

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council of Farningham held at the
Village Hall, High Street, Farningham at 7.45pm on Wednesday 5th June 2019**

Present: Cllr. D. Burns (Chair)
Cllr. P. McGarvey (District Councillor)
Cllr. K. Shanmuganathan
Cllr. C. Salmon
Mrs. J. Gray (Clerk)

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

1. The Chairman welcomed three Parish Councillors, the County Councillor, Roger Gough (from 8.10 pm) and seven members of the public.
2. Apologies had been received from District Councillor, Brian Carroll.

28. **Co-options:**

1. It was resolved that Elizabeth Bourne, Ruth Hiron and Guy Williams, in attendance, be co-opted to the Parish Council. The Clerk would organise for them to sign the 'Declaration of Acceptance of Office' and the 'Notification of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests' and will notify the Elections Office at Sevenoaks District Council.
2. Following the appointment the Clerk would circulate an updated list of Councillor's contact details, place a Notice on the Noticeboard and update the website.

29. **Election of Chairman:** Nominations for office of Chairman were sought. Cllr. McGarvey nominated Cllr. Burns and this was seconded by Cllr. Shanmuganathan. Cllr. Burns was duly elected and took the Chair.

30. **Election of Vice-Chairman:**

The Chair nominated Cllr. Williams for the role of Vice-Chairman and this was seconded by Cllr. Salmon. Cllr. Williams was duly elected.

31. **Planning Chairman:**

Cllr. Shanmuganathan agreed to continue in this role.

32. **Finance Member:**

It was agreed Cllr. McGarvey take this role.

33. **Appointment of Representatives on other bodies:**

It was agreed the appointments of representatives be as per the attached schedule.

34. **Declaration of Interests:**

The declarations of interest stood as previously recorded in May 2019. Councillors were asked to inform the Clerk should they have any changes.

35. **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 from the meeting held on 8th May 2019, which had already been agreed, to confirm they were a true record.
3. The Clerk had been in touch with a local resident who had offered his services in supplying and fitting a welded metal jacket to the base of the rotting Millennium sign post and possibly a cap for the top. The Clerk had also been in touch with Beray Builders to ask if they could assist in taking down the post and refixing when repairs were complete.
4. It was agreed the Clerk would contact adjacent Parish Councils to suggest working together over access to the river areas and paths and to suggest it is an item for the next Darent Valley Consortium agenda.
5. The Clerk understood from Rod Shelton of DRIPS that a thorough survey and walk through the route of the river is being done by the Darent team (DRIPS, EA, South East Rivers Trust and NW Kent Countryside Partnership.) The survey of the river had not reached Farningham. She had asked to be kept informed.

36. **County Councillor:**

The County Councillor, Roger Gough, reported:

1. Following the Atkins Review a new, more flexible and community based policy directive at Kent Highways, could result in the plan for a 20mph traffic speed zone in Farningham High Street being revisited for traffic calming measures.
2. Plans are being considered to reconfigure the Scratchers Lane/A20 junction and any agreed work would take place during school holidays and after consultation with Brands Hatch; the positioning of the speed camera will also be reviewed.

37. **Correspondence:**

1. Following a complaint from a parishioner regarding 'maintenance' work being carried out in Farningham Woods, the Clerk was asked to request a copy of the current Management Plan.
2. National Grid commenced work on the Access Tower ZZT 033 in Farningham Woods for necessary maintenance and painting.
3. Pete Ballard, Community Safety Unit advised there is only one PCSO in post covering Farningham and surrounding villages (Ash, Crockenhill, Well Hill, Hartley, Hodsoll Street, Horton Kirby and South Darent).

4. The Village Hall Caretaker and the Clerk met SL Treecare, and had looked at the large Lebanon Cedar tree in the frontage of the Hall after a branch had fallen onto the Village Hall roof in high winds; the quotation was sent to the Chair of the Village Hall Committee. The response had been they do not want to go ahead with any work on the tree at present; the advice to "keep an eye on it" was felt the best strategy.
5. Thames Water advised the poor repair of the High Street footpath near Potager was being investigated.
6. KCC had sent the new charging policy for non-household waste materials at Household Waste Recycling Centres which commenced on 3rd June 2019.
7. Polychor had requested grant funding. The Clerk has asked how many members live in the Parish and advised that donations to local organisations are considered and made annually in November.
8. The Clerk to seek alternative quotations for street lighting maintenance; FPC is in the third year of a three year contract Streetlights had confirmed that they service 120 Parish Councils (including all Farningham's neighbouring parishes). The Clerk had been in touch with Amey and PSR Lighting.
9. Sevenoaks District Council advise there is a dispute over who is the responsible authority for the footpath outside Jaxx House. SDC documents state it is a KCC adopted highway and KCC say otherwise. The SDC maintenance department are adamant that KCC should be looking at it and not them. Clerk to pass to KCC.
10. Louise St John Howe, Programme officer, at PO Services advised the Clerk that the Secretary of State has appointed Inspector Karen Baker DipTP MA DipMP MRTPI to carry out the independent examination of the Sevenoaks Local Plan.

