

## Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council of Farningham held virtually on the 'Zoom' platform on Wednesday 7 April 2021 at 7.00pm

**Present:** Cllrs Liz Bourne (Chair), Daryl Burns, Philip McGarvey (District Councillor), Latif Oztosun, Sam Pointer, Carol Salmon and Krish Shanmuganathan

**Apologies:** None

**In attendance:** Cllr Roger Gough (County Councillor) (in part), Amanda Barlow (Clerk) and 1 member of the public (in part)

**1. To receive apologies and reasons for absence.**

There were no apologies.

**2. To receive declarations of personal, prejudicial and disclosable pecuniary interests on items on the agenda and updates to members' register of interests.**

None.

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

Cllr Gough confirmed he has discussed with Mike Peyton of KCC the verge issues in Beesfield Lane and the Highways Steward will look into them. Cllr Oztosun suggested that some form of bollard on the verge to stop cars/vans going onto the grass and damaging the flowers might be a solution.

High Street - the Clerk had previously circulated on behalf of Cllr Gough, the results from the speed survey in 2018. The recent traffic counts were done late last month the data will be available shortly. Becky Bailey of Kent Highways has looked through High Street appraisal and would like to set up a meeting with Parish Council. Cllr Gough advised that Go Coach are reinstating some of their services and gave details about the Go To service. Cllr Gough advised that he would try and get some further information about the service.

Cllr Bourne informed Cllr Gough about the vandalism at Farningham Woods, mainly caused by off road motor bikes and vehicles SDC has come up with a plan to build more robust fencing around the Calfstock Lan Car Park. There is a byway through the Woods which are SSSI area and a Nature Reserve but the byway only goes from one Car Park to another, and leads nowhere. Both SDC and FPC are having to spend a large amount of public money to repair the damage done to the woods and walkers are regularly complaining about the bikes which do not even stick to the byway, but access other areas of the wood from it. Cllr Bourne asked how the byway could be changed to a bridleway or ideally a footpath. Cllr Gough confirmed that he would discuss this issue with the Rights of Way team but advised that there is historical legislation that could make a change of designation very difficult.

Cllr Salmon advised that there are many signs left in the village from historic road works. Cllr Gough thought it was unlikely KCC provided the signs but would check with the appropriate person with KCC.

Cllr Gough left the meeting.

**Members agreed that Agenda item 6.0 and 11.4 at this point in the Agenda.**

**6. 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.

Caroline Fryatt, the Eynsford-Farningham Speedwatch co-ordinator, explained that speedwatch is where a group of volunteers (who have received training) stand on local streets in places, pre-approved by the police, holding a speed recording device. She informed Members that there is a new training session to take place on Monday 19 April 2021 at 7pm. There are around 10 people from Farningham involved in the group and 4 sites in Farningham.

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

**11.4 To discuss and agree next actions with regard Speedwatch**

**Members agreed to circulate information about Speedwatch to members of the public on the Parish Council's distribution lists once received from Ms Fryatt.**

The member of the public left the meeting.

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

Cllr McGarvey commented on the issue over the legislation allowing zoom meetings which ends on 6 May 2021. Members asked the Clerk to look at options for booking a hall. **(Action: Clerk).**

