

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council of Farningham held at the Village Hall, High Street, Farningham on Wednesday 5th February 2020 at 7.45pm

Present: Cllr. D. Burns (Chair)
Cllr. L. Bourne
Cllr. R. Hirons
Cllr. P. McGarvey (District Councillor)
Cllr. C. Salmon
Cllr. K. Shanmuganathan

Mrs. J. Gray (Clerk)

117. Chairman's Welcome, Apologies for absence:

1. The Chair welcomed five Parish Councillors which included the District Councillor P. McGarvey, the Clerk and three members of the public.
2. Apologies had been received from the County Councillor, R Gough and Cllr. G. Williams.

118. Declaration of Interests:

Cllr Bourne declared her interest as when talking to the Council's insurance company realised she works for the brokers that had acquired Came and Company. The declarations of interest stood as previously recorded in May 2019. Councillors were asked to inform the Clerk should they have any changes.

119. Matters Arising and Confirmation of the Minutes of the last Meeting:

1. It was agreed Cllr. Salmon, would write the report for Trident.
2. The Chair signed the minutes of the meeting held on 8th January 2020, which had already been agreed, to confirm they were a true record.
3. (a) The Clerk reported the four vehicle registration numbers had been passed to the Lion management and the four households now had access to park in the Top Car Park; the parishioners had all conveyed their thanks.
(b) The Clerk was asked to seek a meeting with the Lion's new manager.
4. Cllr. Shanmuganathan had expected to attend a site meeting on 31 January following the recent drains problem by Bridge Cottage but it had not happened. There had been a severe blockage, which looked like an accumulation of fat which had been partially cleared. He would follow up with the County Councillor, Roger Gough.
5. The Clerk reported she had received three quotations for the repair/replacement of the fire damaged column no. 71 in Cinder Path. She was asked to forward all three to the insurance company.
6. The planning application no. SE/19/03228/CONVAR at Acer House Practice, High Street, for a minor material amendment to 19/00226/CONVAR had been approved. The Parish Council had objected stating the Parish Council wanted soft landscaping at the front of the Practice and trust the existing tree will not be compromised. The Clerk was asked to contact the owner to ask, if in the spirit of the original application, that planting in their frontage was planned.
7. The Clerk reported she had been in touch with 'Caught on Camera' who supply West Kingsdown Parish Council with their CCTV. She had arranged a meeting with them the following week to discuss potential locations for cameras as a costing exercise. She would inform the Chequers, the Palace of India and Wadard Books (who used to hold the CCTV equipment) to alert them of the Parish Council's interest. She intended to pursue two additional companies.

8. The Clerk had been in touch with Jack Wheeler to ask for CCTV cameras to be installed in Beesfield/Donkey Lane following five large fly tips. He replied he will try to get cameras installed but two cameras were stolen recently; he had asked if any of the residents have CCTV and the Clerk would try to find out.

9. Cllr Bourne reported she and the Clerk had accepted the invitation to a meeting organised by 'Halstead Green Belt Future Group' regarding their 'Green Belt Manifesto' on 28 January. The group was set up in February 2018 in response to nine development proposals being included in Sevenoaks District Council's Draft Local Plan. If these all succeeded the result could be 2000 new homes built in a village which currently has 750 homes. This overdevelopment could see Halstead swamped by new homes losing its character and identity. Some of the proposed developments are on Green Belt land which was being vehemently opposed. The group were publicising to and seeking support from other parishes. Although the Group originally came together over the planning issue they then decided to produce a plan for what they would like to see in their area in relation to the Green Belt for a wide range of activities such as farming practices, leisure activities, environmental and conservation issues, and educational issues in addition to planning. It was agreed Councillors would look at their website and report back at the next meeting.

10. The Clerk was asked to contact the local Speedwatch Co-ordinator to ask when the next meeting of the Speedwatch team was planned.

11. The Clerk was asked to contact Jamie Riches of Thames Water to ask for an update at the Horton Kirby Borehole Site.

12. The Clerk had tried to book a place on the KALC's website Accessibility course to in order to meet new regulations by 31 December 2020. The two courses had been fully booked with waiting lists but she understood at least one new training date would be offered.

