

**Minutes of Farningham Parish Council meeting held at the Village Hall,  
High Street, Farningham at 7.45pm on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2019**

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Present: Cllr. D. Burns (Chair)  
Cllr. P. McGarvey (Vice-Chair and District Councillor)  
Cllr. C Salmon  
Cllr. K. Shanmuganathan

Mrs. J. Gray (Clerk)

109. **Chairman's Welcome and Apologies for absence:**

1. Present were four Parish Councillors which included the Sevenoaks District Councillor P. McGarvey, one member of the public and the Clerk, Mrs J. Gray. The County Councillor, R. Gough arrived at 8.10pm.
2. Apologies for absence had been received from District Councillor, B Carroll, plus Cllrs. A McEnroe. N Hall and G. Williams.

110. **Declarations of Interest:**

The declarations of interest stood as were recorded in the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council in May 2018; there was nothing new to report.

111. **Follow up on Action Points:**

1. The Clerk had sent the representation prepared by Cllr. Hall to Sevenoaks District Council in respect of the Pedham Place site in the Proposed Submission Version of the Local Plan and has written to complain some parishioners found the website difficult to negotiate and therefore had not submitted a representation, although they had wished to. District Councillor McGarvey reported there was a Special meeting of the Cabinet at SDC near the end of March and he would confirm the latest developments at that time. The expected Kent Highways Traffic Survey had not materialised.
2. The Clerk confirmed she had written to the Chief Executive at Mitchells and Butlers who own the Lion Hotel to press for co-operation and action on the condition of the exterior and grounds.
3. The Clerk had been in touch with Kent Highways to ask for an extension of double yellow lines, particularly around the centre of the village, near the Village Hall and the church, as residents had reported that if there is a function in the village visitors often park inconsiderately across driveways. Kent Highways had referred her to Sevenoaks District Council who can put in 'dog bone' white markings at parishioners expense. The Clerk informed interested parties.
4. It was agreed Adrian Mole be asked to undertake the repair works to the Green Oak Post on the Millennium Village Sign but he be asked to investigate the footings before he starts the works to ensure that it is viable to repair.

5. The Clerk had not had a response from Ian Kidd about the ground works on the Franks Hall site adjacent to Little Abington and was asked to follow up with a copy to Alison Salter the appropriate officer at SDC.
6. Following correspondence from residents requesting traffic cameras be installed on the M25 Junction 3 interchange, Highways England had responded that there was a junction improvement plan in place for 2020/2021. The Clerk was asked to respond that the traffic control measures are already in place, and to ask for more detailed information and site plans.
7. It was noted that the planning application no. SE/18/03370/LBCALT for the temporary outside bar at the Lion Hotel had been withdrawn.
8. Mitchells and Butlers, the owners of the Lion Hotel had submitted a planning application which included a fence and gate to replace the existing bollards along the High Street. Since this could compromise the access to the Darent Valley Path, parishioners would be invited to write to the Clerk to support the Parish Council by stating for how long they had historically been walking the path to try to get its status upgraded to a Permissive Path.
9. The Clerk had asked for the National Speed Limit sign to be replaced by Kent Highways to a 40mph sign on White Post Hill when exiting onto the A20 Gorse Hill and this had been done.
10. The Chair reported Eynsford Road residents were now monitoring the drains at the end of the slip road by South Hall Close as they had been cleaned and jetted by Kent Highways.
11. The Clerk would ask the resident for an update on the wall opposite the Village Hall by Manor Farm Cottage as he had agreed to keep an eye it.
12. Cllr Salmon reported that Vic Clarke had agreed to apply preservative to the bus shelter during the school Easter holidays so long as the Elder tree had been removed from behind it; Jon Harris had agreed to this work for the sum of £60.00. The Clerk was asked to try to obtain an estimate for the renovation works.
13. A visitor to Farningham Woods had written to the Clerk reporting a broken sign board, and suggesting that a bench seat be installed in a specific location. The Clerk was asked to consult with a parishioner who regularly walks the woods to discuss the suggested location. It was resolved the Parish Council could fund a new bench seat in the next financial year.
14. It was agreed the Clerk would offer Eynsford Parish Council £200.00 towards the Fun Days they organise at Anthony Roper School.
15. It was agreed only Cllr Salmon would attend the AGM of the Farningham Village Hall Management Committee as the Chair was unavailable.

112. **Comments by the County Councillor, Cllr Roger Gough:**  
County Cllr Roger Gough advised:

1. The damaged wooden fence covered with orange netting that had been hit by a car opposite the lay-by on Farningham Hill was the property of Highways England who had installed the temporary fencing. The Clerk was asked to remind them to repair it satisfactorily. He offered to put the Clerk in touch with an officer at Highways England.
2. Speed checks and traffic counts on the A20 near the Button Street junction had been undertaken over seven days between 19<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> January. The East bound average speed was 34mph (he confirmed he was going to check this low figure) and West bound 54mph. He was exploring ways of making the road safer for school children to cross.
3. The lay-by on Farningham Hill was being upgraded to allow two lanes of vehicle parking, by means of an allocation by 'Brexit' monies from Central Government.
4. At the last meeting it was stated that cats' eyes are only replaced when roads are resurfaced but he would follow up on this as Councillors had reported the A20 was very dark and the Clerk was trying to get the white lines on the road edges repainted.
5. The A20 drainage had been inspected and Officer Emily Kinsella had reported that 13 gullies were to be dug out on the A20 between Eglantine Lane and West Kingsdown within the next 90 days.
6. Signage at Franks/Calfstock/Eglantine Lanes all denoted the National Speed Limit on entering the lanes into 40mph zones.

