

**Minutes of Farningham Parish Council meeting held at the Village Hall,  
High Street, Farningham at 7.45pm on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2019**

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

Mrs. J. Gray (Clerk)

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

1. Present were four Parish Councillors which included the Sevenoaks District Councillor P. McGarvey, plus the Clerk, Mrs J. Gray. The Chair welcomed the four members of the public present.
2. Apologies for absence had been received from the County Councillor, R. Gough.

14. **Declarations of Interest:**

Cllr P. McGarvey declared a personal and prejudicial interest in:  
Kent Association of Local Councils (as Sevenoaks Area Branch Secretary), St. Peter and St. Paul Church, Farningham, as a member of its PCC (Parochial Church Council).  
He also wished to express his related interest in St Peter & St Paul's Church, since his wife (Dorothy) is now the Associate Rector).

The declarations of interest are recorded in the first meeting of the Council each year, i.e. each May, but not repeated every month unless new or change to the declarations of interest become apparent.

15. **Co-options:**

The Chair confirmed there were three vacancies on the Parish Council and invited the four members of the public present to give a personal profile highlighting their experience and interests and what they hoped to bring to the table. One stated he did not wish to see a vacancy on the Parish Council so was happy to defer his interest of rejoining to a later date.

16. **Election of Chair, Vice-Chair, Chair of Planning Committee and Finance Member and Appointment of Representatives:**

The Chair proposed, and it was agreed that the appointment of Members to Specific roles would be deferred until the Council had a full complement.

17. **Minutes of the last Meeting, Matters Arising and Action Points:**

1. The Chair signed the April minutes, which had already been agreed, to confirm they were a true record.

2. Cllr. Shanmuganathan reported the third local Speedwatch session was due to take place shortly.
3. The Clerk had contacted the resident in Oliver Crescent who monitors the play equipment and reports defects and she had confirmed she was happy to continue doing so.
4. Cllr McGarvey had had a conversation with a local resident who offered his services in repairing the rotting Millennium sign post by fitting a welded jacket. It was agreed it would be a good idea to get a second opinion. The Clerk was asked to contact Adrian Mole who had already been asked to do the repair work.
5. Steve Whitehead SDC's Senior Planning Enforcement Officer is investigating several open Enforcement cases.
6. Steve Whitehead, SDC's Senior Planning Enforcement Officer had met with residents of Maplescombe to glean as much information as possible to build up a pattern of breaches at the former Maplebank Poultry Farm; the owners had been served with compliance Notices.

18. **Correspondence:**

1. Following the passing of Malcolm Gale, former Parish Councillor and Chairman, it was agreed £100.00 would be donated to his favoured charity, the British Heart Foundation. His funeral would be held at Kemnal Park Cemetery on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May at 12.30 and afterwards at the Village Hall. All who knew Malcolm were welcome.
2. The Clerk had received the news from the Lion Hotel's owners Mitchells & Butlers that they had agreed to withdraw the planning application for a fence and a 'permanently fixed shut' gate to be placed across the hotel ground's High Street entrance to which the Parish Council and parishioners alike had strongly objected. They had now decided to place three plant troughs between the existing bollards with topiary style plants.
3. It was agreed the invoice from Vic Clarke for £90.00 for installing a Sundaela sheet noticeboard in the bus shelter and in the noticeboard for parishioners use by Irving's Corner be settled. It was noted that Vic has done a very nice job on this, and it is much appreciated.
4. Kent Highways had written stating they want communities to have a greater voice in prioritising road safety measures and they (KCC) need to take notice of and be more responsive to community needs. They also need to balance requests with the money available to spend, making sure their investment has maximum impact in making roads safer for all users. Through collaboration between local Members and parish and town councils, this could provide them with a clear view about the local priorities. They encourage Parish Councils to work with their local Member and develop a Highway Improvement Plan and a list of priorities drawn up to take forward. A Guide to the Process was attached.
5. The Clerk had informed Rod Shelton of DRIPS there was debris in the river in the Farningham stretch. It was also noted an island had formed in the river just beyond the Lion Hotel. He had reported the

Darent team (DRIPS, EA, South East Rivers Trust and NW Kent Countryside Partnership) are undertaking a thorough survey of the river in stretches and he would bring FPC's concerns to Mark Gallant of NWKCP.