13. It was noted vehicles parked in Dartford Road are impeding the bus route. The Clerk was asked to inform John Strachan, SDC's Parking Services Manager.

120. Correspondence:

1. The Clerk had been informed by John Cox at Sevenoaks District Council that the Parish Council would have to pay for any new litter bins. She had sought a meeting to discuss the positioning and would follow up. It was suggested one new bin be placed at the end of Sparepenny Lane and another at the end of Mill Field.

2. Permission had been sought from the Tree Officer for reducing two large field maples by 30-35%, reducing one large silver birch tree by 30-35% and remove 2-3 lower limbs on each overhanging Ash trees that are overhanging the fence line in Irving's Corner.

3. The Clerk was asked to pass the information from The Woodland Trust regarding the four different types of saplings available at an attractive price to Sevenoaks District Council officers for their possible interest for Farningham Woods. FPC would fund the purchase if agreed.

4. Following the consultation between August and November 2019 the NHS Dartford Gravesham and Swanley Clinical Commissioning Group's (CCG) Governing Body has given the go ahead to create two linked Urgent Treatment Centres (UTCs), one at Gravesham Community Hospital and one co-located with A&E at Darent Valley Hospital, as part of a networked urgent care services model. It is expected the two linked UTCs will be in place by summer 2020 as part of the first phase towards fully networked sites providing "joined up", urgent care services for the people of Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley.

5. The Clerk at Horton Kirby and South Darent Parish Council had written to Clerks in the Darent Valley reporting Westminster Fields, site of their football pitches, has flooded twice recently and matches have been

cancelled. They are also in danger of losing an avenue of cherry trees which have been sponsored by residents. They want to establish if the problem is just theirs and to that end were hoping to reinstate their weir. They requested local contacts living on the river; the Clerk had put them in touch with the Manor House and Mill Estate residents.

6. Cllr McGarvey had been asked by the PCC if some signage at the end of the road (at High Street junction with Eynsford Road) to point towards the Parish Church could be installed. After discussion this was not agreed.

7. Cllr Salmon had received a request for double yellow lines to be installed at the junction of Oliver Crescent with the A225 Eynsford Road as vehicles parked here are restricting access. The Clerk had been in touch with Kent Highways and Sevenoaks District Council. It transpired as there had been no reported accidents at this junction both Councils had reported this would not be considered.

8. The Clerk had been liaising with a resident of Tilmans Mead regarding the trees on Parish Council land which are overhanging her garden. The Clerk would persist with trying to contact Darenth Valley Garden Services to try to arrange for them to be cut back as soon as possible.

9. It was agreed the Parish Council would pay for the two cracked windows in the Village Hall to be replaced.

10. The Clerk had received a telephone call from a resident of Old Dartford Road asking why the sign showing the 'boundary' of Farningham on the A225 Dartford Road (when approaching the King's Roundabout), had been removed and replaced by white gates much closer to the roundabout. These are not near the actual boundary (by Calfstock Lane). The Clerk informed the resident that Kent Highways undertook public consultation in July 2018 and no one had opposed the changes in signage at the time.

11. Eynsford Parish Council had written stating they have set up a green working group looking into green initiatives that they might get involved with or initiate as a council and community. They ask if FPC are doing anything similar and what initiatives are planned. This might also be something for the next consortium meeting. The Clerk had responded that FPC had recently asked for recycling bins to be installed but Sevenoaks District Council could not support this.

121. Planning;

1. It was agreed the following comments be sent regarding planning applications received from Sevenoaks District Council:

SE/19/03570/HOUSE and SE/03571/LBCALT Maplescombe Farm House, Maplescombe Lane Internal alterations at ground and first floor including removal of modern fabric. Alterations to fenestration to include enlargement of windows on West Elevation. Proposed new landscaping to front garden. (FPC: SUPPORT)

SE/20/00011/CAN Telephone Call Box, Farningham Village Hall Removal of Public Payphone The Clerk was asked to contact the Planning Officer to ask if any approval could be conditioned stating the concrete slab beneath the box should be removed.