113. **Correspondence:**

1. The Clerk had received a consultation document from Alan Whiting at Sevenoaks District Council regarding Community Plan Priorities 2019 to 2023. It was agreed this be circulated to those on the parishioners list via the link: [www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/consultations](http://www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/consultations)
2. The Clerk had received information from the Kent Resilience Forum on Resilience and Emergency Planning. Cllr. McGarvey reported historically FPC had supported the concept.
3. The local NHS has been looking at urgent care services and wants to create an Urgent Treatment Centre (UTC) to serve the whole area. They wish to explore the option of locating a UTC at Darent Valley Hospital in Dartford and parishioners are invited to "[complete our survey](#)" and find out more on the website: [www.dartfordgraveshamswanleyccg.nhs.uk](http://www.dartfordgraveshamswanleyccg.nhs.uk)
4. The revetment works organised by Thames Water at the Horton Kirby Borehole were underway and the Clerk and Cllr Williams had visited the site frequently and taken photographs. Both agreed it was going well. The bund along the river had been removed and top soil was currently being spread over the cleared area. The Clerk had been liaising with Doug Scott, the site manager and was informed grass seeding would take place in the

Spring. The Clerk had asked for a seat to be installed which had been agreed by Thames Water. She had also asked if wild flower seeds be added to the grass seeds.

5. A Dartford Road resident had written to Cllr. McGarvey which had been forwarded to the Clerk regarding many issues on Dartford Road and the poor state of it, both physically and aesthetically with silted drains, broken road signs and unkempt verges. He had attached letters from the former Chair of FPC, Wilfrid Harding, showing the considerable effort he went to in looking after Farningham Village interests; FPC minuted in 1984 that 'should the Lion's car park be not found big enough to accommodate the needs of Farningham Village will it be extended' and the answer was 'yes'. He states a copy of those minutes was shown to the owners of the Lion Hotel in January 2004 when a sign was placed in Dartford Road entrance siting sole use; his points were noted.

114. **Planning:**

1. The planning applications were considered and it was agreed the Clerk send the following comments to Sevenoaks District Council:

SE/18/03957/FUL The Teardrop Centre London Road Extension of First Floor office area and new windows to West elevation No Objection

SE/18/03370/LBCALT The Lion Hotel, High Street Provision of external bar to wider site associated with The Lion – application withdrawn

SE/18/03897/FUL Land North West Of The Mount The Mount Sparepenny Lane Erection of detached equipment/machinery store No Objection

SE/19/00192/HOUSE 5 Oliver Crescent Single storey rear extension with roof lights No Objection

SE/18/03764/LDCEX Old Parsonage Works, High Street Construction of dwelling in accordance with planning consent 15/01185/FUL

SE/19/00060/WTPO Maplescombe Farm House, Maplescombe Lane Large Beech Tree in the front garden to reduce the crown by 30% taking 2M off in length and raise the crown by 2M

2. Planning Decisions:

SE/18/03248/ADV The Lion Hotel, High Street Erection of various signage GRANTED

SE/18/03541/HOUSE 1 Coldharbour Farm London Road Erection of a two storey rear extension GRANTED

SE/18/01998/FUL Hazeri, Button Street Demolition of existing buildings, removal of caravan. Erection of a detached bungalow REFUSED

SE/ 18/03693/HOUSE Fairlawn, Maplescombe Lane Demolition of existing barn and construction of replacement home office and shed GRANTED

115. **Public Participation:**

As a District Councillor, the Vice-Chair recused himself and left the room, because the matter to be raised was about SDC's performance:  
A resident of Gorse Hill had suggested Farningham Parish Council hold a referendum with parishioners to consider leaving Sevenoaks District and move to Dartford in view of Sevenoaks District Council's handling of their Draft Local Plan, and in particular the Pedham Place site. It was agreed the process be investigated. His other suggestion is that all parishioners withhold their Council tax.

116. **Highways, Footpaths & Street Lighting:**

It was noted that Kent Highways had not responded to Sevenoaks District Council's Local Draft Plan; the Clerk was asked to inform County Councillor, Roger Gough.

117. **Friends of Farningham:**

Cllr Salmon reported it was intended to start in March with litter picks and she would prepare a schedule of dates for the Clerk to circulate.

118. **Finance:**

1. It was resolved to settle the following invoices:

Jon Harris	Removal of Elder tree bus shelter	£60.00
First Gas Services (Village Hall)	New water heater	£972.00
Kent County Supplies	A4 copy paper/file dividers	£33.80
Kent County Council	Pension contributions	£369.24
HMRC	Tax and NI contributions due	£288.62
Eon	Electricity charges	£213.24

The meeting closed at 10.05pm.

The next meeting of Farningham Parish Council: 7.45pm on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2019.

**Signed .....** **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2019**