

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council of Farningham held at the Village Hall, High Street, Farningham on Wednesday 4th March 2020 at 7.45pm

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

Mrs. J. Gray (Clerk)

130. Chairman's Welcome, Apologies for absence:

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

131. Public Participation:

Three members of the public came to raise some local concerns and seek advice. They left the meeting once satisfied.

132. 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.

133. County Councillor:

The County Councillor, R. Gough advised:

1. He had approved funding to resurface Cinder Path (the footpath connecting Oliver Crescent with the High Street) via his 'Members' Fund; the Clerk was asked to confirm to the KCC Officer that the debris from the fire at Farningham Oak should be cleared first, the lamp post replaced second and the resurfacing of the path should follow.
2. Kent County Council will be providing extra funding to tackle the ever-increasing number of potholes in the county's roads.
3. He had raised an order to have all the drains checked and cleaned between A20 W.J. King's roundabout and the A225 Eynsford Road; this work will include jetting of all the interconnecting lines to check the system is flowing as it should be in the first instance. Regarding the footway and fence along the same section of the A20, he has asked a local highway engineer to visit the site and carry out an inspection. Kent Highways will raise a work order for any repairs or siding work to the footway and any sections of fencing which require replacement; if the fencing is agreed it could take up to twelve weeks to install.
4. Junction 3 of the M25 is due an improvement via Road Investment Schemes (a national allocation of funding) and a litter pick is planned to target the junction.
5. A drainage team were working this week to try and resolve flooding occurring at Eynsford Road/South Hall Close. They report there is drainage run leading to an outfall in the main drain and which runs from a lane parallel to the Close. They suspected this private drain is hampering the resolution, observing this can happen when drainage systems run through private land, under properties or when adopted drains have been accessed without approval by developers/builders in the past.

134. 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 5th February 2020, which had already been agreed, to confirm they were a true record.
3. (a) The Clerk reported an additional parishioner was now seeking a parking place at the Lion; she had asked them to complete a questionnaire and would contact the management following receipt.
(b) The Clerk was seeking a meeting with the Lion's new manager who was now in post.
4. A site meeting had been planned on 31 January following the recent drains problem by Bridge Cottage but it had not taken place because of flooding/inclement weather. There had been a severe blockage, which looked like an accumulation of fat which had been partially cleared. The Clerk would try to find out the rearranged date.
5. 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 Clerk was asked to write to the SDC's Tree Officer confirming that the Parish Council is happy for the Acer House Practice to plant whatever size Oak tree is available.
6. Jamie Riches of Thames Water had sent an update for the Horton Kirby Borehole Site, confirming he had arranged a site meeting on Thursday 30th January with the landowners, Robert and James Alexander and an ecologist from the Environment Agency, Tom Cook. This was a preliminary meeting to understand the site situation and look for opportunities to improve the amenity value of the River Darent. The construction of their Aquifer Storage and Recovery borehole and the access track to it has cut off the area of land in question, which is no longer farmable. Rather than looking at this as a problem of maintenance they are trying to promote it as an opportunity where all stakeholders can benefit. Unfortunately, the day after the site meeting fly tippers cut off the chain locking the gate from Eglantine Lane and deposited one load of rubbish on the access track.
7. John Strachan, SDC's Parking Services Manager had reported to the Clerk that vehicles parked in Dartford Road impeding the bus route had been issued parking tickets.
8. The Clerk had been in contact with Sevenoaks District Council regarding the burger van parked on the A20 London Road that appeared to have been abandoned; they had sought further information. The Clerk to inform SDC there are gas cannisters next to the van.
9. The Clerk had visited Dunbrik Depot and been informed by an operative that he had cleared a large volume of litter on the A20 London Road, Farningham, paying particular attention to the lorry lay-by.
10. Due to an increase in anti-social/criminal behaviour the Clerk had been investigating reinstalling CCTV in the High Street. Following two meetings on 19th February a quotation had been received from 'Caught on Camera' for but not from PSR; they would be reminded. She had asked Prime One Maintenance if they could provide a trial camera as offered. She would be meeting Dick Crane of I Core Media later in the week (a larger provider).