SE/19/03407/LBCALT The Mount, Sparepenny Lane Removal of existing lean-to conservatory, and replacement with a new conservatory / orangery, on the rear elevation together with a single storey rear extension FPC: Support

2. Planning Decisions:

SE/19/03228/CONVAR Acer House Practice, High Street Minor material amendment to 19/00226/CONVAR GRANTED

SE/19/03222/LBCALT The Lion, High Street Removal, restoration and replacement of existing window and replacement of existing structurally unsound timber beam. GRANTED

Tree applications:

SE/20/00270/WTPO Glebe House, High Street Works to a tree

SE/20/00228/WTCA Ornamental Screen across the River Darent East of the Ancient Cattle Screen, High Street (in Irving's Corner) Various works to trees

Planning Decision:

SE/19/03459/HOUSE Shelton 54 Beesfield Lane Farningham Demolition of existing garage and extensions. Erection of single storey side extension, front porch and associated roof alterations GRANTED

3. Enforcement: The Clerk had received an email from a resident of White Post Hill (which was copy correspondence sent to Sevenoaks District Council) regarding recent planning permission granted at Toya, White Post Hill, The Clerk contacted Enforcement and the matter has been closed.

122. Public Participation:

1. Two members of the public reported they had recently moved to the village and had seen the agenda publicised on Twitter; they had been interested in the Open Spaces item.
2. A member of the public present reported that the light outside South Barn had been out for some time. The Clerk confirmed she had reported this to Streetlights and would remind.

123. District Councillor:

Cllr McGarvey reported the Leader of Sevenoaks District Council had now written to the Secretary of State to complain about the Inspector cancelling the Hearings organised in respect of Sevenoaks District Council's Local Draft Plan; the cancellation was due to their failure in their duty to co-operate with neighbouring local authorities. Sevenoaks District Council refuted this and had not withdrawn their Local Plan.

124. Highways, Footpaths and Street Lighting:

1. It was noted there is still mud in places on the footpath beside the A20 between the A225 Eynsford Road junction and King's Roundabout even though it was recently cleared.
2. Cllr Salmon reported there is mud on the central islands at the roundabout. The Clerk reported she had recently photographed this and would report this and the above item on the Kent Highways portal.
3. Cllr. Salmon reported a new Pedestrians Crossing warning sign has been erected on the left hand side of the A20 going up London Road just at the end of the lorry park. The overhanging tree has now been trimmed back.
4. The Clerk had asked Sevenoaks District Council to remove mud from the footpath beside the A225 between Mill Field and Oliver Crescent.

125. Friends of Farningham:

It was agreed Cllr Salmon compose a list of new dates for 2020 and a report for the Clerk to circulate to volunteers and for inclusion in Trident.

126. Website:

Chris Bourne had asked Councillors for input on content for the new website. The Chair had undertaken a major review of the existing website. It seemed a potted history of Farningham was missing. There were also pages no longer relevant or out of date. Councillors agreed to consider and report back

127. Assets of Community Value:

Councillors agreed to compose a comprehensive list for consideration at the next meeting.

128. AOB:

1. It was reported the burger van parked on the A20 London Road appeared to have been abandoned.
2. It was reported there is a large volume of litter on the A20 London Road, Farningham; the Clerk would ask Sevenoaks District Council to get it cleared.
3. Cllr Salmon asked if the Clerk could find out if the debris from the fire at Farningham Oak was likely to be removed soon.

129. Finance:

1. The Council's insurance policy was due for renewal; Cllr Bourne had assisted the Clerk in reviewing the sums insured but an up to date price for a replacing the Ancient Cattle Screen was still awaited from PAYE Stonework then the adjustment to the premium could be settled.
2. Members resolved to authorise the Schedule of Payments for February:

Kent County Council	Pension contributions (PC: £360.57 Clerk: £56.66)	£417.23
EON	Electricity charges	£195.00
British Telecom	Telephone and Broadband	£47.83
HMRC	Tax and NI	£231.94
Mrs J Gray	Clerk's Salary	£741.14
Mrs J Gray	Parish Council Expenses Use of House (£20) Mobile Phone contribution (£10)	£30.00
KALC	Health and Well-Being Conference for Clerk	£60.00

Signed **Wednesday 4th March 2020**

The meeting closed at 9.55 pm. The next meeting of the Parish Council of Farningham will be held at 7.45 pm. on Wednesday 4th March 2020