5. 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. To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Parish Council meetings on:**  
7.1 3 March 2021  
**Members resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting on 3 March 2021.**  
7.2 17 March 2021  
**Members resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting on 17 March 2021.**
8. **To take Matters arising** from the Minutes where these are not covered under the subject headings below  
11.4. The Clerk has contacted SDC to ask if they can site more bins on A20 laybys and is awaiting further advice.  
11.5 The Operation London Bridge Policy has been amended as agreed at meeting.
- 9. To note the updated planning log:**  
**9.1 Planning Log**  
Noted.  
Members discussed the application 20/00737/LDCEX for a lawful development which is disputed by the neighbours. The information to support this application is considered not to be substantial enough by the neighbours. **Members agreed that Cllr Bourne should speak at the Sevenoaks District Council Development Control Committee on 29 April 2021 (Action: Cllr Bourne).**  
**9.2 Sevenoaks District Council List of Delegated Decisions**  
Noted.
- 10. Finance Items for noting and decision**  
10.1. Items paid and payable  
**Members resolved to agree the items paid and payable as at Appendix A.**  
**Members resolved to join the Campaign to Protect Rural England and make a donation of £36.00.**  
10.2 20/21 Budget at 31 March 2021  
Noted.  
10.3 Direct Debits  
Noted.  
**Members resolved to extend the meeting.**  
10.4 Subscriptions to NALC and KALC  
**Members resolved to agree that the Parish Council should remain as a member of NALC and KALC.**
- 11. Items for decision and allocation of resources if necessary**  
11.1 To discuss and agree next actions with regard to Farningham Village Hall  
The Clerk advised that she has received information from KALC about the Deed on 6 April 2021. **Members agreed that the Clerk should contact the Farningham Village Hall Management Committee to confirm the insurance has been renewed and the cost of the buildings insurance. (Action: Clerk)**  
11.2 To discuss and agree next actions with regard to the Farningham village traffic improvement scheme  
Members are awaiting advice from Rebecca Bailey of KCC and the results of the speed survey that was recently carried out.  
11.3 To discuss and agree next actions with regard to Farningham Woods  
**Members resolved to pay for the installation of the new fence at a cost of £1,950 at Farningham Woods to prevent vandalism.**  
**Cllr Bourne also agree to contact CPRE to see if they had any additional suggestions in relation to closing the Byway**  
**Members resolved to permit Fera Science Ltd, who work alongside DEFRA, to release the biocontrol agent to control the Oriental chestnut gall wasp to improve the long term health of the sweet chestnut trees at Farningham Woods (Action: Clerk)**

11.5 To discuss and agree next actions with regard to smart bins

Cllr McGarvey advised that he is awaiting a response from the Head of Direct Service who has been away on annual leave.

11.6 To discuss and agree next actions with regard to grass cutting in the Parish

**Members resolved that Lothlorien should cut all the grass in 5 areas of the village, the Churchyard, Market Meadow, the area in front of Market Meadow, Irvings Corner, adjacent to the River Darent, land between the bridge, river and ancient wall and A225 Eynsford Road/Beesfield Lane junction. (Action: Clerk)** Members asked that the Farningham Village Hall should allow villagers more access to Market Meadow during the weekday and agreed that Cllr Shanmuganathan should write to the Village Hall Management Committee. (Action: Cllr Shanmuganathan). **Members also resolved that Lothlorien should also carry out the ivy and weed clearance from the wall and carry out the weedkilling on the inside of the wall and be asked to mow the strip in front of the village hall (where the notice boards are). (Action: Clerk)**

11.7 To discuss and agree next actions with regard to post Covid village event in 2022

**Members agreed that the Clerk should respond that the Parish Council would be interested in joining with the Covid village event in 2022. (Action: Clerk)**

11.8 To discuss and agree the re nomination of a Trustee for the Anthony Roper Charity

**Members resolved to nominate Lee Mullins as the Trustee for the Anthony Roper Charity.**

## 12. Items for report/noting

12.1 Correspondence

12.1.1 General Correspondence

Noted at Appendix B.

12.1.2 Dates for filming in Farningham

Noted. Members asked the Clerk to circulate the information to Parishoners and put it on Facebook.

12.1.3 Kent Police – Destruction of Rural Hedgerow

Noted.

12.1.4 Kent County Council - Highways Forward Works Programme

Noted.

12.1.5 The Great British Spring Clean

Noted. Cllr Salmon advised that she would try to do something with the Friends of Farningham.

12.1.6 Rural Kent Housing Needs Survey

Noted. Members agreed that Cllr Bourne should sign the letter and return it to SDC.

12.2 Meeting with PCSOs

Noted.

12.3 Remote Meetings update from KALC

Noted.

12.4 Dates for meetings 2021

Noted at Appendix C.

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

Members discussed the following items:

- Trident report goes out monthly on MailChimp
- Parish Council should produce a newsletter. The Clerk to provide further details and costings at next meeting. (Action: Clerk)
- If Members have any items, they think are worthy of emailing out or putting on the website they should write an article and include a picture for Facebook. Chris Bourne will then normally send it out within a couple of days but can usually do it on the same day if necessary.
- Road closures should be placed on the website and Facebook page by the Clerk at the appropriate time and be distributed by the Parishioners' email list.