135. Correspondence:

1. The Clerk had received a quotation from John Cox at Sevenoaks District Council for two new litter bins, one Jubilee 110 litter bin is £341.96 and one streamline Jubilee litter is £320.85 and cost to fit £150.00. total cost £812.81 plus vat. This was agreed and the Clerk to confirm the Mill Field and Sparepenny Lane locations.
2. Permission had been approved by Sevenoaks District Council's 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. The Clerk had instructed SL Treecare to do the work.
3. The Clerk had met a representative from Darenth Valley Garden Services on 8th February on the Parish Council's amenity land in at Tilmans Mead regarding the trees which the resident states are overhanging her garden. They promised a quotation which had not been received. The Clerk had approached three other contractors, prices were awaited and it was agreed this work should be done as soon as practicable.

4. A Swanley resident had written asking if a memorial tree could be planted in respect of her parents who lived in Farningham for fifty years. It was agreed a fruit tree bearing blossom would be appropriate and the Clerk would investigate planting on the amenity land in front of Irving's Corner.

5. A resident had written regarding the verge between Old Dartford Road and the WK King Roundabout on the A20 stating orchids grow there in the summer months and that Kent Highways mow them down. The Clerk had been in touch with Kent Highways who confirm they do a Safety Cut three times per annum, usually in May, July and September. The Clerk was asked to write to Kent Highways suggesting they only cut a narrow strip along the front of the verge in order to preserve sight lines and protect the species in future.

6. The Clerk had received a letter from the resident in The Chequers whose partner, the owner of the public house, had passed away just before Christmas. She states she would very much appreciate it if the Parish Council could provide a reference, in order to protect the pub from closure, should she need to provide such information at some time in the future. It was agreed the Clerk write this when requested.

7. The Clerk was asked to liaise with Cllr Hirons to see if a flood plan could be obtained from DRIPS.

8. Cllr McGarvey reported in recent high winds a 10' branch from the tree fell in the Village Hall Car Park on Sunday 9 February (between 11am and 1pm). The Clerk has informed the Chair of the Village Hall Management Committee. The tree was assessed last year and it was agreed then it be monitored.

9. Ashley Walmsley, Sevenoaks District Council had written regarding Farningham Woods:

We are contemplating renewing/updating the Farningham Woods Management Plan to reflect the OCGW coppicing that has been undertaken and the next stages of woodland management.

They have been in discussions with Natural England and the Species Recovery Trust regarding the Deptford Pink population and will need to undertake some coppicing (outside of the current management plan) to help protect this important colony from the trees, which are starting to shade them out. Unfortunately, the felling licence does not cover these areas, so we are applying to the Forestry Commission for a licence.

This winter the Ranger, has made access improvements to the entrance at Calfstock Car Park, improving the barrier and surface.

Sevenoaks District Council would like to ask for a donation for these works. Please see a breakdown below.

- Barrier alterations £150.00
- Barrier installation £380.00
- 48 tonne of stone used £960.00

Total : £1490.00

NB: This has not included the £1200.00 contractor costs, which Sevenoaks District Council contributed towards. The Chair agreed to consult notes taken as she understood a contribution had already been made towards the barrier.