6. The Clerk had been in contact with Robert Malpas of National Grid and arranged for him to have access to Farningham Woods for necessary maintenance and painting works to the Access Tower ZYT 033 during June.
7. It was confirmed the flint wall at Manor Farm Cottage had been successfully repaired; the bricklayer who worked on the repair confirmed the wall had been unsafe.
8. A resident had been in contact regarding the travellers' site at Hill Top Farm suggesting it had expanded and provided aerial photographs. Steve Whitehead along with two officers had visited the site and met their Planning Agent. The site had last been granted a three year temporary permission.
9. A resident had reported trees in the woods near By-Way 192 had fallen and others could potentially fall. A Google Earth map had been sent to the Rights of Way Officer at KCC who asked for the Clerk/local residents to report on the Highways Portal as it is not a Right of Way. It was agreed it would be sensible to try to get this path added to the Definitive Map of Kent.
10. Sevenoaks District Council had confirmed the submission of their Local Plan on Tuesday 30 April 2019, in accordance with Regulation 22 of The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012, to the Planning Inspectorate. The Planning Inspectorate is appointed on behalf of the Secretary of State to examine Local Plans and will determine whether it is sound and legally compliant. Cllr McGarvey noted that a couple of the neighbouring Districts' Local Plans had been rejected by The Inspectorate.
11. Eynsford Parish Council will be arranging and hosting the next meeting of the Darent Valley Consortium.
12. The Village Hall Caretaker had asked the Parish Council to look 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 Clerk had arranged to see SL Treecare on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> May.
13. The Clerk had sent a photo to Kent Highways of the footpath outside Potager, High Street which had been badly repaired by Thames Water. She was asked also to send it on to Thames Water.
14. The Clerk was asked to pass the letter outlining the celebrations being planned for the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VE Day (on 8<sup>th</sup> May through to the 10<sup>th</sup> May 2020) to Liz Meachin.
15. The Clerk had received a communication and spoken to Paulvir Khairi of West Kent Association. He had advised he will be delivering a six week detached youth work initiative and will be visiting Eynsford on Tuesdays and Farningham on Fridays. The Clerk had suggested he deliver the programme jointly to Eynsford and Farningham's youth.

19. **Planning:**
1. A planning application was considered and it was agreed the Clerk send the following comments to Sevenoaks District Council:  
  
SE/18/03343/LBCALT (amended application dated 24 April 2019) The Lion Hotel, High Street External and Internal Alterations to Public House (including amended layout plan to show removal of previously proposed fencing and gates and use of trough planters to mark boundary) Also to mention in Further Comments "Farningham Parish Council would expect the Lion's owners to ensure there is enough space between the bollards for pushchairs and wheelchairs to be wheeled through."
  2. Planning Decisions:  
  
SE/19/00931/ADJ and 19/00418/COU Consultation as a neighbouring authority: Homefield Farm Homefield Road Sutton At Hone Kent DA4 9JA Use of land for siting of 33 caravans for occupation by seasonal workers during the main season (March to October) and retention of caravans on the land with some limited occupation during the winter months (November to February). GRANTED
20. **District Councillor:**  
Cllr McGarvey reported:  
Whilst acknowledging the huge drop in turnout, thanked residents for voting for him at the District Council elections on May 2<sup>nd</sup> and said he would, on the Parish Council's behalf, continue his robust opposition to the proposed 2,500 housing development at Pedham Place as SDC's Local Plan still included Pedham Place as a 'broad location for growth'. Conservative Councillor Brian Carroll had been the other successful candidate.
21. **Highways, Footpaths & Street Lighting:**
1. The Clerk was asked to remind Fire UK to cut back the ivy on the fire hydrant situated on the field side at the end of Sparepenny Lane and ask if they could repaint the 'H' sign.
  2. The hedge in Beesfield Lane by Alban Crescent had overgrown into the footpath and needed cutting back. The Clerk would report to Kent Highways.
  3. It was agreed to review the Streetlights contract to ensure the Parish Council are getting value for money by checking (a) who else can do what they do and (b) who else uses them and how much they pay.
22. **Friends of Farningham:**  
Cllr Salmon reported that at the last meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> April three volunteers cleared weeds from the back of the flint wall and from the Village Hall drive. Two volunteers removed three tyres from the river and one kindly paid the £7.50 necessary to dispose of them at the tip. The next meet is on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May.

23. **Update of FPC Policies:**

The Clerk reported she had updated the following FPC Policies and asked if a Councillor would like to review them as a new version would need to be placed on the FPC website: FOI Publication Scheme, Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, Risk Assessment, Code of Conduct, Protocol on Filming and Recording at Meetings, Information Available under the Freedom of Information Act, Complaints Procedure, and GDPR documents.

24. **Reports from Representatives on other bodies:**

Village Hall:

1. The Village Hall Chair had advised there had been a break-in over the night of 27<sup>th</sup>/28<sup>th</sup> April; fortunately little damage done.
2. Installation of wi-fi at the Village Hall was being organised.
3. There were mice in the Village Hall loft and it is imperative therefore that anything stored there was in mice-proof containers.

25. **AOB:**

Following the passing of Malcolm Gale, the webmaster, the Chair asked all to look at FPC's website. The Clerk confirmed she was able to put agendas, minutes and notices on the website.

26. **Finance:**

1. It was resolved to settle the following:

	Installation of Sundaela in Bus Shelter and parishioners noticeboard by River	£90.00
Vic Clarke	Audit course for Clerk	£54.00
Kent Association of Local Councils	Annual data protection fee	£40.00
Information Commissioner's Office	Hall hire	£18.00
Farningham Village Hall	First payment of bi-annual maintenance agreement for street lighting	£1484.08
Streetlights		

2. It was agreed Mrs J Chamberlain be appointed Internal Auditor for the Annual Audit due for 2018 to 2019.

3. The Chair suggested the Parish Council use a computer financial package designed for computer use instead of an Excel spreadsheet; it was agreed the Clerk look at potential packages.

The meeting closed at 9.05pm.

The next meeting of Farningham Parish Council is at 7.45 on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2019.

**Signed .....** **Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2019**