14. **Date of next meeting Wednesday 5 May 2021 at 7pm (via zoom)**

Appendix A

**Items Paid and Payable**

BT (DD) – last payment on 7 April – phone line cancelled	£57.74
Campaign to Protect Rural England (see attached)	£36.00
Membership to NALC/KALC	£523.04
Clerk’s Salary (change expected due to new tax year)	£732.95
Clerk’s Expenses (as below)	£113.04
Acrobat Pro DC	15.17
Zoom pro for Parish Council April	14.39
Mobile phone April	59.00
Mileage 54.4 @45p per mile (54.4 miles – Home/Bank/Farningham/Home)	<u>24.48</u>
	£113.04

## Appendix B

1. Sevenoaks District Community Safety Partnership Newsletter - February 2021
2. KALC - ACRE Village Halls Domesday Book - ACRE Campaign
3. SDC - Launch of the Kent Guide to Developing Affordable Homes in Rural Communities - 19th February 2021
4. SDC - Development Control Committee – 18 February 2021 – Minutes
5. Sevenoaks District Council: Businesses benefit from £33 million in grants
6. NALC CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S BULLETIN
7. Kent Police Rural Task Force Report and Rural Matters
8. SDC = Kooth: Free online mental health & wellbeing support for 10-16 yr olds in Kent
9. SDC - SDAC publicity
10. SDC - Community Connectors Newsletter
11. SDC = Improvement & Innovation Advisory Committee – 25 February 2021 – Minutes  
People & Places Advisory Committee – 2 March 2021 – Minutes
12. SDC - FREE Creative Sessions
13. KALC - Crowdfund Kent Launch
14. NALC CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S BULLETIN - inc update on AGAR 2020/2021
15. Sevenoaks District Council: Sevenoaks named as Britain's sixth leading retail destination
16. KALC - KRF Press release re suspension of haulier services at Manston
17. SDC - : Community Connectors - 12 March 2020
18. KALC - New Events Launched
19. KALC - KCC Member environment briefing
20. Sevenoaks District Council: Sevenoaks District Council supports young carers
21. Learning and Development Opportunities from KALC
22. SDC - Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Spending Board – 10 March 2021 – Minutes  
Cleaner & Greener Advisory Committee – 16 March 2021 – Minutes  
Sevenoaks Joint Transportation Board – 9 March 2021 - Minutes
23. SDC - Community Connectors - 18 March 2021
24. SDC - Cabinet – 18 March 2021 – Draft Minutes
25. Sevenoaks District Council: Sevenoaks District awards £2 million for community projects
26. NALC CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S BULLETIN
27. Gatwick In Touch Newsletter Edition 2
28. KALC - Kent Prepared newsletter issue 3 - bringing you the latest Kent Resilience Team news
29. KALC - National free webinar - crisis communications - 31 March
30. Sevenoaks District Council: Community grants help boost local charities
31. KALC CEO Bulletin - March 2021
32. Sevenoaks District Council: Blooming marvellous!
33. SDC - Community Connectors 25 March 2021
34. KALC = Help improve services for people with Long-Covid
35. Sevenoaks District Council: Funding boost for leisure
36. KALC - Government's Welcome Back Fund
37. Sevenoaks District Council: Greener homes get the go-ahead
38. Sevenoaks District Council: New planning policy for Edenbridge
39. NALC CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S BULLETIN
40. SDC - Reopening High Streets Safely and your area
41. SDC - Finance & Investment Advisory Committee – 25 March 2021 – Minutes
42. Sevenoaks District Council: Councillors see new centre takes shape

## Farningham Parish Council

### Dates of Parish Council meetings on Wednesdays in 2021:

Meetings commence at 7.45pm start if in the Village Hall or at 7.00pm if via  
'Zoom' link

Wednesday 13 January

Wednesday 3 February

Wednesday 3 March

Wednesday 7 April

Wednesday 5 May  
(Annual Parish Meeting)

Wednesday 2 June

Wednesday 7 July

Wednesday 4 August

**Wednesday 1 September**

Wednesday 6 October

Wednesday 3 November

Wednesday 1 December

**Wednesday 17 February**

**Wednesday 17 March**

**Wednesday 21 April**

**Wednesday 19 May**

**Wednesday 16 June**

**Wednesday 21 July**

**Wednesday 18 August**

**Wednesday 15 September**

**Wednesday 20 October**

**Wednesday 17 November**

**Wednesday 15 December**

The dates for meetings listed in **red** will only be held if business warrants it, for example if the Parish Council needs to discuss a planning application in order to meet a deadline set by Sevenoaks District Council