38. **District Councillor:**

1. Cllr. McGarvey reported Steve Whitehead SDC's Senior Planning Enforcement Officer is investigating several local open Enforcement cases, including Hill Top Farm; there the three year temporary planning permission for the site has expired and if further planning permission is granted it could be conditional that the site is not be extended any further.
2. Fears were expressed that the new charging policy at KCC's Household Waste Recycling Centres could lead to an increase in fly tipping; Cllr. McGarvey reported that SDC were actively involved in prosecutions which they hoped would lead to convictions. More cameras are also going to be installed in the recognised hot spots.
3. The Farningham Church Fete would be held on Saturday 8th June from 12 noon until 4.00pm.

39.

Planning;

SE/19/01241/FUL Hazeri Button Street

Demolition of existing buildings, removal of caravan and erection of a detached bungalow including associated change of use of land from mixed residential (Use Class C3) and commercial kennels (sui generis) to residential (Use Class C3).

Objection: 1) creation of a permanent dwelling on the Green Belt without any Special Circumstances submitted in support
2) further development of the site, which is on a blind bend with poor sight-lines, creates more traffic and a safety issue
3) no other supporting information on the new development, such a detailed environmental surveys.

SE/19/01288/HOUSE 6 Hillside Demolition of existing conservatory and chimney. Erection of single storey rear extension with skylights. Alterations to fenestration. Associated landscaping works. No Objection

SE/ 19/00727/HOUSE 3 Eynsford Road Proposed single storey extension. Replacement of living room window with full height glazed screen. Demolition of existing flat roofed single storey extension. No Objection

2. Planning Decisions:

SE/18/03342/FUL and SE/18/03343/LBCALT The Lion Hotel, High Street
External and internal alterations to public house and associated wider site
GRANTED

40.

Open Spaces:

1. Cllr. Salmon reported that Sevenoaks District Council operatives are doing a good job grass cutting at Oliver and Alban Crescent. The Clerk was asked to write to thank them. They had indicated to Cllr. Salmon the grass would be cut once per month.
2. The Elder tree situated behind the bus shelter had been removed but Cllr. Salmon noted there was regrowth; she agreed to try to cut it back.

41.

Highways, Footpaths and Street Lighting:

1. The Clerk was asked to report to Kent Highways that the sandbags used to secure temporary road signage are often abandoned at the site of the signage. There have recently been discarded bags at the junction of Beefield Lane with Eynsford Road. On another occasion recently the bags were found discarded in Mill Field, along the A225 where temporary traffic lights were installed.
2. The Clerk confirmed that she would draft a proposed Highway Improvement Plan (HIP) as requested by Kent Highways to enable Councillors to choose their list of priorities at the next meeting.

3. Cllr. Williams reported Kent Highways had done a good job grass cutting the verges along Beesfield and Eynsford Road. It was particularly noted that the cuttings had also been collected and not left to blow about. The footpath along Beesfield Lane approaching Alban Crescent had also been cleared. The Clerk was asked to thank Kent Highways.

42. **Reports from representatives on other bodies:**

The Chair reported Wi-Fi would be installed in the Village Hall in the coming week which would enable the Caretaker to control the central heating remotely; access for hirers was to be discussed.

43. **Update of FPC Policies:** The Clerk was asked to circulate the policies for Councillors review.

44. **Finance:**

1. Members resolved to authorise the Schedule of Payments.

Mrs J Chamberlain	Internal Audit 2018 to 2019	£160.00
HMRC	Tax and National Insurance	£241.62
Kent County Supplies	A4 paper and stationery	£35.16
Sevenoaks District Council	Dog waste bin emptying	£136.50
KCC	Pension contributions	£413.10

2. The Chairman signed the Annual Governance Statement and the Accounting Statements of the Parish Council's accounts from 1st April 2018 to 31st March 2019 which the Clerk had prepared and Mrs. J Chamberlain, internal auditor, had completed the audit so the accounts could be submitted to the PKF Littlejohn for the external audit.

3. A 1% increase to the Clerk's Salary was agreed at the annual review.

Signed **Wednesday 3rd July 2019**

The meeting closed at 9.25 pm. The next meeting of the Parish Council of Farningham will be held at 7.45 pm. on Wednesday 3rd July 2019

**Appointment of Parish Council Representatives on Local Organisations for
Farningham Parish Council Year 2019 to 2020**

1. Planning (Chairman: Cllr K Shanmuganathan)
2. Footpaths, Highways and Lighting (All Cllrs)
3. Darent River Preservation Society (Cllr K Shanmuganathan)
4. Age Concern (Vacancy)
5. Charity of Anthony Roper (Mrs Staples, Mrs. Gould, Mrs L. Mullins, Mrs V Saunders)
6. Kent Association of Local Councils - Sevenoaks Branch (Cllr. McGarvey)
7. Council for the Protection of Rural England (Vacancy)*
8. Correspondent for Trident (Cllr C Salmon)
9. Farningham Village Hall Management Committee (Cllrs D Burns and C Salmon)
10. Representative on Transport Matters (Cllr K Shanmuganathan)
11. Tree Warden (Vacancy)
12. Brands Hatch Liaison Group (Cllr Mrs D Burns/Cllr P McGarvey)
13. Responsibility for website (Vacancy)
14. Darent Valley Consortium (Cllrs D Burns / Cllr. McGarvey)
15. Darent Valley Landscape Partnership Scheme (Cllr P McGarvey)
16. School Safety Campaign (Mrs A McEnroe)

*Appointed by organisation concerned

Other Parish Council offices:	Chairman	}	
	Vice-Chairman	}	Elected at Annual Parish
	Planning Chairman	}	Council meeting in May
	Finance Member	}	

jg/June 2019