear extension.

Case Officer: Eliot Froment

Comments deadline: not applicable on LDCPR

10. Finance:

10.1 Items paid and payable as advised by Cllr Burns duly noted. The following were agreed:

Zoom fee (paid by Clerk) £14.39.

Adobe fee (paid by Clerk) £15.17.

Telephone rental (paid by previous Clerk) £16.

Installation of goal posts £110+VAT

Clerks salary (gross) £989.17.

Clerk's AGAR training £120.00.

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

11.1 Installation of goal posts on Oliver Crescent

Members agreed that SDC can install the goal posts at a cost of £110+VAT

11.2 Tree survey at Farningham Village Hall car park

Members agreed that Aspen Tree Care can remove the beech tree and grind the stump that is damaging the flint wall and complete any necessary works on the cedar for £500 but noted that PAYE Stonecare want to attend while the work is completed. Cllr Bourne will contact PAYE Stonecare. **Action: Cllr Bourne**

11.3 Maintenance of notice board

Members agreed that the notice board will be maintained twice a year by being sanded and treated at a cost of £90+VAT per time. **Action: Clerk**

11.4 Annual Parish Meeting

Members suggested that the businesses in Farningham be invited as well as the organisations that are invited each year. **Action: Clerk**

11.5 Streetlights

11.5.1 Ongoing issue Valley View Terrace and potential costs

Members agreed that the preferred resolution is for UKPN and Openreach to do what is required on the existing pole, costing around £1080 + VAT and our back up option to be a new column including power supply at a cost of £2575 + VAT. Cllr Bourne will contact Paul Reeves to provide an update. Ken Bonner is continuing chasing UKPN in relation to the potential issues relating to connecting power to a wooden pole. **Action: Cllr Bourne**

11.5.2 Street Lighting Inventory/ records of any other street lights that we have that are on poles and contingencies

Ken Bonner, Streetlights, has provided an inventory of Farningham's lights. He has also advised that the current problem relating to wooden poles is a one-off from his experience and that contingency for the same happening again on another pole is not necessary.

11.6 Charity of Anthony Roper

Members agreed that we would check with Vikki Saunders and Irene Staples to see if they are happy to continue and if they have any suggestions for Caroline Gould as she will need to take a step back. **Action: Cllrs Bourne and Salmon**

11.7 Defibrillators, change of batteries and pads update

The Clerk confirmed that the batteries have been delivered and that she is liaising with Terry, St. Johns, to arrange the instal. Pads due for delivery w/c 21st March. The final cost was £834.84 (batteries £569.85+VAT and pads £125.85+VAT) **Action: Clerk**

11.8 Clerks training

Members agreed that the Clerk can complete KALC AGAR training, £100+VAT, to be completed 30th March

12. Highways:

12.1 Highways Improvement Plan

KCC have confirmed to the Clerk that they will accept the newly 'refreshed' HIP. This will be updated on their system reviewed with HIPs in the new financial year. Clerk to send new HIP to KCC. **Action: Clerk**

12.2 Proposed 20mph zone in Farningham High Street

Members agreed to continue with the proposed 20mph Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) following the email from Whitney Gwillim on 17th February and also to request a quote for the feasibility study on the bridge.

Members agreed to allocate the existing CIL funds (to be spent by 27 April 2023) of £2266.25 to cover the costs of implementing the 20mph scheme. Cllr Gough confirmed that he would contribute any funds above and beyond the CIL money that were required to implement the scheme. Cllr Shanmuganathan agreed to liaise with KCC and Cllr Gough to take the scheme forward. **Action: Cllr Shanmuganathan**

Extension of time: As the meeting had been running for over two hours The Chair asked for an extension of time and this was agreed.

12.3 Farningham Woods byway

Cllr Bourne said that following a lengthy discussion with Cllr Gough, Richard Taylor (SDC Commercial Operations and Trading) and Graham Rusling (KCC Pubic Rights of Way and Access) on 23rd February 2022 it is agreed that the best option for tackling antisocial behaviour at Farningham Woods is to encourage users of the woods to report everything to 101. This will mean that the police will obtain a comprehensive overview of activities at the woods and be able to pin point when their presence will be most beneficial. Cllr Bourne also added that FPC can advertise the use and benefits of calling 101 when contacting residents via newsletters, mail chimp etc.

13. Pension - leaving the Kent Pension Fund (KPF) (70288)

Discussed with Cllr Gough as the information we have been given is very limited. Cllr Gough agreed to investigate and report back. Cllr Bourne write to Cllr Gough providing the information that we have from KPF and to detail FPC's concerns and questions arising from it. **Action: Cllr Bourne**

14. Eynsford/Farningham Joint Event:

Cllr Oztosun reported that he and Cllr Burns met with the joint event committee as planned. For the evening event 198 tickets have been allocated with 301 remaining. Concern was raised by Members that they were not aware of a limit being placed on number of tickets which has therefore not been communicated to Farningham residents. Members asked if capacity for the evening can be increased, who is contracting the work eg staging, lighting etc (for insurance purposes), that all advertising needs to be aimed at Eynsford and Farningham residents equally and for sight of the Budget for the event. EPC have asked FPC to nominate a charity if any money is raised from the event. FPC members will consider options. **Action: Cllrs Burns & Oztosun**

15. Christmas tree 2022

Members asked if the hall is available Friday 2nd December before the Axstanes booking or Saturday 26th November. **Action: Cllr Salmon**

16. Affordable housing – email circulated by Cllr Bourne on 22/02/22

Members discussed the areas that have previously been nominated as potential sites for affordable housing. Of these areas the field next to the Dr's surgery on White Post Hill seems most appropriate but still not necessarily suitable as the Parish Council has always taken a stance and imposed all necessary greenbelt development legislation on previous planning applications. Members have asked to better understand the next steps involved and how landowners are approached if an area of land is identified. **Action: Clerk**

17. Trident

To be completed by Cllr Pointer, to include goal posts, annual Parish meeting, joint event, Friends of Farningham. **Action. Cllr Pointer**

18.Green Lanes Environment Movement (GLEAM)

Completed by Cllr Bourne. Members of the public can complete if they wish.

19.Friends of Farningham

Cllr Salmon agreed to continue organising and ask Viv Parker, if she can organise any planned working party when Cllr Salmon is not available. **Cllr Salmon**

20.Action List Update

Items to be included were updated and agreed by Members. To be used by Clerk moving forwards. **Action: Cllr Bourne & Clerk**

21. Dates for meetings 2021/2022

Members agreed to remove this from future agendas & minutes. **Action: Clerk**

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

22.1 Cllr Burns advised that she has set up the Clerk's nest pension

22.2 Cllr Salmon asked if we can ask SDC for more data and information as to why Sevenoaks has poor recycling figures. Cllr Salmon will draft a letter and send to the Clerk to be forwarded on.

Action: Cllr Salmon & Clerk

The meeting closed at 21:58pm.

Date of next meeting Wednesday 6th April 2022 at 7pm at Shand Hall.