136. Planning;

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

SE/20/00237/FUL Charton Vale Eglantine Lane Horton Kirby Erection of a hay barn: FPC: Support

SE/20/00287/FUL Charton Vale Eglantine Lane Horton Kirby Change of use of two agricultural buildings (sui generis) to general industrial (Use Class B2) with ancillary showroom, office and staff room: FPC: Support

SE/20/00395/HOUSE 58 London Road Single storey rear side extension with pitched roof and rooflights. Rear garden shed. Landscaping works: FPC: Support

SE/20/00423/HOUSE Bryony Hill Cottage, Dartford Road Single storey rear extension projecting 5.3 metres with velux windows, solar panels and removal of chimneys: FPC: Support

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

SE/19/03406/HOUSE and SE/19/03407/LBCALT The Mount Sparepenny Lane Farningham Removal of existing lean-to conservatory, and replacement with a new conservatory / orangery, on the rear elevation together with a single storey rear extension GRANTED

SE/19/03091/HOUSE 1 Coldharbour Farm London Road Proposed part demolition of existing outbuilding, two storey rear extension and internal alterations GRANTED

SE/19/03401/LBCALT The Manor House High Street Upgrading of existing outbuilding to facilitate raising of the roof, alterations to fenestration GRANTED

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

SE/20/00228 WTCA Ornamental Screen Across the River Darent, East of the Bridge, High Street Works to trees in a Conservation Area NO OBJECTION LODGED

SE/20/00270/WTPO Glebe House High Street Works to Trees covered by a TPO GRANTED

SE/19/03160/VAR106 Greenacres, Old Dartford Road Part discharge of the Section 52 Agreement dated 30 October 1986 in relation to planning permission 85/01002 restricting agricultural occupancy of a dwelling GRANTED

137. District Councillor:

Cllr McGarvey reported the Local Plan remained stalled.

138. Highways, Footpaths and Street Lighting:

1. The Clerk was asked to report on the Kent Highways portal there is a large pothole in Maplescombe Lane (with a cone in it).
2. UK Power Networks had written to the Clerk to confirming the temporary pavement slabs outside the Chequers Public House in Dartford Road had been removed and York stone slabs reinstated.
3. A member of the public present reported the street lamp on the wall outside South Barn had now been out since 20 December. Streetlights had told the Clerk the light had been working twice when the operatives left site and they were investigating the cause.

139. Friends of Farningham:

The Clerk had contacted the volunteers and circulated the new list of dates.

140. Reports from Representatives on other Bodies:

Cllr McGarvey reported that as well as another busy programme at Brands Hatch in 2020, there will be 14 of those events for which road restrictions will apply (and these include prohibition of turning right into or out of Donkey Lane; and a 30mph speed limit on the A20) on April 5 and 12; May 3; June 7 and 14; July 26; Aug 16, 22 and 30; Sept 20; Oct 11 and 17 & 18; Nov 8. Further information is on their social media sites.

141. Website:

Chris Bourne had asked for input on content for the new website. The Clerk was awaiting a date from KALC regarding Accessibility training, and Chris Bourne had been liaising with Hugo Fox (website host) as to when they could offer Accessibility. The Clerk has obtained current photographs for the website, and had arranged for additional historic photographs.

142. Assets of Community Value:

Councillors agreed the Clerk should complete registration forms in order to list The Pied Bull, The Lion, The Butchers, Market Meadow, The Village Hall, Irving’s Corner, and the Cricket Pitch.

143. AOB:

Cllr McGarvey asked for ‘Parking restrictions in the High Street’ to go on the next agenda. He reported he would like discussed whether to introduce early/mid-morning restrictions on both sides of the High Street (between the Village Hall and the river bridge) to stop parking of commuter car-sharing cars all day.

144. Finance:

1. The Council’s insurance policy was due for renewal; up to date price for a replacing the Ancient Cattle Screen was still awaited from PAYE Stonework.

2. It was agreed to appoint an internal auditor for the forthcoming year, Mrs J Chamberlain. She is undertaking a pre-audit review on Friday 6th March.

3. Members resolved to authorise the Schedule of Payments for March:

Kent County Council	Pension contributions (PC: £360.57 Clerk: £56.66)	£417.23
EON	Electricity Charges	£179.35
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
Village Hall	Window replaced and new refit	£240.00

Signed **Wednesday 1st April 2020**

The meeting closed at 10.20pm. The next meeting of the Parish Council of Farningham will be held at 7.00 pm. on Wednesday 1st April 2020